



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**April 9, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yuba County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD) was held on **April 9, 2021**, commencing at **9:34 A.M.** The meeting was conducted by Zoom Video Conference and Audio Teleconference.

The Yuba County Resource Conservation District supports the orders and directives from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor’s Office in the effort to minimize the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Governor’s Executive Order N-29-30 enables meetings of legislative bodies to be conducted by way of teleconference.

**ROLL CALL**

Directors	Present	Absent
Alyssa Lindman (President)	X	
Gary Fildes	X	
Deborah Aseltine Neilson	X	

**Others Present:**

- Kelli Evans, Sutter County RCD
- Pa Yang, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Andrew Lee, NRCS
- Ana Santos, NRCS
- Brandon Johnson, NRCS
- Diego Camacho, NRCS

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments provided.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Approval of the minutes of the March 12, 2021 Regular Meeting, as written.
- B. Approval of change to YCRCD Banking Policy  
 A motion was made by Director Lindman and seconded by Director Fildes to accept the March 12, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as written and to accept the modification to the YCRCD Banking Policy. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

C. NRCS District Conservationist Report

No written NRCS report was provided. The presentation under Item D covered some recent NRCS efforts.

D. Presentation from NRCS Forester, Andrew Lee

Andrew Lee provided a presentation that covered the following items regarding NRCS Forestry Assistance: 1) information of what assistance is available from NRCS; 2) identification of where to go to receive this assistance; and 3) examples of work NRCS has done with landowners.

E. Financial Report

Director Fildes reported that there were no changes to the balance from last month; the current balance is still \$14,519.26. Director Fildes also provided Dewaina Edens with the latest statement to incorporate into the Quick Books records. In addition, Director Fildes wrote a check to the Sacramento Valley Region RCDs in the amount of \$150.

F. Sutter County Shared Staff Member

Kelli Evans indicated that the Sutter County RCD (SCRCD) has a staff person who is currently working about 30 hours a week. Elizabeth Gutberlet is a new graduate with degrees and experience in environmental science. The SCRCD Board voted to approve sharing this staff person with Yuba County RCD and a Memorandum of Agreement between the two RCDs is currently being drafted. The agreement would indicate that SCRCD is contracting with YCRCD to provide this service and will invoice YCRCD for the hours worked. YCRCD Board members indicated that 4-5 hours a week would be a good starting point for now with a focus on administrative tasks and joint YCRCD-SCRCD projects, with additional hours (up to a combined 40 hours) being possible for work on YCRCD projects and other efforts with SCRCD if new joint grant proposals are funded. Elizabeth is currently working on several tasks including the draft MOA and the Healthy Soils grant and is breaking out her time by project. Director Lindman talked to Steve Andrews about the YWPFSC funds allocated to YCRCD for administrative tasks; he was fine with YCRCD using these funds to pay for the SCRCD staff's time doing YCRCD administrative tasks. Steve Andrews is stepping down from his position as Executive Director of the YWPFSC in June 2021. Director Fildes will find out who the new Executive Director will be as the Board should confirm the use of allocated funds with this person as well. Depending on when the MOA draft is completed, the Board may want to have a special meeting to consider approval of this MOA.

G. Grizzly Corps

The application by the SCRCD and YCRCD for a Grizzly Corps intern did not make the cut for this group of interns; the joint application is currently on an alternate list but there is no time frame set for the next selection process.

H. CDFA Monarch Technical Assistance Grant with Sutter RCD

Each of the three county RCDs that will work together on this grant (Sutter County, Colusa County, and Yuba County) need to submit an application, so a master application was developed for generating each of these separate applications. The application labelled as Colusa County in the Board packet is misnamed and is the YCRCD application. Each

application is for \$15,000 for a combined total of \$45,000. (See next item for discussion that covered both of these grant applications.)

I. Technical Outreach Grant for Healthy Soils & SWEEP with Sutter RCD

SCRCD, Colusa County RCD, and YCRCD are included within this grant application. Tasks and budgets are provided for both the two solicitations for Healthy Soils. Tasks and budgets also are provided for both of the solicitations for SWEEP. The combined total of the budgets is \$240,000 to be split between the three RCDs over the time frame of the grant.

Should these applications be funded, then the Board members will need to figure out who will be responsible for specific tasks (will depend on task requirements and staff/Board members' expertise) and how the funding will be split. Starting in July, all staff will be working out of the SCRCD office.

The YCRCD Board needs to approve both of these grant applications, so the Board should consider holding a special meeting soon.

