

Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

REGULAR BOARD

MEETING

February 13, 2023 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: 813 9776 5032

Passcode: 741803

MINUTES

- 1. Meeting called to order at 6:05pm**
- 2. Roll call** – Directors present: Rick Roberti, Annie Tipton, Chad Smith
Not in Attendance: Bryan Griffin and Lorenzo Larrucea
Others in Attendance: Victoria Fisher, Paul Roen Sierra County Supervisor, Willo Vieira Plumas-Sierra Ag Commissioner, Ben McNalley NRCS, Kristi Jamason FRLT
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
**Director Tipton motioned to approve the agenda with an amendment to strike item #2 and add NRCS as a discussion. Director Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*
- 4. Public Comment:** *None.*
- 5. Approval of December 12, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**
**Director Tipton motioned to approve the December 12, 2022 minutes. Director Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*
- 6. Announcements:** Willo Vieira heard from wildlife services that they have flown the new position for a wildlife service's specialist paid for through the federal government.
- 7. Discussion/Action: Financial Report & Executive Director's Update**
 - A) Financial Review/ Payment of Invoices:** Director Tipton reviewed the bank statements from December 2022 and January 2023 and invoices from Victoria Fisher. These invoices were approved and paid. Also, 1099's for the year 2022 were completed and mailed out and Victoria is working on financial reporting to the state, as well as, reconciling a discrepancy for the financials completed and sent to SNC for grant agreement #1314.
 - B) General Account Balance:** Account balance is \$2,842.88. No checks pending.
 - C) SNC #1314 Money Market Account Balance:** Account balance is \$9,587.92. No checks pending.
Director Tipton motioned to approve the financial report as read. Director Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.
- 8. Discussion/Action: USFS Grazing Allotments, East & West Sierra County**
**Director Roberti received information that a local ranch wants to know what their allotment status is and are interested in leasing it out. Additionally, it was decided that the Board should meet with Sierra County to discuss the possibility of annexation of the western portion of Sierra County that is not currently in the RCD's boundaries.*

9. Discussion/ Action: Smithneck WUI Forest Health & Fuels Reduction Project

*Victoria submitted a progress report and financial reporting to Kristy Hoffman, SNC. Kristy sent back a request for review and correction of the financials. Victoria is working on this. There is now a second advance request in review and a request for a line-item shift to move some funding around.

10. Discussion/ Action: Future Ag Project Opportunities

*Noxious Weeds: White top is getting out of hand. Willo said that she has been looking for grant funding and will write a letter of support for the RCD if they want to proceed with an application for grant funding. The board may have some funding to use as a match for a noxious weeds program down the line and is taking this into consideration. Willo also updated that it will be very hard to receive areal sprayers this coming season. Last, AB99 state highway vegetation management herbicides and pesticides is also up for review.

11. Discussion/ Action, Committee/ Agency Reports

*Open Floor: Tracy Schohr, UCCE, sent out an email to forward to interested parties regarding 2023 Succession Planning for Agriculture. Paul Roen, Sierra County Supervisor, reported that there are 2 more local priority landscapes that have been named (Beckworth and Humboldt-Toiyabe) regarding fuels reduction. It was suggested that the board get involved to discuss the importance of utilizing grazing as a management tool. Next Tuesday, February 21st at 10am, during the Board of Supervisors meeting, there will be a presentation from the Friends of the Plumas Wilderness regarding the Feather River Watershed being turned into a monument. Paul suggested that a board member attend the meeting.

*NRCS: Ben McNally sent over MOA templates for the board to review and discuss. NRCS would like to see the Board sign an updated agreement. Ben was asked to find out how this affects the board without having the agreement in place. Director Tipton asked what the benefit of the agreement was to the RCD. This item will be placed on the next agenda. Ben also updated that there is a weeds meeting in February that might be of interest to the board. Last, EQUIP has about 40 applications at this time that are in review. Applicants should be hearing back on this mid-March to early April.

*SCWA Fire Resiliency Advisory Update: Director Roberti and Victoria Fisher updated that the advisory group met and recapped the last meeting. There was discussion regarding fuels management, such as prescribed grazing and burning/ herbicides/ mastication, and separating upland from the meadow. There are also around 50 parcels bordering CDFW that are currently encroaching on the boundary.

*2023 Noxious Weeds Meeting, Rick Roberti: This is on February 23, 2023 in Quincy and Director Roberti and Victoria Fisher plan on attending.

12. Discussion/ Action: Changes to Zoom

*There are changes taking place starting March 1st that the board will need to consider. Following discussion, a motion was made. *Director Smith motioned to return to the previous Brown Act rules prior to COVID. Director Tipton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

13. Lacey Meadows Update: The county is moving forward on approving the grading permit because all conditions have been met but they are reworking the contingency plan and will put it before County Council prior to moving forward. It was suggested that the Board consider writing a letter to Sierra County asking to open up conversation regarding the change in classification of restoration projects from administrative to discretionary so that future feedback from the board has more impact.

14. Adjournment: *Director Tipton motioned to adjourn. Director Griffin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed. Adjourned at 7:16pm.*

NEXT MEETING: March 13, 2023, Sierraville