

Fall River Resource Conservation District

Post Office Box 83
McArthur, CA 96056

Telephone/Fax: (530) 336-6591/336-5618
e-m

Meeting Minutes Fall River RCD, November 16, 2021
M.C.T.O. at 7:16 pm

Board Members Present: Bill Buckman [X], Clay Jacobson [], Chuck Macfarlane [X]
Don Martin [X], Chris Christofferson [X], Pat Oilar [X], Dan Klatt []

Staff: Sharmie Stevenson [X], Todd Sloat [X], Julie Allen [X]

Public Comment: None

Guests in attendance: None

New Business

PG&E Water Agreement – None

Personnel Evaluations – Moved to Closed Session

Strategic Planning & Project Prioritization Document – Todd gave a brief explanation of the document and what it is intended to do. It fits in with what the State wants to know and provides the RCD with simple guidance for why projects are selected. Tabled to next month, Sharmie will email the document to the Directors.

Shooting sports complex – Oak removal – There was discussion about commercial firewood vendors in the area. Sarah Oldson suggested that we have some specs. in place before allowing any removal. The board discussed several options including Cal Fire Crews removing the oak, allowing removal by the HCRPC and burning as an exercise for the Volunteer Fire Dept. Sharmie will bring more info. back to the next meeting for discussion.

Old Business

McArthur Swamp – Future Plans – Julie presented the info. on Earth Imaging (Gary Mann). The cost is \$2,500 per location with a minimum of 2 locations needed to perform the service. Test will range from 400 – 500' depth within a 2,000 linear foot line so there is no width. The owner is retiring in April and there can be no wet areas and no sage brush or grass for the test to be performed. There was discussion on the SIGMA water testing and Julie will get in contact with Laura Snell to see if she can get some information and costs on the new technology. M/S/C Pat/ to move ahead with the test at Julie's discretion but that she check out the new technology prior and the total cost not exceed \$5,000. There was discussion on well permits, Julie will talk to Shasta County Ag Dept to see what info. they might have. There was a discussion on farming fields and laser leveling techniques.

Employee benefits – The board asked some clarifying questions regarding the info. that Sharmie prepared for their closed session discussion.

Increase employee hours – Moved to closed session.

Cash Reserve Policy – M/S/C Don/Pat to adopt the policy and move \$60,000 into a savings account to be used as a cash reserve.

Hire WUI Coordinator/Project Coordinator – Todd and Sharmie presented the idea of hiring a full-time position to be shared between the Pit and Fall River RCD's. The employee would be tasked with coordinating all private landowner projects. There was discussion on how Cal Fire funding could be used to cover the position along with some funds from SNC. There was discussion on salary range and time frame for employment. Todd will work on a job description that will be sent out to the board prior to the next meeting. It was discussed that starting this position on Jan 1 would be beneficial. There was discussion on how the shared employee would work, Todd and Sharmie will discuss and bring back info to next meeting.

Consent Calendar

Minutes October 19, 2021 Regular Meeting

Expenditures October 20, 2021 through November 16, 2021

M/S/C Don/Chuck to approve the consent calendar and the financial reports (balance sheet, profit and loss, and transactions) as presented.

Executive Director Report

Sharmie read a letter to the Board from the Hat Creek Rifle and Pistol Club in response to the letter that was sent to them regarding communication and the lease. She showed the Board the newspaper article about the shooting sports complex dedication and read the thank you card from the Millington family. She gave an update on the visitor center/wood utilization campus and the favorable response from D.U. Todd, the attorney, and Sharmie will figure out the next steps and draft a reply to D.U.'s questions. There was no new information on the IRWM Inter mtn fair project. Sharmie told the board that she had attended the town hall that the CSD held regarding the new sewer system for McArthur. She explained the no cost connection and what the costs would be in the future if the Board chose not to connect now. Don also added information on what happens in the event of a future sale and forced connection for the sale to close. M/S/C Chris/Chuck to connect to the CSD sewer line when the project rolls out. Sharmie was given direction to send an article to the newspaper informing the community of the RCD's action and position.

Range Manager Report

Julie to the board that the troughs are all poured and the welding and perimeter will be done soon. She explained the need for cross fencing in the fields where the new troughs are located as was the plan to cross fence from the beginning. The distance is approximately 5,700' feet and Julie estimates \$4.25 per foot for fencing. The cost should be less than \$25,000. The funds for the project are part of the Stewardship Council Phase III funds. M/S/C Chris/Chuck to move forward with the fencing. There was discussion on the Snake Pond and the hunting blinds lease. Don mentioned that the RCD might have another opportunity for other hunting blinds/leases with private landowners in the area, discussion followed. Julie also told the board that all of the cattle were removed from the Swamp on 11/14 and that the income for the season is roughly \$40,000. There was about 50-60% utilization but due to the late summer growth and early summer shortage it was difficult to predict the outcome, there was discussion on the Canary grass and availability/shortage of other feed. Julie told the Board she expects to see the management/grazing plans from Chico State students in December. She will be shutting down the pumphouse in December, Seth Britten has been using water for compaction with the troughs project.

Adjourned at 9:10 p.m by Chairman Buckman

Board members reconvened to Closed Session at 9:15 pm

Next Regular Meeting Date – Tuesday – December 14, 2021 at 6:00 PM