

Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

REGULAR BOARD

MEETING

July 10, 2023 at 6pm
305 Lincoln St.
Sierraville, CA

APPROVED

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION

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

Phone Number: 1 (669) 444-9171

Meeting ID: 860 5842 7118

Passcode: 354174

MINUTES

1. **Meeting called to order at 6:11pm**
2. **Swearing in of the Board Members:** This was a typo and will be removed from future agendas.
3. **Roll call** – Directors present: Rick Roberti, Annie Tipton, Chad Smith, Bryan Griffin
Not in Attendance: Lorenzo Larrucea
Others in Attendance: Victoria Fisher, Paul Roen Sierra County BOS, Willo Vieira Plumas-Sierra Ag Commissioner, Sharon Dryden Sierra County BOS, Tracy Schohr UCCE, Brandon Brandon Pangman Sierra County Planning Dept, Rachel Hutchinson Sierraville Ranger District, Ben McNally NRCS
4. **Approval of Agenda**
**Director Griffin motioned to approve the agenda. Director Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*
5. **Public Comment:** None.
6. **Approval of February 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes & May 8, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes**
** Director Tipton motioned to approve the February 13, 2023 and May 8, 2023 minutes. Director Griffin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*
7. **Announcements:** None.
8. **Discussion/Action: Financial Report & Executive Director’s Update**
 - A) **Financial Review/ Payment of Invoices:** Director Tipton reviewed the bank statements from May to June 2023 and invoices from Victoria Fisher and Sacramento Valley Region of RCD’s. These invoices were approved and paid. Victoria noted that the SNC #1314 bank account has been expended. She will be transferring the last of the funding, which is administrative overhead, to the RCD’s general account and will close the account to avoid bank fees. *Director Tipton motioned to approve the financial report and invoices as presented. Director Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*
 - B) **General Account Balance:** Account balance is \$9,173.59. No checks pending.
 - C) **SNC #1314 Money Market Account Balance:** Account balance is \$19,710.41. No checks pending.
9. **Discussion/Action: Lacey Meadows Grading Permit Update/ Project Input Potential for Future Sierra County Projects, Brandon Pangman**
**Brandon Pangman reported that the Truckee River Watershed Council’s grading permit has been issued and they are now moving forward. They do have a \$50,000 bond in place with a monitoring plan and*

mitigation efforts established. It was mentioned that the RCD advised that the permit not go through but the County's hands were tied in regards to issuing the permit. Moving forward, Brandon offered up potential options like the ability to make permitting conditional so that the Board's advice can be heard and taken into serious consideration. The Board could also adopt an ordinance, asking the County to adopt the same ordinance, to then be able to have more say in how projects move forward. Another approach would be a joint powers agreement. He also mentioned that the district could move through LAFCO and expand the district boundary so that they have more say in county wide projects. Supervisor Roen suggested that after the summer is over the board dedicates a board meeting to a workshop on this and comes up with a long-term plan.

10. Discussion/ Action: Sierraville Ranger District Agreement

*The District Agreement for the SNC #1314 grant is up for review and signature. Rachel Hutchinson reminded the board that this agreement protects everyone involved with the grant. It should have been completed a while ago but it took a while to move through forest service admin. *Director Griffin motioned to sign the Agreement. Director Tipton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

11. Discussion/ Action: SNC Grant Monitoring Visits for Carmen & Sierra Valley

*Victoria said that Bob Kingman, representing SNC, reached out asking if he could schedule site tours for the Sierra Valley Ranchlands Grant and Carmen Valley Phase 2 Grant that SNC funded. These tours will satisfy SNC's post monitoring requirements. Rachel Hutchinson and Director Roberti offered to attend. Victoria will schedule a tour date after August 1st.

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

*Danielle Bradfield sent a message that Paul Roen has pulled out of the project area since all identified units have been completed. With board approval she will begin working on additional acreage to add to the project. Victoria reported that the advance has been spent and we will now be billing directly to SNC. Paul Roen updated that they have completed the acreage that was identified in the current project but it was not the full amount of acreage that the initial grant submission states would be completed. Rachel reported that they are working on identifying and approving additional work adjacent to this project and CDFW. *Director Tipton motioned to move forward on finding additional acreage to meet the 723 acres needed to satisfy the grant agreement. Director Griffin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

13. Discussion/ Action: Future Ag Project Opportunities

A) Noxious Weeds: Willo reported that tall white top is abundant. They will be spraying as soon as possible. They have a couple grants out there to fund this but they have not received the funding yet. Supervisor Roen suggested that the board look for RAC grants to assist with funding.

B) Sierra Valley Grasshoppers: Once the grasshoppers get to the adult phase there is not much that can be done. It was suggested that they be sprayed in early May when they are in the nymph stage. One issue is how to get other ranches on board to spray. Willo also mentioned the Mormon crickets are out in Stead now.

14. Discussion/ Action: Committee/ Agency Reports

Agency Reports, Open Floor: Willo Vieira from Plumas-Sierra Ag Department said that there is a new beaver and bear policy in place. Ben McNalley from NRCS reported that they are working CSP and EQUIP to see how the funds shake out. A few EQUIP contracts will begin to move forward and then they will wait to see what other funding they receive. They also just completed their natural resource inventory. Tracy Schohr from UCCE said that the Cattlemen's Association received funding to host a tour that will start in Quincy moving to Sierra Valley. Director Roberti will be the tour guide. Supervisor Roen

mentioned that there is a formal NEPA document for the North Yuba project. Director Griffin asked that the discretionary permitting topic stay on the agenda. It was suggested that a committee meet with Brandon to work on a proposal to bring to the board. Director Roberti asked that allotment grazing, board terms and director rolls be added to the next agenda. Last, it was commented that AB 652 is gaining traction. There is an advisory committee being put together and at this time there are no ag related members on the committee.

15. Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:53pm.

NEXT MEETING: August 14, 2023, Sierraville