J. Project Updates

For the Foothill Cleanup Program, Director Lindman will potentially have the overview and short form application for submittal to the Yuba Water Agency ready for review by the Board members at the next regular Board meeting.

Regarding the AB38 Fee-for-Service Program, Director Fildes learned that the State will not enforce the requirement for homes being sold in high and very high wildfire areas to have defensible space inspections until 3-4 years from now. This is one reason why local realtors have not shown any interest in the service the YCRCD proposed to offer. Director Fildes has the information needed for developing pamphlets, forms (can use the Fire Safe Council's defensible space review form as a starting place), and schedules once the realtors express interest. Until then, this program is on hold. Director Lindman pointed out that putting this program on hold will affect our DOC grant as this includes funds for this program, but the DOC grant manager has indicated that we can reallocate those funds. Other budget items also need to be reallocated, so likely the Board will develop a revised budget this fall. Director Fildes indicated that once Elizabeth starts working for YCRCD, she could start putting the AB38 forms together.

For the CalRecycle Grant, the contractor's work is finished, and Kelli Evans is putting together the final paperwork for this grant. SCRCD will pay the contractor for the work completed in Yuba County and then invoice YCRCD for this work (about \$128,000). YCRCD will pay SCRCD once YCRCD receives the funds from CalRecycle for this work.

Kelli Evans indicated that the deadline for the next round of CalRecycle grant applications is in August. There is a lot of interest by landowners in this program, so starting in June, Elizabeth will start reviewing the different land situations to determine which ones will provide the most resource conservation benefit. SCRCD also is working on a collaboration with the county sheriffs in both counties for a CalRecycle grant where SCRCD would apply for the county sheriffs and take care of all the administrative tasks so that a person can be hired whose sole responsibility for the year would be to address illegal dumping. In addition,

SCRCD will be applying for a CalRecycle grant to address illegally dumped tires as there is interest by landowners in that as well.

K. Insurance Update

Since a special meeting needs to be scheduled for several other items, Director Aseltine-Neilson will provide the insurance forms that need Board approval at that meeting.

L. Website Update

Neither Director Lindman nor Director Aseltine-Neilson have had the opportunity yet to take the web training that is offered by Streamline.

### **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

One major concern that the Board faces is capacity. The Board currently has three members; should any member leave, the Board would not be able to operate. The Board also currently has no administrative staff. Director Lindman has been talking to Kelli Evans about the possibility of merging the SCRCD and YCRCD together. Director Lindman also has been talking to Yuba County supervisors Randy Fletcher and Andy Vasquez about the need for additional Board members, but they currently have no suggestions. Funding from the County for staff also is not available. If the Board agrees, then Director Lindman will continue to explore with Kelli Evans the idea of merging with SCRCD. There are a lot of advantages to merging: current administrative costs (e.g., dues, website, insurance) would be reduced; due to SCRCD's initiative, SCRCD and YCRCD are already working together on several joint projects and this would increase both RCD's capacity to address these and other projects; and soon both RCDs will be sharing a staff person. Kelli Evans has discussed this idea with a couple of the Sutter County supervisors and they are fine with the idea of merging the two RCDs. Director Lindman also discussed this idea with Randy Fletcher and Andy Vasquez, and while they wanted to see the YCRCD be successful on its own, they understand the issue with capacity and are supportive of the idea if that is what the YCRCD Board determines is the best solution. No Board member objected to Director Lindman continuing forward with exploring this option with Kelli Evans. One of the next steps will be to reach out to the Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCO) of both counties.

Director Lindman also will be meeting on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> with Max Odland, who leads the Forest PACE program under the CA Association of RCDs (CARCD), and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) who is funding this effort. YCRCD Board members have not been able to attend many of the meetings, workshops, or trainings that are offered through the Forest PACE program, so Max Odland and staff from the SNC will discuss with Director Lindman the YCRCD priorities and needs regarding partnerships that focus on forest management and fire resilience. Karen Buhr from CARCD will also be attending. Director Lindman will share the results of this call with the Board during the next regular meeting.

### **DIRECTORS' COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

Director Aseltine Neilson reviewed the information that she sent to Directors Lindman and Fildes on a presentation to be held this Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> about the history of fire on the California landscape.

The Board members discussed potential dates for a special meeting. Both Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> are possibilities. Director Aseltine Neilson will get back to Director Lindman about her availability on those days so this meeting can be scheduled.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 A.M.