

# Fall River Resource Conservation District

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e-m

Meeting Minutes Fall River RCD, February 15, 2022  
M.C.T.O. at 7:06 pm

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

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

Public Comment: None

Guests in attendance: None  
Via phone: Shane Starr

## New Business

Crossroads Project Discussion – Sharmie filled Shane in on the project and discussions from last month’s meeting with the Lassen FS. Sharmie informed Shane and the board that the decision memo was in place for approximately a year and a half before changes had been made to it. Sharmie discussed a team meeting that occurred a week ago between RCD/FS where the FS stated they were not aware of who within the FS had made the changes to the memo. Shane asked a question about public comment process, Sharmie informed him that public scoping went out but there were no public comments received. The RCD invited the PRT to the project property to discuss the project and treatment of oaks. Gregory Wolfen (THPO for PRT) did not have any issues with the project treatments, but did have an issue that the FS did not bring their correct representatives to prior meetings in order to present the project to PRT clearly. PRT felt they were getting incorrect information from the FS regarding the project description. Sharmie then notified the FS that the THPO for PRT was in favor of treating the oaks within the project, FS responded the memo was going to stand as it currently reads and will not be rewritten. Sharmie reiterated that there seems to be no knowledge of who made changes to the memo. Shane stated he would call Deb Bumpass the following morning to see where everything is at within the Regional Office. There was further discussion about drafting letters to different parties to try and track down who wrote the changes in the memo. Sharmie also notified Shane and the Board that in a teams meeting, Robin wanted to make it clear the FS would not do any future projects with the RCD due to lack of capacity and staffing. There was further discussion of concerns about the FS not having the capacity to carry out further work and its negative impact on potential future projects and dealings between FS/RCD. Sharmie also notified Shane and the Board that she was made aware there may be some upcoming issues with the Backbone and Soldier Mountain Projects, where the FS may be moving to little to no treatment due to fishers and martins needing dense canopies for habitat – stating much of their habitat was lost due to Dixie Fire. There was further discussion among Shane and the Board and their concerns if treatments were to stop. Sharmie will look into getting a letter of support from PRT for the Crossroads project.

Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities Grant – Julie presented the Climate Smart Commodities Grant to the board and read off some information regarding the grant’s purpose, award amounts, timelines, potential projects and application requirements. Julie notified the board there is approximately 1 billion dollars worth of funding that is proposed to be awarded through two separate funding pools focused towards projects that

develop and implement practices that are considered “climate-smart”. There was discussion among the board on possible proposals. Julie will do more research on the specific grant requirements/restrictions and start to put together a grant proposal.

Electric Charging Stations Grant – Sharmie explained that in working on a recreation grant, one of the objectives is to try and find ways to promote tourism to the area. Sharmie identified the electric charging station grant which would develop electric charging stations for electric cars. She then listed of some possible locations throughout Burney, Fall River Valley and Big Valley that may be suitable. There was discussion about station size, requirements and charging times, as well as there being a small match requirement. Sharmie was given direction to move forward and apply for the grant. Sharmie notified the board it may not be completed this year due to the short time frame but anything completed this year could be put towards next year’s application.

Swamp and FRPU Properties – There was discussion about setting up special committees to discuss and make decisions on both the Swamp and FRPU properties separately from board meetings in an effort to get projects moving along faster. Julie told the board she has been putting together multiple projects opportunities for both properties that she would like to present and get feedback on. Decision was made to set a special meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> in order to discuss the projects presented and discuss setting up committees.

Intro to Forestry and Wildlife curriculum – Sharmie informed the board of a Forestry program through Shasta Academy that teaches about 10 high school aged, home-schooled students, forestry and wildlife curriculum. Sharmie was approached by Shannon Carnegie regarding RCD’s interest in purchasing curriculum equipment (\$2,500 value), which the RCD would own but would be used by the classes to assist with the instruction. Sharmie proposed to Shannon expanding the program to also include summer courses approximately 1 day/week, 3-4 hours/day for students who have an interest in entering into Forestry related fields. Sharmie also relayed the Pit RCD was willing to go in for half of the curriculum equipment (\$1,250), so FRRCD would potentially be covering the other half. M/S/C Clay/Chuck to help purchase \$1,250 of curriculum equipment to assist in the Forestry program.

