



MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 20, 2021

A Special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yuba County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD) was held on **August 20, 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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments provided.

CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approval of the minutes of the May 24, 2021 Regular Meeting, as written.
Upon a motion made by Director Lindman, seconded by Director Aseltine Neilson, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the May 2021 minutes as written.

ACTION ITEMS

- B. Yuba-Sutter RCD MOU
Upon a motion made by Director Lindman, seconded by Director Fildes and unanimously carried, the Board approved the MOU between YCRCD and Sutter County RCD.

C. CalRecycle Grant Resolution

This CalRecycle grant proposal is for \$197,000 and will cover seven sites in Yuba County. Upon a motion made by Director Lindman, seconded by Director Fildes and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution #21-5.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

D. Partner Reports

Sutter County RCD

The new Sutter County RCD Project Manager is Gurveen Dhillon. In addition to the project work she will be doing for Sutter County RCD, she will be helping the YCRCD with some of their administration tasks.

Kelli Evans provided an update on joint Sutter County RCD-YCRCD actions. She mentioned that there is a CalRecycle grant opportunity this winter for tire removals. There is one site near Browns Valley that has been identified; other sites still need to be identified. Regarding the Monarch grant, a Monarch Coloring Contest was held that included submissions from Sutter, Yuba, and Colusa counties; the contest was a great success with a large turn out and entries that went well beyond what was expected (e.g., posters). Submissions by the winners will be displayed in a public venue. Kelli Evans also will be attending the Garden Club meeting and will speak about Monarch habitats. She also is working on hiring a Technical Assistance Provider who will assist with the Monarch Grant and SWEEP/Healthy Soils Grant. Gurveen Dhillon has all but one workshop planned for the Specialty Crop Technical Assistance Grant effort. The Sutter County RCD plans to have a booth at these workshops and provide flyers with information on the different Hubs (technical assistance workshops) that will take place throughout the year. Sutter County RCD applied for and received funding for equipment (tablets) through the Healthy Soils/SWEEP grants. Through another grant proposal, Sutter County RCD also received funds for a PA system. Staff have already purchased the PA system and plan to use it for upcoming grants and projects. This equipment is available for use by the YCRCD.

Kelli Evans is now looking for other grants including technical outreach grants and CalRecycle grants. Staff have been very busy so have not time to think about scheduling a consolidation workgroup meeting.

Kelli Evans also mentioned that the Parkway project, funded by the National Parks Association, is underway; the path starts at second street near the courthouse and will go down to Shanghai Bend. Discussions now are occurring about revising the current grant to include a path from Sacramento along the levees to Yuba City and then running a path that connects to the Sutter Buttes as well as a path that crosses the river into Yuba County. The idea is to keep building off of the current efforts, so Sutter County RCD and YCRCD could submit a follow-up proposal to create a parkway that extends into Yuba County. This could include walking and bike trails as well as some kiosks. Possibilities include running the parkways along the rivers and/or levees, and potentially creating a parkway that goes up into the Sierra foothills. Having a parkway that ultimately would connect the Sierra foothills and the Sutter Buttes is particularly appealing. Sutter County RCD is also looking at the possibility of taking over some duties from a Fish and Wildlife Committee that is dissolving. This could involve the YCRCD as some of this would focus on habitat along both sides of the Feather River.

E. Financial Report

Director Fildes reported that the latest receipts and checks have not been entered into QuickBooks, so the financial reports provided with the Board packet do not reflect the current financial status. Given what expenditures have occurred, the balance for the two accounts combined is less than \$23,000.

F. Audit

Director Fildes reported that he spoke with the County Auditor department and got a few numbers to call. They reported that a yearly audit would cost at least \$5000, although prices may vary depending on if the YCRCD signs a multi-year contract for audits. The Directors decided to track down the old audit, contact CARCD and CSDA about whether there is some exemption available for RCDs with small budgets, and continue looking for a solution.

G. Project Updates

Projects have already been covered under the partner reports or will be discussed under other items below.

H. State Controller Financial Transaction Report

Director Lindman indicated that before the new website can be launched, Streamline needs to verify that this report was submitted to the State Controller's Office. Director Aseltine Neilson has left several phone messages with the State Controller's Office, but no one has responded. Director Aseltine Neilson also is not sure what the difference is between this report and the Government Compensation Report that has been sent to the State Controller's Office. Director Lindman will reach out to Streamline to see if these reports are the same and Director Aseltine Neilson will continue to reach out to the State Controller's Office.

I. Foothill Cleanup Program Update

Director Lindman provided a Funding Memo she received from the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant program staff that lists some funding sources that YCRCD could consider for funding this program. This is a task that will take some time researching and it will have to be staff driven. A suggestion was made that this might be a task that Gurveen Dhillon could assist with; one approach would be for her to check out a few herself and also assign a couple to each of the board members. After glancing through the funding list, Director Fildes suggested starting with the second funding source. Director Lindman also may reach out to Randy Fletcher and the Yuba Water Agency staff to see if any of the Yuba Water Agency staff might be available to help in researching these potential grants. Once YCRCD has an idea what grants might be worth pursuing, Director Lindman indicated that the YCRCD could reach out to the Yuba Water Agency staff as they might have time to assist with developing the grant proposal. However, until some staff assistance is identified, this program will likely be on hold.

J. YCRCD Needs Assessment

In recent discussions between Director Lindman, Randy Fletcher, and staff at the Yuba Water Agency, it was suggested that the YCRCD have a needs assessment conducted to help provide some focus and prioritization to YCRCD efforts. This assessment will also help identify staffing

needs as well as potential partners. The Yuba Water Agency may assist with the funding and additional funding may be available through YCRCD's DOC grant. A proposal from Amy Stork, Solid Ground Consulting, is provided in the board member packet; the cost would be around \$11,000. Director Lindman will determine the feasibility of funding from the DOC grant and the Yuba Water Agency.

K. DOC Financial Assistance Program

The DOC grant goes through September 2022, so the YCRCD has this funding available for about one more year. So far, the YCRCD has not spent any funds. Director Lindman is working with the DOC liaison to revise the work and budget. She will be checking to see if the DOC grant can cover part of the Needs Assessment and also provide some funding for an intern such as a Forest Fellow. Sutter County RCD and YCRCD applied for a Grizzly Corps Fellow, but they did not make the cut. The next round starts this winter, but by the time this fellow would start, there would be little time left to spend the DOC grant funds. Director Lindman has yet to hear about the other possible fellows for YCRCD. It also might be possible to fund Gurveen Dhillon to do some grant research and writing or produce a brochure. It also was suggested that YCRCD could partner with one of the nearby RCDs and pay part of their staff time through the DOC grant, particularly if the task is something that would benefit both RCDs. Director Lindman plans to provide an updated workplan and budget at the next regular board meeting.

L. Monarch Coloring Contest – Discussion and Vote

Kelli Evans was not available during this discussion item to provide background to the board members about the Monarch coloring contest and the awards provided to the winners. The Directors decided to postpone this agenda item until Kelli Evans can provide the needed background information.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PACE Peer Learning Objectives – CARCD has set up as a peer program where RCDs with similar views can meet and brainstorm on ideas and projects together to help one another out. Director Lindman participated in a CARCD workshop with other RCDs and fire safe councils where they talked about how they partner together and what they do together. Some helpful tips for partnerships included meeting regularly and sharing a staff person or fellow. Director Lindman also met with the Butte County and Placer County RCDs and may continue to interact with these RCDs through monthly meetings.

Director Lindman also is engaging with the CARCD to develop a list of objectives for the YCRCD. The first objective was to develop a defensible space and cleanup program with the first milestone being to submit a grant application by the end of the year and the second milestone, dependent on funding by the spring, being to start implementing the program. Due to lack of staff, this effort is on hold. The second objective was to develop a partnership and projects with the Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council (YWPFSC), with one of the milestones being to meet with the Allison Thomson, the new Executive Director for the YWPFSC. Director Lindman has made some progress with this objective. She has been meeting with Randy Fletcher, Allison Thomson, and Creighton Avila (Yuba Water Agency) to discuss how to build a partnership between YCRCD and YWPFSC, what the needs are for the two organizations, and how efforts should be prioritized. They already have had two meetings and will try to meet fairly regularly.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS AND REPORTS

The Directors discussed the need for fire resilience work on private lands in the foothills and lower Sierra Nevada forests, and whether additional outreach materials are needed. Director Lindman will reach out to Allison Thomson to see if she is aware of any needs for a brochure, particularly one that includes weblinks.

The Board discussed potential agenda items for the next meeting. These include the Monarch Coloring Contest Prize Expense approval, an update on the audit, the needs assessment, and an updated workplan and budget for the DOC grant. Director Asetine Neilson will reach out to Brian Edinger from the Golden State Risk Management Authority to see if he is interested in presenting at our next meeting. It is possible that there could be time for Pa Yang to present at the next meeting too.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.