



Lake County Resource Conservation District
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Harry Lyons
President

BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 14, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – President Harry Lyons calls the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Alma de Paredes will take the Minutes.

Directors Present: Jim Bridges, Randy Krag, Kate Schmidt-Hopper, Harry Lyons, Shula Shoup, Merry Jo Velasquez

Directors Absent: None

Others Present: Alma de Paredes, Laurie Hutchison, Erica Lundquist (NRCS), Megan McCluer (JAIDE); Kristen Murphy (JAIDE), Carlos Solar, CPA

1. INTRODUCTIONS and Consideration of extra Items not appearing on the posted agenda. Carlos Solar is a CPA with an auditing background contracted to assist the RCD on its transition to a more independent accounting environment. He is scheduled to start on July 1, 2024.

2. PUBLIC INPUT - Anyone may speak for 3 minutes on a subject not on the agenda; no action will be taken by the Board. Carlos Solar, CPA, discussed his focus will be on the payroll transition from the County to a QuickBooks platform as well as entering the FY22/23 financials.

Kristen Murphy - . Confirmed tht the RCD has \$75K for a work truck from the forest health grant.

3. BOARD REVIEW OF STAFF WRITTEN REPORTS/UPDATES

3.1 Lake County Fire Safe Council Report & PG&E Grant & COCO/AIM – Laurie Hutchison – Attended Northshore Ready Fest event with Kevin Soland. Prepared presentation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the new FSC contract and Wildfire Preparedness Day. Researching and identifying potential grants to fund tracking and reporting systems for LCFSC website.



3.2 Forestry Report & CFSC Defensible Space Grant – Kevin Soland – Confirmed the receipt of \$124K advance from CFSC. Attended the Northshore Ready Fest Event outreach event with Laurie Hutchison. Has met with a consulting RPF firm representative.

3.4 Goats Rue Project – Greg Dills – Nothing to Report

3.5 CalTrans Revegetation Projects – Greg Dills – Routine maintenance has resumed in both the Middletown Phase I and Highway 29 projects. Waiting for sign off on the Phase II Middletown agreement from Lake County Public Services to begin work.

3.6 Lake County Land Trust Wright Project – Larry Ray - The preliminary map which was developed for submission to the USACE with Kevin Soland is currently on hold awaiting shape files Bill Lincoln is developing. Upon reviewing the initial estimate for construction work, it was found that it would cause a \$100K budget overrun. Other firms are being considered.

4. IN PERSON REPORTS FROM PARTNERS/CONSULTANTS/DIRECTORS

4.1 NRCS Report & Continued Discussion on Native Relations Conference -Erica Lundquist – Continued the discussion of the “Collaborating with Tribes” workshop she attended. Her takeaways were:

1. Care should be taken not to misinterpret what is said.
2. Culture and ecology are not viewed in the same way.
3. Work on gaining trust.
4. Take the time to build relationships with the tribes.
5. Partnerships not paternalism.
6. Listen to what is being said.
7. Respect tribal Leaders and Elders.
8. Identify problems to get to a real solution using personal interface skills.
9. Do not misappropriate native knowledge and culture.
10. Introduce yourself and let others know where you are from and your personal background.

Will partner with the RCD reach out to the Lake County tribal communities. Will be hosting an NRCS/RCD table at a TERA job fair. Has been in contact with various Forester organizations and clubs to identify interest and potential candidates for open positions. Also reaching out to soil conservation candidates.

4.2 Soil Projects – WETA, ZFP, Conservation Works – Kristen Murphy – A contract with MCRCD to support ZFP scope of work is underway. This is also in lieu of onboarding a Soil and Water Specialist (see below in Hiring Report)



4.3 Hiring Report – Kristen Murphy – Confirmed the hiring of Julia Sullivan as the RCD’s new Executive Director. Identified two strong candidates for Financial Manager, Bookkeeper, and Soil and Water Specialist positions.

4.4 Financial Transition Team Report – Megan McCluer – Will be meeting with County Auditor representatives to discuss the upcoming transition to a different accounting platform. Carlos Solar will lead the meeting.

4.5 President/Director Reports

Harry Lyons - Harry Lyons – Confirmed that the RCD has been awarded \$40K from the Gamble Foundation for capacity building. Suggested Saturday, June 22, 2024, for the Board’s DEI training and will confirm once everyone confirms. This year’s Field Days in the Creek was successful. Sent a Letter of Support to the Aggregator Pilot Project Study (Biomass) and is considering sending a Letter of Commitment to be the Lead Applicant for the grant.

Kate Schmidt Hopper – Field Days in the Creek had more tables, more kids and teacher participation with positive feedback. Suggested an agenda item be added to the June 10, 2024, agenda to have Sarah Angulo of UC Davis, Community and Citizen Science team return to speak to the board. A curriculum was developed but there is no funding for implementation and the team is currently looking for a depository for its work product. More information on the program and the four modules can be found here: <https://education.ucdavis.edu/blog-entry/project-update-training-presents-drafted-environmental-education-support-clear-lake>

Randy Krag – Is working with Emily Winfield of the North Coast Soil Hub.

Merry Jo Velasquez – Land Trust approached CDFW to acquire some land. Currently contemplating restoring the entire Manning Creek reserve area. Working on a concept proposal and will collaborate with TERA for cultural burning.

Shula Shoup – Nothing to report.

Jim Bridges – Nothing to report.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION



5.1 APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 9TH 2024.

Motion to Approve Minutes of April 9, 2024, Board Meeting: Randy Krag

Seconded: Merry Jo Velasquez

Aye: Unanimous

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

5.2 ACCEPT/REJECT MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion to Reject Financials: Merry Jo Velasquez **Seconded:** Kate Schmidt-Hopper

Aye: Unanimous

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

5.3 APPROVE AND PAY BILLS

Motion to Approve and Pay Bills: Shula Shoup **Seconded:** Kate Schmidt-Hopper

Aye: Unanimous

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

5.4 APPROVE HIRING OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Motion to Approve Hiring Executive Director (Task Order 2024-01 Onboarding from May 13, 2024, through August 12, 2024, as a contractor; then as a permanent employee from August 13): Shula Shoup **Seconded:** Merry Jo Velasquez

Aye: Unanimous

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None



5.5 APPROVE LETTER OF COMMITMENT

Motion to Approve Letter of Commitment To be Lead Applicant for the Aggregator Pilot Project Study (Biomass) on behalf of the County: Randy Krag **Seconded:** Kate Schmidt-Hopper

Aye: Unanimous

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

6. **SAFETY MEETING** – PPE Eye Protection. All have read.
7. **ONGOING PROJECTS** – All yearly projects have been successfully completed except the Meisenbach scholarship which will be announced in August 2024.
8. **NEW BUSINESS** – Sarah Angulo added to the June 10, 2024, Board Meeting agenda.
9. **GENERAL DISCUSSION** - no action will be taken by the board.
10. **CLOSED SESSION OPTION** – None.
11. **ADJOURN**

Motion to Adjourn: Merry Jo Velasquez **Seconded:** Randy Krag

Aye: Unanimous

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Attachments: