

Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

REGULAR BOARD

MEETING

February 9, 2022 at 6pm

305 Lincoln St.

Sierraville, CA

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION

Not Available at This Time

APPR.

MINUTES

1. **Meeting called to order at 6:24pm.**
2. **Roll call** – Directors present: Annie Tipton, Rick Roberti, Dave Goicoechea
Not In Attendance: Chad Smith, Bryan Griffin
Others in Attendance: Victoria Fisher, Ben McNalley NRCS
3. **Approval of Agenda**
**Director Tipton motioned to approve the agenda with an amendment to add two Discussion/ Action Items, California AB 3030 and Lacey Meadows. Director Goicoechea seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*
4. **Public Comment**
**None.*
5. **Approval of December 6, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes**
**Director Tipton motioned to approve the December 6, 2021 minutes. Director Goicoechea seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion Passed.*
6. **Announcements**
**None.*
7. **Discussion/Action: Financial Report & Executive Director's Update**
 - A) **Financial Review/ Payment of Invoices:** Director Tipton reviewed the bank statements from December and January. See Item E for more information on the new account. Invoices for Victoria Fisher from December and January for both regular RCD hours and SNC #1314 hours were presented for payment. Victoria said that invoicing was turned in to SNC for review and it appears that there are no issues with the invoicing at this time. Director Tipton signed checks for payment on all invoices.
 - B) **General Account Balance:** The account balance is \$3,105.50 with no checks pending.
 - C) **SNC #1314 Money Market Account Balance:** The account balance is \$316,746.69 with no check pending.
 - D) **Bank Signature Card Update:** Victoria said that bank needs updated bank card information. Currently, Lewis VanVleck is still on the signature card but is no longer a board member, with Dave Goicoechea, Rick Roberti and Victoria Fisher as other signers on the bank card. The board will need to vote to approve the new bank signers so that the minutes and bank information can

be turned in and the accounts can be updated. *Director Goicoechea moved to update the bank signature card at Plumas Bank, keeping Rick Roberti and Victoria Russell-Fisher, adding Annie Tipton, and removing himself (Dave Goicoechea) and Lewis VanVleck. Director Tipton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

E) SNC #1314 Money Market Account: In January a money market account was opened to manage the SNC #1314 advanced funding. This account will be open through the duration of the grant and until all invoices have been paid. Victoria said that the bank requires a \$5,000 balance in the bank account at all times in order to avoid account fees. She suggested that the board leave up to the \$5,000 balance of admin costs associated with the grant in the bank account until the close of the grant. This funding is being tracked and once they can close the bank account the balance will be moved over to the general bank account.

F) Approval of Cost Allocation Plan and Executive Director Contract: Victoria Fisher's contract with SVRCD and the SVRCD's Cost Allocation Plan were held over from the December 2021 board meeting. This was to allow the board time to review them in depth. The board was asked if they were ready to make a recommendation on changes or to move forward with approving these items. *Director Tipton moved to approve the SVRCD Cost Allocation Plan as presented. Director Goicoechea seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed. Director Tipton moved to approve Victoria Fisher's Executive Director's contract. Director Goicoechea seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

G) 1099 Completed & 1096 Filed with IRS: Victoria mentioned that she had to file IRS form 1096 and complete her 1099 for the year. This was due by the end of January and was submitted on time.

H) Zoom Teleconference Option: Victoria was looking for feedback from the board regarding the teleconference option that the agency has been offering. She was wondering if they would like to continue with it, and if so, whether they could look into purchasing a Zoom subscription and possibly other speakers/ equipment that Tracy Schohr may recommend to make the meetings heard better. A discussion was had between the board on how to proceed. *Director Goicoechea moved to approve the purchase of equipment to support Zoom teleconferencing and to purchase an annual subscription to Zoom. Director Tipton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

8. Discussion/Action: Committee/Agency Reports

A) Agency Reports, Open Floor: Ben McNalley gave an update on NRCS. They have about 32 applications pending, 5 for catastrophic fire, and he's pretty sure that CALFIRE will be offering some additional funding in the near future. Most of the equip projects have been fuels reduction projects with a few people interested in livestock watering systems. One challenge they are facing is what to do with the fire matter that is being removed because there's nowhere to take it. Ben discussed some of NRCS' program details and what is available for funding at this time. Director Roberti expressed that he would like to see NRCS projects that support the producers in the valley. The board suggested a spring meeting between SVRCD, NRCS, the Ag Commissioner (Willo Vieira) and FSA and would like this topic to be added to the next agenda.

Director Goicoechea asked that Ben also bring to the board carbon sequestration projects that are happening in this valley. Victoria will work to get the NRCS application deadlines out to the producers on their email list. Ben said that the next ranking deadline for EQUIP will be April 1st. Additionally, if anyone is interested in a conservation plan, they can invite Ben out to assist.

- 9. California AB 3030:** Director Roberti updated on California AB 3030 and a discussion was had between the board. CA AB 3030 seeks to conserve 30% more of the state, drastically affecting the producers. A suggestion was made that it would be important to map conservation already in place in Plumas and Sierra County to show this percentage has been met. Additionally, the board was in favor of writing a letter in response to AB 3030. *Director Goicoechea motioned for Director Roberti, on behalf of the Sierra Valley RCD, to write a letter regarding the 3030 Initiative. Director Tipton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*
- 10. Lacey Meadows:** Director Tipton requested that this item be added to the agenda for discussion. The board was updated on the grading permit application that was sent to Sierra County. Though requested multiple times, the board has yet to see written mitigation measure planning or pre-monitoring data. Additionally, it is unclear where the funding for mitigation efforts would come from, and for how long it will be available, should this project have a negative impact on downstream users. This item is set to be on the next meeting agenda so that the board can meet with Beth Christman. The board requested that Victoria reach out and ask for Beth to prepare NEPA documents, mitigation strategies, and pre-project monitoring data for the next meeting.
- 11. Discussion/ Action: Smithneck WUI Forest Health & Fuels Reduction Project**

 - A) 6-Month Progress Report:** Danielle Bradfield and Victoria Fisher completed the first 6-month progress report for SNC #1314. This was submitted to Kristy Hoffman (SNC) on January 31st.
 - B) Project & Fiscal Management Update:** Victoria completed the first round of fiscal reporting and submitted it on January 31st with the 6-month report. It appears that the invoice has been approved since Kristy Hoffman has not sent anything back for updates. Next steps: Danielle and Victoria will prepare the pre-bid announcement for newspapers, an email announcement and the website. The snowfall from December has made it difficult to tour and bid the project so it was determined that in the spring the project will go to full bid with tour and a formal project announcement will be made.
- 12. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm
NEXT MEETING: March 14, 2022 at 6pm, Old Sierraville School