

Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

REGULAR BOARD

MEETING

July 21, 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: 846 8410 2819

MINUTES

1. **Meeting called to order at 6:25pm.**
2. **Roll call** – Directors present: Rick Roberti, Annie Tipton, Bryan Griffin, Lorenzo Larrucea
Not In Attendance: Chad Smith
Others in Attendance: Victoria Fisher, Willo Vieira, Beth Christman TRWC, Ben McNalley, Paul Roen Sierra County Supervisor
3. **Approval of Agenda**
**Director Tipton motioned to approve the agenda. Director Larrucea seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*
4. **Public Comment**
**None.*
5. **Approval of June 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**
**Director Tipton motioned to approve the June 13, 2022 minutes. Director Griffin seconded the motion. Directors Roberti, Griffin, Tipton were in favor, Director Larrucea abstained. Motion passed.*
6. **Announcements:** Director Roberti mentioned that the Sierra County BOS appointed Lorenzo Larrucea as the SVRCD's newest director.
7. **Discussion/Action: Financial Report & Executive Director's Update**
 - A) **Financial Review/ Payment of Invoices:** Director Tipton reviewed the bank statements from June 2022 and invoices from Victoria Fisher. Victoria mentioned that she forgot to mail the check to CARCD for dues so she will do this ASAP. These invoices were approved and paid.
 - B) **General Account Balance:** The account balance is \$3,212.20 with no checks pending.
 - C) **SNC #1314 Money Market Account Balance:** The account balance is \$307,549.23 with no checks pending.
8. **Discussion/Action: Lacey Meadows**
**The RCD sent a letter to Sierra County in response to the Lacey Meadows project. Beth Christman felt that the letter did not represent her effort to meet the RCD's requests and willingness to work with the RCD. Director Roberti felt bad about the tone of the letter but thought it was necessary to convey the issues that involve project oversite in the county and expressed concern over protecting the producers in Sierra Valley better.*
9. **Discussion/ Action: California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

*Director Smith gave Victoria some topics that he would like to see discussed, including antelope recruitment, deer herd numbers following the most recent fires and potential for expansion on vegetation management utilizing cattle. Supervisor Roen expressed concern over the fencing project in Sierra Brooks because they are using CAL-Fire funding to create the fence but no one has seen a grazing management plan. Director Larrucea expressed concern over depredation permits and whether the game wardens are handling any of the calls. It was suggested that a committee be formed to attend any upcoming meetings with CDFW so that they can discuss the issues at hand. *Director Roberti said that he and Director Smith will be the committee to attend and speak on behalf of the board. Directors Larrucea, Griffin and Tipton will be alternates. The board approved this by consensus.*

10. Discussion/ Action: Smithneck WUI Fuels Reduction Project

*Paul Roen updated that they are close to 150 acres of the project completed. It hasn't been an easy job but the community is really happy with the work. Victoria reported the next progress report is due August 1st and a financial report will be submitted with it.

11. Discussion/ Action, Future Ag. Project Opportunities

*Grasshopper Management: Director Roberti and Willo Vieira updated the board on the program to treat the grasshopper issue in the valley. Willo is looking to work with Tracy to hold a meeting in February or March 2023 before the next outbreak so that they can update permits and also discuss options for the producers. Willo updated that the cattle scales are just about finished, with a few truck scales left, and the crop reports are almost finished for presentation. These will be posted online but she can provide a digital copy if someone emails her with interest on this. Supervisor Roen mentioned that Tracy Schohr has already begun a study on this to prove an emergency need for intervention.

12. Discussion/ Action, Committee/ Agency Reports:

*Ben reported that he is working on payments to project participants. He also mentioned the meeting with SNC on July 26th and local RCDs to discuss issues within 4 of the northern counties. Ben expressed the desire to have a local workgroup meeting still. Director Roberti would like to see this meeting take place in the spring prior to major projects taking place.

13. Discussion/ Action: RCD Boundary Expansion & Committee Formation

*Victoria said that this topic is going to be a main topic for September and Rachel Hutchinson said that she can attend to report out on allotment numbers and statuses. The board may want to revisit the boundary maps at this time as well. Nevada RCD has declared that they do not intend to complete any work in Sierra County.

14. Discussion/ Action: Loyalton Mill Assistance

*Director Roberti said that he would like to see if the RCD can assist with funding for the mill so that they can continue operating. They are having a hard time with funding opportunities. A representative should be available for the next board meeting to discuss what kind of help they are looking for and give the board more direction on how they can help.

15. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm
NEXT MEETING: August 8, 2022 at 6pm, Sierraville