

Fall River Resource Conservation District

Meeting Minutes April 15, 2020 @ 7:00 pm via phone conference

Establish Quorum: , Bill Buckman [X], Clay Jacobson [X], Chuck Macfarlane [X]
Don Martin [X], Pat Oilar [X], Dan Klatt []

Staff: Sharmie Stevenson [X], Todd Sloat [], Garrett Costello [], Julie Allen [X],
Sara Small []

Call To Order: 7:01 pm

Public Comment: None

Guests in attendance: Mindy Graves, NRCS

New Business

Stewardship Council Gun Club Grant – There was discussion on the expanded grant application and Sharmie told the board that the request would be for more than \$300,000 and she was still waiting on figures for the trap facility and road. M/S/C Pat/Clay to increase the match to \$10,000 and to add a well and solar pump to the application. Pat also suggested that the board name the area in honor of Mike Millington, he suggested calling it the Mike Millington Shooting Sports Complex, all unanimously agreed.

Generator & Propane Tank – There was discussion and Julie told the board that the price of \$22,500 was for a 30KW 3 phase 90 amp generator and included permits and installation by Excel Electric. After discussion on the need for a generator M/S/C Don/Pat to table the topic and have Julie write up a contingency plan for cattle in the event of a significant power outage.

Rickert water right and grazing – Sharmie told the board that on the phone conference this week with the Stewardship Council and PG&E that the property would not be back in escrow until at least July and would not close until August so grazing is off the table for this year since the RCD does not own the property. This item is tabled until the RCD takes ownership.

Purchase Equipment (Bobcat) – The board discussed purchasing either a skid steer or tractor for use on the McArthur Swamp and other properties. Pat and Julie got information from the John Deere dealership and tractors range from \$22,000 – \$37,000 depending upon size and model. Julie looked at used skid steer machines and they range in price from \$25,000 - \$40,000 for pieces that have under 2,000 hours of use. There was discussion on what was most needed and what applications the RCD would use it for. There was also discussion on renting a piece of equipment or hiring work done. Clay mentioned that the fairgrounds purchased a tractor and that maybe the RCD could partner or rent it. Clay will talk to Steve Gagnon about this option, Julie will continue to look for used tractors and/or skid steer machines. The topic is tabled for now.

M/S/C Clay/Chuck to approve filing a CEQA exemption notice for the Tamarack Fuel Break project.

Officer Elections – M/S/C Don/Clay to nominate Bill Buckman as Chairman, there were no other nominations. M/S/C Bill/Clay to nominate Don Martin as Vice Chairman, there were no other nominations.

Electric Fencing – Julie told the board that she needs to purchase about a mile of electric fencing and all related materials to fence off the newly planted area so it has time to produce and cows stay off of it. M/S/C Clay/Chuck to purchase the fencing with a cap of \$1,000. Don suggested that Julie give bids to local businesses as well as searching other vendors.

Old Business

Consent Calendar – Minutes of March 25, 2020 regular meeting and expenditures from 3/26 – 4/15/20. M/S/C Don/Clay to approve the consent calendar

Executive Directors report:

Gun Club – Escrow – The process has not yet started due to CPUC/PG&E changes

FRM PU Ag Unit – Close of escrow is anticipated to be in late July or early August due to easement issue for access to property. Phone calls resumes on 4/14 and will be held every 2 weeks to check progress.

Island Ranch – Sharmie told the board that CDFW did not fund our grant application and so we are unable to purchase the property. She spoke with Peter Colby of Western Rivers and he suggested purchasing the 745 acres of the property on the lower end of the property which is wetlands. The board was not in favor of this idea and did not feel that the property should be split up. Sharmie also told the board that Kristy Hoffman of SNC had contacted her in regard to a conversation she had had with Peter. There was discussion on possible option including asking the landowners to lower the price of the property. Don will talk with Russ Reiner to see if he can help with this discussion.

McArthur Swamp Management Plan – Sharmie told the board that she reviewed two documents of questions and provided names and contacts for Roxanne, they are preparing for the May meeting that might have to be moved if the COVID-19 issues is still not resolved.

Hunting Program – Sharmie told the board that she has left messages and sent email to Victoria at CDFW but there has been no response. She believes that she is not working at this time.

Grant Status Report – Sharmie reviewed the report with the board.

Range Managers Report:

PG&E maintenance agreement – Julie pointed out areas that she and Sharmie were not comfortable with in the agreement. There was discussion on what should be done, the board felt strongly that since they do not want the fence installed and are not agreeable to the maintenance agreement that PG&E sent back that Sharmie should write a letter to PG&E and state the RCD's position on the issue.

Water trough/pipeline – Julie told the board that Robert had starting digging and was ordering pipe this week, he plans to have pipe in the ground before cows are turned out.

Septic repair – This project will be completed once the pipeline is finished.

Burning on McArthur Swamp – Julie is meeting with the Cal Fire representative this week but she would like to make all plans and hold off until the fall for the burn and planting. The board agreed.

Noxious weeds – Julie is working on bid documents for the E2 field which is approx. 400 acres. It will need 2 treatments, one for thistle and one for pepperweed. She will submit bids to Helena and Basin. She intends to do a lot of spot spraying this season and will most likely need to purchase Milestone.

She told the board that she plans to put cows on the Swamp on April 27th at the earliest and mentioned that the feed this year is not very good and that it is already very dry.

There was discussion on finding a new board member. Sharmie told the board that she had posted the vacancy at the post offices in Burney, Fall River, and McArthur as well as on the office window. She will place the vacancy on the next agenda for discussion.

Don mentioned that the structure for the swallows is partially completed and the remained should be completed this week. He also said that Pat donated the poles and the lift. Bill mentioned that the sign is up and Julie said the poles are painted and it looks really good.

Adjourn : 9:14 pm

At any time during the regular session, the Board may adjourn to a closed session to consider litigation, personnel matters, or to discuss with legal counsel matters within the attorney/client privilege and it may be held in a closed session. Authority: Government Code Section 1126(a)(d)(g)

Next Regular Meeting Date – Wednesday –May 20, 2020 at 7:00PM