Fall River Resource Conservation District

Post Office Box 83 Telephone/Fax: (530) 336-6591/336-5618

McArthur, CA 96056

Special Meeting Minutes Fall River RCD, November 7th, 2023

M.C.T.O. at 6:08 pm

Board Members Present: Bill Buckman [ X ], Clay Jacobson [ X ], Chuck Macfarlane [ X ]

Don Martin [ X ], Chris Christofferson [ X ], Pat Oilar [ X ] Chris Camarata [ X ]

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

Public Comment: None

Guests in attendance: Dale Kroschel

 Via phone: None

New Business

Snake Pond Duck Blinds – Julie notified the board that they did not receive much interest in the Snake Pond Duck Blinds lease this year. Only one person put in for it and ended up backing out. Julie had contacted multiple individuals to see if there was any interest, last year’s lease offered $2,000 for the lease. M/S Chris Christofferson/Clay Jacobson put the blinds out for bid with no limitation on hunting days, fly until November 15th. If no bidders give to prior leasee at $2,000. Motion passed.

McArthur Swamp Vegetation Sampling – Julie read aloud a letter from Jake Schweitzer, Senior Ecologist Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting (VNLC), requesting permission for Jake’s team to conduct vegetation sampling on McArthur Swamp as a part of a CDFW contract. The purpose of the vegetation sampling would be to provide a vegetation map that would be used for multiple broad purposes such as regional fire and fuels management, game management, wildlife and habitat identification, water conservation and management, and watershed assessment. Discussion followed. Julie will get more information on VNLC team’s reporting requirements and bring back to the next meeting.

CEQA NOE McArthur RD Pivot: File CEQA for the electrical to the well for McArthur RD well. M/S Chris Camarata/Chris Christofferson to move forward with CEQA filing. Roll Call vote: Chris Camarata: Aye, Chris Christofferson: Aye, Pat Oilar: Aye, Clay Jacobson: Aye, Chuck MacFarlane: Aye, Don Martin: Aye, Bill Buckman: Aye. Motion passed.

Consent Calendar:

Minutes September 26th, 2023 Regular Meeting

Minutes November 2nd, 2023 Special Meeting

Expenditures 09/26/23 – 11/07/23

M/S Don Martin/Chuck MacFarlane to approve consent calendar as presented. Motion passed.

Old Business:

NRCS Use of Office: Dale Kroschel, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist, discussed the prior agreement that the RCD had with NRCS – agreement was not to pay rent but a 20% overhead fee due to the grant agreement it was under. Dale gave a brief history of the NRCS role in the valley an the role of the local partnership office, which is not an “official” office but a ghost office. Dale also notified the board that NRCS is currently looking into the process to approve office location, which could take up to two years. If approved the office space would have to go out to bid. Discussion followed. M/S Clay Jacobson/Pat Oilar for Sharmie to write a letter to NRCS to request fair and equitable compensation for office space as well as request date to expect a response. Motion passed.

Executive Director’s Report:

Office Remodel Update – Final plans have been approved and picked up, they will get started once contractor becomes available.

AB 338 – Was signed by the governor. Starting July 2026 all federally funded projects over $500k will be required to pay prevailing wage, private lands are exempt.

JPA Update – Meeting with other RCD’s – Modoc, Western Shasta, Shasta, Pit and Fall River RCD’s are moving forward. Expect to get an additional $300k in phase 3 funding for the project.

IMF Well Update – Meeting Saturday to get power to the well, plan to put small pump house in. Do not know anything about extension by DWR yet. Heritage Foundation will be paying the power bills.

Sharmie also reported that two SNC grants were awarded. Indirect budget was reviewed and discussed.

Range Manager’s Report:

McArthur Swamp Pheasant Hunt: Updated the board on latest with the pheasant hunt after discussions with several CDFW contacts regarding possibility of needing an upland game license. Julie had contacted multiple CDFW employees after getting conflicting information. After discussion plan to move forward with hunt.

Partner’s Project Updates: No Updates at this time.

DU Grant Updates: Electrician will be installing the drop pole and underground wiring next week.

McArthur RD Pivot: No Update.

Grazing Season Update: Due to feed conditions Julie will allow grazers to stay on through the end of November.

Gun Club Lease: Gun Club Lease is up for annual renewal, check with board for any changes to annual lease. No changes to be made.

Special meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by Chairman Buckman

Next Regular Meeting Date – Tuesday December 19, 2023 at 6:00 PM