

Fall River Resource Conservation District

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Regular Meeting Minutes Fall River RCD, March 19th, 2024
M.C.T.O. at 7:03 pm

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

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

Public Comment: None

Guests in attendance: Imanol Perez
Via phone: None

New Business

Community Garden Project Proposal: Imanol presented his project proposal to the board. No concerns from the board, good to move forward. Plan to start around May.

Payroll Checks: Discussion on payroll checks being paid through direct deposit, would like for a board member to review and sign payroll checks. Sharmie will print payroll checks and take to a board member for signature.

M/S Don Martin/Clay Jacobson to print checks and get signature instead of direct deposit. Motion passed.

OPR Round 3 Funding: Applying for Round 3 funding, total of \$175,000. Round 3 funding will be to get JPA up and running. Discussion around JPA.

Wildfire Resilience Grant: Put in for Wildfire Resilience Grant of approximately \$1.9 million, do not know if funded yet.

McArthur Swamp Budget: Reviewed and discussed 5-year average McArthur Swamp Budget.

Intermountain Fair Land Owner and Lease Agreements: Ready to start construction on the pipeline, received two bids for water delivery system (pipeline). Bids were over budget due to having to pay prevailing wage.

Discussion on RCD buying the pipeline. Reviewed Landowner agreement, Lease agreement still being worked on. M/S Chris Camarata/Chuck MacFarlane to approve Landowner Agreement. Motion Passed.

Artesian Well/Trees: Discussion on potentially using the existing artesian well to water trees. Julie directed to contact Byron Conner and have him look into what it would take to get the well operational.

Wood Campus Facility: Discussion around the location of the Wood Campus Facility should it be placed on the Swamp Property. Previously identified potential locations are out due to pivot placement and proximity to Fairgrounds/Town. New potential location identified along McArthur Rd west of Pump House.

Consent Calendar:

Minutes February 20th, 2024 Regular Meeting

Expenditures 12/11/2023 – 02/20/2024

Expenditures 02/20/2024 – 03/19/2024

M/S Don Martin/Pat Oilar to approve consent calendar as presented. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Office Open House: Plan for some time in May in the afternoon.

Equipment Storage Area/Fencing: Discussion on bids for different types of fencing around the office. Board prefers privacy fencing over rail fencing. Look into finding legal boundary lines. M/S Don Martin/Pat Oilar to purchase auger/forks for skid steer, not to exceed \$7,000. Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report:

NRCS Letter Response: Sharmie read aloud the NRCS letter response to the board. Discussion followed.

Range Manager Grant Close Out: Closed out December 31st, 2023

Forest Service Project Updates: Discussion on issue surrounding Backbone project, five years into project and still unable to implement. Cal fire funds have to be spent prior to 03/2025 – may have to pull the plug on Forest Service projects and move to private landowners.

Audit: Sharmie reported Monica Derner is working on audits for the 19/20/21/22 fiscal years. Have draft for 19/20. It is taking a long time due to the amount of projects the RCD has going.

Sharmie also reported on:

McArthur Swamp wells require electrical engineering. Shasta County now requires that anything that is a 3-phase pump has to be electrically engineered.

She spoke with David Lach with ANEW, we should start seeing some checks for projects that have been completed. Sharmie also reported that the Forest Service stated they cannot politically support carbon credits on Federal Lands. M/S Don Martin/Chris Camarata RCD will still receive carbon credits on Forest Service land until provided with written legislation stating otherwise. Motion passed.

SNC Grants were both funded. Soldier Mountain Project \$1.686 million covering 2,336 acres; North Vegetation NEPA \$3.5 million covering 6.4 million acres.

Reviewed and discussed the Grant Status and Indirect Expense Reports

Range Manager's Report:

McArthur Swamp Corrals: A grazer had inquired about revamping the new corrals on McArthur Swamp so that cattle could easily be worked through the corrals and squeeze chute rather than being taken off of the property. Discussion around the original intended purpose of the corrals as decided by the board.

DU Well Update: Power connection cannot move forward until county permit has been issued.

McArthur Rd Well Update: Power connection cannot be completed until county permit is issued. Working with NRCS on wetland determination.

Partners Project Update: Project is moving forward, have received a bid for contract work. Waiting for on-site meeting with Matt Hamman and Sheli Wingo with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in order to amend grant agreement.

Regular meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m. by Chairman Buckman

Next Regular Meeting Date – Tuesday April 16th, 2024 at 7:00 PM