Conflict of Interest and Sexual Harassment Training Renewal – It is time for retraining and renewal – must be completed every 2 years.

Cal Deer Association Dinner – The Cal Deer Fundraiser Dinner will take place at the fairgrounds on March 12<sup>th</sup>, there was discussion on whether the board wanted to buy a table and use the dinner as an opportunity to show the public what projects the RCD is trying to do that will help improve deer habitat. Tables are \$1,750 and seats 8 people. M/S/C Clay and Chuck to buy a table at the CDA dinner.

Jr. Hunt Donation – Along with the CDA dinner there was discussion to donate a jr. deer hunt at the Fall River Planning Unit Property which would be raffled off at the dinner. M/S/C Clay and Chuck to donate jr. hunt. Sharmie will look into getting a deer tag.

### Old Business

Shooting Sports Complex – Oak Removal – No more information at this time – tabled.

Office Remodel Updates – Per Shasta County we need to fill out a demolition permit for structures that are shown on plot map but are no longer here, regardless of whether or not they were removed prior to RCD ownership of the property. There are multiple forms that need to be filled out, Sharmie asked Aaron if he could include them with his work to ensure they are filled out correctly and are completed quickly.

McArthur Swamp – Future Plans (Farming Fields) – Julie discussed moving forward with a well drilling permit on the swamp for future farming fields. Julie will look into possible extensions on well permits and will begin on the permit process.

Hire WUI Coordinator – Sharmie told the board she would like to hold off on flying the WUI Coordinator position until she had the signed SNC agreement in hand. There were no comments or concerns from the board.

Employee benefits – Will be revisited at a later date. Remove from agenda.

### Consent Calendar

Minutes January 18, 2022 Regular Meeting

Expenditures January 18, 2022 through February 15, 2022

M/S/C Don/Dan to approve the minutes as presented. There were questions and discussion on how financials are reported. Board would like financials to be reported as year to date on calendar year to give a bigger picture of financials rather than a monthly snapshot. M/S/C Don/Dan to approve financial reports (balance sheet, profit and loss, and transactions) as presented.

### Executive Director Report

Sharmie notified the board that the RCD was awarded the Office of Planning and Research Grant to carry out a pilot project to try and determine what to do with feedstock (wood in forests and down timber). They need someone who will be responsible for setting up TAC meetings. Sharmie suggested that Julie take on the work, as she and Julie discussed it and Julie was willing to take it on. If Julie starts to become overrun during the grazing season Sharmie will help out. There was discussion among the board about how the material is currently managed. Sharmie notified the board that Garrett hired Jill Overbaugh to Symbiotic Restoration. Jill would like to write a grant for movie projection screens, etc. to offer movie nights. This would be to offer arts and entertainment to rural areas. The movies would be offered during the summer months and would move around various towns/communities. It would need to be funded the first couple of years, then get a business to sponsor. No concerns from the board, given ok to move forward. Sharmie also told the board the NRA grant was awarded – approximately \$50,000 for construction on shooting facility.

### Range Manager Report

Julie notified the board of a meeting she has with DU to meet with the new engineer and discuss the project. There is also a meeting scheduled for 2/25 with PGE and DU to discuss canal maintenance before PGE finalizes their project design. PGE has staked the potential pole line which will tie in at the trailer park and run along the road to the well location. DU plans to put the bid out for drilling after the PGE/DU meeting. Julie made some additional changes to the Water Use Agreement, increasing the average daily water consumption as well as a 17% increase in rate. The agreement is in PGE's internal review process and is expected to be available for review within the week. Julie notifies the board that there was only one contractor who had requested information for the cross-fencing project. The request for bid was ran in both newspapers (record Searchlight and Modoc) as well as posted on the RCD website. Julie sent the contractor the fencing packet with bid due 2/28.

Adjourned at 9:02 p.m. by Chairman Buckman

Next Regular Meeting Date – Tuesday – March 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM