



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 14, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yuba County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD) was held on **May 14, 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)

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments provided.

CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approval of the minutes of the April 9, 2021 Regular Meeting, as written.
- B. Approval of the minutes of the April 30, 2021 Special Meeting, as written.

Upon a motion made by Director Lindman, seconded by Director Aseltine Neilson, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes as written.

ACTION ITEMS

- C. Yuba-Sutter RCD Consolidation Task Force Appointment
Upon a motion made by Director Aseltine Neilson, seconded by Director Lindman, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Director Lindman and Director Fildes to the Yuba-Sutter RCD Consolidation Task Force.

D. Insurance Payment

Director Aseltine Neilson discussed with Liz Smith at the Golden State Risk Management Authority (GSRMA) the concern that Board Directors had regarding the meetings mentioned in the GSRMA bylaws. Elizabeth explained that YCRCD Board Directors do not need to attend these meetings unless they want to do so. Since this satisfactorily answered this question, Director Aseltine-Neilson indicated that she went ahead, as authorized in the April 2021 special meeting, and signed the GSRMA application and No Loss letter and then submitted these to the GSRMA. GSRMA accepted the YCRCD application. They now will send the YCRCD an invoice for the remaining months of the insurance year which extends from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Director Aseltine Neilson indicated that this invoice would come due prior to the next meeting and asked that Director Fildes be given authority to pay it once it arrives. Director Aseltine Neilson indicated that should be for around \$295.00, but asked that the Board approve up to \$350.00 to pay this insurance invoice. The Board then agreed that Director Fildes could pay this invoice once it arrives.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

E. Partner Reports

NRCS

Pa Yang from the NRCS indicated that she did not have much to report this month. The ranking deadline is June 9th. The Rice Commissioner advertised the Winter Waterflow program so NRCS should be receiving the RCPP applications before May 28th to meet the June 9 ranking deadline. Also, NRCS and RCD training on Facilitating Local Work Group Meetings is to be held on June 14 to 18th for 4.5 hours each day. Pa asked if any Board Directors would be attending. The Board indicated that the training sounded great, but no one from the YCRCD can attend.

Sutter County RCD

Kelli Evans provided an update on joint Sutter County RCD-YCRCD actions. A technical equipment grant is now available for small specialty districts that are struggling. It is a small amount of funds – several thousands of dollars – and covers equipment such as printers, computers, and software. Sutter County RCD thought that they could apply for some items and YCRCD could apply for other items, and then the two RCDs could share some of these items for joint projects. Sutter County RCD plans to apply for a PA system, printer, and QuickBooks. Director Fildes indicated that YCRCD has QuickBooks while Director Aseltine Neilson suggested that it would be good to acquire Adobe Acrobat Suite, so Kelli may add in Adobe Acrobat and remove QuickBooks. Sutter County RCD has not heard back yet about the Healthy Soils/SWEEP grants. We did get some Monarch program funds, but the amount for Yuba County was reduced because not all areas are priority 1 areas. All work that the RCDs conduct for this program will need to be within priority 1 areas. Resource Day is being held by the Farm Bureau in Yuba City on June 4th from 11-2 PM. This effort is about getting resources to the farmers. The Sutter RCD will have an RCD booth and would welcome YCRCD participation if Board members can make it. Flyers will be available that cover RCD activities such as the Healthy Soils/SWEEP program (if it gets funded), the Monarch program, and possibly for Yuba County, the CalRecycle Program. Kelli attended the regional meeting that included state and national representatives. Grant funds are going to be available for technical providers and programs for landowners, so attendees were advised to get ready for a mass grant writing

effort. These grants also include monies for project planning and projects for socially disadvantaged landowners. Kelli is working on scheduling the Technical Assistance Workshops; the goal is to have one scheduled by next week so that it can be posted in July. The plan is to have a booth at these workshops and provide flyers with information on the different programs available to landowners.

F. Sutter County MOA

Kelli indicated that Sutter County RCD staff are still working on this MOA, but that it should be finished by next week.

G. Financial Report

Director Fildes reported that after the deduction of the \$150 check to the Sacramento Valley Region RCDs and the removal of \$5000 (that was deposited into the new account that the YCRCD has with Tri-County Bank), the current balance in the account with Yuba County is \$9,369.26. The current balance in the Tri-County Bank account is \$5,000.

H. Project Updates

Director Lindman submitted the next quarterly report to the DOC grant manager.

The invoice for the contractor's work conducted under the CalRecycle grant was included in the Board packet. Once we receive the monies for the CalRecycle grant, we can reimburse the Sutter RCD for this amount as they went ahead and paid the contractor for this work.

Director Lindman also has been talking to the Sierra Nevada Alliance about hosting a "Sierra" fellow. The YCRCD would need to identify funding for this fellow and consequently, Director Lindman has been discussing this opportunity and funding need with the Yuba Water Agency and the Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council (YWPFSC). The DOC grant manager also has indicated that the current grant can be modified to cover some of the fellow expenses. Director Lindman also indicated that we should conduct a needs assessment to determine our priority areas and needed resources. The Yuba Water Agency has indicated that they might be able to help fund this effort. The DOD grant manager also indicated that the current grant could be modified to cover this activity. Director Lindman will update the Board as she continues these discussions with potential funders.

I. 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

Director Lindman provided information on most of what she has been doing during the project update. In addition to the efforts regarding the "Sierra" fellow and the DOC report, she also has been looking into the merger with Sutter County RCD as well as the potential for some funding

from Yuba County (which is not going to happen) and recruiting additional Board members. Director Aseltine-Neilson mentioned that she reached out to another Yuba County supervisor, Seth Fuhrer, regarding the effort to recruit additional Board members. He indicated that if we provided him with a short write-up, he could post this on his Facebook page.

Director Lindman reminded Directors Aseltine Neilson and Fildes that the Board members need to keep up to date not only on the ethics training, but also the Brown Act training. The CSDA provides this training for RCD Board members.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Director Aseltine Neilson mentioned that the language in a proposed California legislative bill to require special districts to provide translators during meetings has been removed, which is good news for RCDs.

Director Fildes attended the May YWPFSC meeting. Nothing new to report from that meeting. Steve Andrews is stepping down as Executive Director for the YWPFSC and Allison Thomson will be replacing him, starting around June 1st.

Director Aseltine Neilson asked Director Lindman about information regarding the meeting with Max Odland (CARCD) and staff from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). Director Lindman indicated that she covered some of that information in her quarterly report to the DOC. Primarily, they now understand more about what the YCRCD is doing and what the CARCD and SNC may be able to do to assist us with expanding the YCRCD capacity to do forest work. Max Odland did indicate that he would schedule a meeting with the Butte County RCD to help us learn more about what they are doing regarding forest work. Director Lindman will contact Max to see what the status is regarding that meeting.

Director Aseltine Neilson brought up the need to get a new version of the Microsoft Office software. YCRCD will be able to get this software once we get a debit card from Tri-County Bank. YCRCD also needs VPN software (virus checker came with the operating system) and an external hard drive for backing up the computer. Director Lindman also mentioned that it would be good to get a docking station for plugging in various computer equipment.

The Board discussed potential agenda items for the next meeting. These include the Sutter County MOA and the Foothill Cleanup packet.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.