

Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

REGULAR BOARD

MEETING

August 8, 2022 at 6pm
305 Lincoln St.
Sierraville, CA

DRAFT

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION

Note: This is audio only. Video conference will not be available.

Phone Number: 1 (669) 444-9171

Meeting ID: 899 6048 4723

Passcode: 940042

MINUTES

1. **Meeting called to order at 6:06pm.**
2. **Roll call** – Directors present: Rick Roberti, Annie Tipton, Bryan Griffin, Lorenzo Larrucea, Chad Smith
Others in Attendance: Victoria Fisher, Stacy Anderson CDFW, Kristi Jamason FRLT
Ben McNalley NRCS, Paul Roen Sierra County Supervisor, Tracy Schohr UCCE, Jan Buck Sierra Booster
3. **Approval of Agenda**
**Director Griffin motioned to approve the agenda. Director Tipton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*
4. **Public Comment**
**No Public Comment.*
5. **Approval of July 21, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**
**Director Tipton motioned to approve the July 21, 2022 minutes with an amendment to add Kristi Jamason to the attendees. Director Larrucea seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*
6. **Announcements:** USFS is submitting with the Fire Safe Council a proposal for additional fuels reduction in the Smithneck area up to a potential of 1,000 acres more. Supervisor Roen said that the water master fee was received by Sierra County and suggested that the board consider attending the meeting.
7. **Discussion/Action: Financial Report & Executive Director's Update**
 - A) **Financial Review/ Payment of Invoices:** Director Tipton reviewed the bank statements from July 2022 and invoices from Victoria Fisher. These invoices were approved and paid.
 - B) **General Account Balance:** The account balance is \$3,037.20 with one check pending.
 - C) **SNC #1314 Money Market Account Balance:** The account balance is \$182,222.60 with no checks pending.
8. **Discussion/Action: Loyalton Mill**
**Partnership Discussion: The mill has been experiencing funding issue. There may be an opportunity to partner with the mill owners to assist in this so this topic will remain on the agenda for future discussion.*
9. **Discussion/ Action: California Department of Fish and Wildlife**
**The Board asked to meet with CDFW to discuss the following topics: vegetation management, antelope recruitment, grazing management planning, deer herd numbers. Stacy Anderson from CDFW attended to*

help some answer questions. In response to one question she said that there was a potential for zone expansion for prong horn but there needs to be a lot of scientific backing to present to the state wide commission. She has been included in the prong horn team and there is a new extension that includes Plumas and Sierra County that is also included in a 10-year monitoring plan which just finished up. She has been getting minimum counts through areal visuals and reporting when they are seen. She expressed that the areal flights are extremely important to the count of prong horn. She said that they do not like to use the underpasses but may be moving between zones regardless. There is a stronger possibility to expand the zones verses creating a new one and once a minimum of possibly 500 prong horn is reached there may be potential for 1 tag per 100 animals.

Director Smith expressed concern that he had to move yearlings this year because they were running around with the antelope. Stacy expressed the need for more documentation if there are issues arising from the antelope being on private properties so that they can consider how to handle the situation. Stacy felt that there should be a vision developed towards how to handle the prong horn so that they can work towards an end goal. Stacy said that there is an elk and prong horn coordinator that could be of help and she can pass along the info.

Director Smith next asked about the deer herd as a result of the Loyalton Fire. He felt that it was interesting that the deer tags did not reduce after the fire but there seems to be less deer. She wasn't sure why the tag number was so high for this particular zone but she did say there was a high survival rate after the fire. CDFW has not reached a point where they feel they can reduce the number of tags because the zone is so big but there is a potential for it to be reduced in the future if the vegetation is not improved. Director Smith had concerned over the number of bears and what they are eating (deer and calves) since the vegetation is not viable for them. CDFW is working to plant bitter brush on wildlife lands and is working to improve habitat through grant funding. There was suggestion to use the 30x30 initiative to achieve funding to provide to private land owners to enhance vegetation for the deer. Stacy mentioned that the deer fencing will be expanded along 395.

Director Roberti expressed concern over the ravens but Stacy said that they are federally protected so it's hard to address the issue. Stacy would like to check with a specialist though since the ravens are attacking the water fowl. Director Roberti is also concerned about the river otters coming in through Feather River and there are no depredation permits available for them. Stacy passed around info on the CDFW meeting for Sierra Brooks regarding the special meeting with the community. It will be published in the Sierra Booster. She also brought information regarding grazing leases. They have hired a range specialist, Dustin Wallace, and he has visited Sierra Brooks to see if there is potential for vegetation management in that area. Director Roberti said that it would be great to look into the potential for expanding vegetation management and that Dustin may be someone to have back at a future meeting. There was suggestion that Stacy or a rep from CDFW come to the board meetings quarterly to give an update to the board.

10. Discussion/ Action: Smithneck WUI Fuels Reduction Project

*About 200 acres have been completed. The crew is finishing up the Bear Valley Road portion and will then move over to Antelope. There will be a need to discuss amendments to the contracts and to shift some funding around between line items in order to make sure everyone can be paid accordingly. Victoria will be finalizing the 6-month progress report and financial report and then will move on to the discussion

of shifting funding and amendments to contracts. Supervisor Dryden mentioned that the work being completed has been amazing and everyone is very happy with it.

11. Discussion/ Action, Future Ag. Project Opportunities

*Director Roberti said the ag commissioner is planning on a spring meeting with the community to get ahead of the grasshopper issue. There is also concern over noxious weeds again and he would like to see this on the table for discussion. Supervisor Roen mentioned that the board should consider RAC funding for the noxious weeds.

12. Discussion/ Action, Committee/ Agency Reports:

*Ben McNally said that they still are receiving phone calls regarding post fire areas. Ben said that he could look into some possibilities for weed abatement. He is still interested in a spring workgroup meeting. Tracy Schohr reported that they are still working on their post fire projects in Plumas National Forest and they have grasshopper plots that they are monitoring. Kristi said that the Sierra Valley Preserve is having an issue with the white top and they have tried spraying it but they aren't able to get ahead of it.

13. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm

NEXT MEETING: September 12, 2022 at 6pm, Sierraville