Fall River Resource Conservation District

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McArthur, CA 96056

Meeting Minutes Fall River RCD, September 26th, 2023

M.C.T.O. at 6:38 pm

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

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

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

Public Comment: None

Guests in attendance: None

 Via phone: None

New Business

SNC Resolution: Looking to apply for two grants: Soldier Mountain Project – Forest Restoration, WUI, and Lassen/Modoc Assessment – Lidar. M/S Chris Christofferson/Don Martin to support all projects as presented by Sharmie. Roll Call: Bill Buckman – Aye, Don Martin – Aye, Chris Christofferson – Aye, Pat Oilar – Aye.

SNC Direct Award: SNC would like to give the RCD $421K as part of AB2551 funding. Sharmie and Evan Watson will come up with 3 projects that the tribe can put their crew on. The remainder of the funding would go into the forest-wide NEPA. The RCD would not be held accountable for the projects. M/S Chris Christofferson/Pat Oilar accept direct award. Motion passed.

OPR Phase III Funding: $890K in first two phases, next phase will be to get the JPA developed and up and running. Expecting $300K but possibly more. Will contract with Ecostrat to make sure there is a fully vested insurance program to back the JPA. JPA will not be formed until all RCD’s have accepted the structure.

NRCS Use of Office: Discussion of NRCS benefit to the Valley. Further discussion on what the RCD use to get from NRCS – monthly rent, reports at meetings. Sharmie will write a letter to Dale outlining the Board’s concerns, she will also inquire as to what other NRCS’ are doing in terms of office space. The RCD would like to know more about ongoing NRCS projects if the NRCS continues to use RCD building as their office.

McArthur Swamp Youth Pheasant Hunt: Julie presented her interest in the RCD hosting a pheasant hunt on McArthur Swamp. She had spoken with several local hunters who had expressed their interest in some kind of upland game hunt. Julie discussed that it would provide more hunting opportunities on the property and could be done as a partial fundraiser to the Intermountain Shooting Sports Team, she would work with Clay Jacobson for planning the hunt. M/S Don Martin/Chris Christofferson to move forward with a pheasant/chukar hunt. Once the cost has been covered, 50% of the profit to be donated to the Intermountain Shooting Sports Team. Motion passed.

Consent Calendar

Minutes July 18th, 2023

Expenditures 07/19/2023 – 09/26/2023

M/S Don Martin/Pat Oilar to approve consent calendar as presented and to allocate $25K for the purchase of a new UTV. Motion Passed.

Old Business

New Equipment Discussion: Julie has not found any potential grant funding for the purchase of new equipment. M/S Don Martin/Pat Oilar to purchase a post hole auger, hydraulic post pounder, backhoe attachment/trencher. Motion passed.

2023/2024 Budget: Budget was reviewed and discussed.

Executive Director’s Report

Cal Fire Phase I Close Out: Sharmie reported that she is closing out the Phase I Cal Fire grant this fall, we will be submitting another grant application.

Community Engagement: Reported on the community engagement Intermountain Fair Booth that she and Julie worked on.

BLM Grant: Notified the Board of the $8 million BLM grant that has now been fully awarded.

Big Eddy Project: Hand treatments have been completed, mastication will begin in early October.

Dana WUI Project: Discussion on project, may begin this fall depending on permitting.

Cal FRAME: Gave an update on the CalFRAME meeting that was held in Redding in August, Bill Buckman also attended the meeting on behalf of the RCD.

Grant Status Report: Handed out the Grant Status Report and discussed with the Board.

Office Remodel Update: Updated the Board on the progress, or lack thereof, with the office building and recent development with the building inspector. She will be picking up the revised plans from the engineer soon.

Green Waste Grant PG&E: Notified the Board of a $25,000 green waste grant that Evan Watson wrote for the site in Burney to continue.

Range Manager Report

Partners Projects Updates: Julie reported that she had contacted Matt Hamman, CA State Coordinator, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, to see what the status of the Partners projects were. They still had not backfilled Cassie Roeder’s position, permits for the projects had not been submitted. Matt Hamman would work on getting the permits submitted so the projects can move forward. Julie and Matt also discussed moving the funds to support the Lake Project and reapplying for Swamp Projects funds at a later date due to concerns of staying with the budget.

DU Grant Updates: Pump is in, PGE is getting ready to install the poles for the power lines.

McArthur RD well/pivot: Received the latest cost estimate and map for the pivot, will review specs with Bill Buckman and Pat Oilar.

Point Blue Potential Grant: Julie reported that there is an upcoming grant solicitation with Point Blue that her and Amelia Raquel, Regional Biologist with DU, will be working on. If awarded this grant would fund the pipeline for the DU Well. DU will write and manage the grant, Julie will assist on the project.

Equipment Updates: Julie reported that there has been a couple instances of minor damage to the dump trailer when it has been loaned out, everyone will now need to fill out a sign out sheet when using the equipment.

Grazing Update: Julie reported the grazing season is going along fairly well. There has been a lot of pneumonia this year as well as water line issues. Discussed planting trees within multiple fields.

McArthur Swamp Hunting Program/SHARE Hunts: Discussion around the Archery and Rifle deer SHARE hunts that occur on the Swamp. Julie felt they were not successful, most hunters cancel, and they also interfere with opening weekends of other seasons (waterfowl), she recommended that the RCD keep the waterfowl SHARE hunts but no longer offer the deer SHARE hunts starting next year. Board agreed to stop offering the deer SHARE hunts until able to establish better habitat.

Regular meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. by Chairman Buckman

Next Regular Meeting Date – Tuesday October 17th, 2023 at 7:00 PM