

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE YUBA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

9:30 am Friday February 14, 2020

Held at the Yuba County Agricultural Commission Office
915 8th Street, Suite 127, Marysville

A. ROLL CALL

President Alyssa Lindman called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM at the Yuba County Agricultural Commission Office conference room in Marysville, CA.

Roll Call:

	Present	Absent
Directors	Director Alyssa Lindman	Director Doug Neilson
	Director Gary Fildes	
	Director Deborah Aseltine Neilson	

Others present: Kelli Evans (SCRCD), Charles Sharp

B. PUBLIC INPUT

Kelli Evans of the Sutter County RCD led a discussion of possible funding options for the YCRCD based on Sutter County's experience. SCRCD is currently developing a plan with River Partners from Chico to help restore habitat for salmon. SCRCD will be the lead agency on a grant they are working on. It was mentioned that SNC discouraged the YCRCD's participation in a recent grant round because of liability issues. However, Kelli said that grants involving partnerships where monies are funneled through RCDs are reviewed and signed off on by lawyers from involved organizations. Also, the action needs to be signed off on by a Natural Resource Agency. She also said that insurance should be able to handle much of the liability and it can be acquired through membership in the various RCD groups; one of the reasons for joining the national and states groups is for insurance. The cost wasn't much for SCRCD. At the national level the agency only required what the RCD felt it could afford and SCRCD ended up paying \$20 for the year. CARCD and CSDA both provide insurance coverage for its members at a reasonable rate. Sacramento Valley Region of RCDs waived its membership for last year.

Director Aseltine Neilson introduced herself and gave a short background.

ACTION ITEMS

C. CONSENT ITEMS:

There were no consent items.

D. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Fildes reported that there has been no change in our finances. We still have approximately \$1100 in our account. He also reported that he still hasn't heard from the County about an audit. The County requires an audit every 3-4 years when finances are over a certain amount. The expected cost is \$2500-\$3000.

Since Director Neilson was absent, the request for reimbursement of expenses for the development of the RCD webpage was tabled until a future meeting.

DISCUSSION/REPORTS

E. UPDATE ON SNC FOREST HEALTH GRANT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

President Lindman reported that we were not awarded the SNC grant. We were a couple of points shy of the 90 points needed for consideration. One negative to our application appears to be that the proposed work was mostly on private land while SNC wanted to see more emphasis on public land. That said, the project was funded through CalFire although the monies went directly to the Yuba Water Agency for distribution, bypassing YCRCDC.

F. INTRODUCTION TO A POSSIBLE CONTRACT FOR WEED/INVASIVES REMOVAL PROJECT ON THE FEATHER RIVER.

President Lindman has been looking into a proposed invasive species removal project on the Feather River working with Sutter RCD. The project is similar to a 2008 effort by YCRCDC funded by CDFG, and she has been looking over the contract for that project, working with Sutter RCD Board member Kelli Ryan, to see if this might be a legitimate project for us. Neither President Lindman nor Kelli Ryan were able to find out what agency is initiating this effort although President Lindman thought that Sutter County Ag Office is a good candidate (they were on the previous years' applications). This type of work would be a good fit potentially. Several sites (e.g. Beale AFB) are continuously working to remove invasives from their properties. RCDs can apply to oversee the work and hire contractors to conduct the removal. SCRCDC has a contractor that they use that is familiar with the process, the area, and the special needs associated with the involved waterways. Kelli also is in contact with a student at Chico State that is interested in possibly volunteering to help write natural resource grant applications for her degree.

G. DISCUSSION OF NEW STATE REGULATIONS ON SELLING HOMES IN HIGH AND VERY HIGH FIRE RISK AREAS, AND WHETHER THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YCRCDC TO PROVIDE SERVICES RELATED TO THESE REGULATIONS.

Beginning in July 1, 2021, owners looking to sell the property must provide proof (through a process outlines in State regulations) that the property within six months prior to the sale conforms to State and local vegetation management ordinances (in Yuba County this would be State Regulation 4291).

Director Fildes said that he will be training some members of the Fire Safe Council to visit homeowners and showing them how to meet regulations related to defensible space. He felt these types of visits are something that the RCD could become involved in. The RCD could coordinate visits for the County in high risk areas. He thought that we could work with realtors to provide inspections for a small fee, or work directly with the homeowners for a donation. Kelli Ryan liked the idea and suggested we put together a proposal and bring it to the Yuba-Sutter Realtors Association. She provided a name and contact information for the Association.

President Lindman made a motion to allow Director Fildes to begin putting together the details of an inspection program that could be presented at the Y-S Realtors Association. Director Aseltine Neilson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

H. DIRECTOR'S INPUT

There were several extended discussions related to fire resiliency and invasives.

Director Aseltine Neilson asked about a potential role for the RCD in Scotch Broom removal, among other species. She suggested perhaps presenting to Boy Scouts asking for help in removal. Liability would be the major issue that needs to be ironed out.

Director Aseltine Neilson also expressed an interest in expanding our webpage to provide a resource for the community. How do you blend fire resiliency with habitat enhancement for wildlife, bee pastures, etc.? She felt that this kind of information could be provided on our website and would like to start looking into grants or funding to start building the site.

CalRecycle provides grants to help remove illegally dumped items on private lands. This would be of interest to many of the Yuba County landowners, particularly the large farm owners. Kelli Ryan offered to help us apply for funding to then distribute to these landowners on the next grant application round. An agenda item will be placed on the April agenda to begin planning for a possible July grant round.

We probably need to pay 4 sets of dues to the national, state, regional, and special district organizations. We would hear of a large number of funding opportunities and be covered insurance-wise.

I. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, President Lindman adjourned the meeting at 11:25 AM.