

Fall River Resource Conservation District

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Meeting Minutes Fall River RCD, January 18, 2022
M.C.T.O. at 5:10 pm

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

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

Public Comment: None

Guests in attendance: Katie Stovall, Robin Wall,
Via phone: Deb Bumpass, Kevin Zeman

New Business

Forest Service Discussion – Sharmie provided a brief introduction about the Burney Hat Creek Collaborative and how projects are decided in our area and how there is growing concern that projects are beginning to stall out due to timelines getting bumped, lack of appraisals, road packages, etc. and how this may affect the ability to meet grant timelines for completion. There was a lengthy discussion between RCD and FS members (i.e. Deb Bumpus, Robin Wall) regarding difficulties that have been presented and the concerns with the Crossroads project specifically and the change to the prescription after the signing of the Decision Memo with regard to oak removal and the change in the Pine DBH from 30” to 26”. The FS informed the group that the Pit River Tribe brought forward concerns at a tribal consultation meeting roughly one year after the signed Decision that prompted the change to the Crossroad project prescription. Deb felt the Forest should find some middle ground regarding the cutting of oaks. Numerous meetings were held internally with Forest staff and the Region to determine if a Memo could be added to the original Decision Memo while not requiring the project to be rescoped. Todd and Sharmie both expressed concerns regarding this process due to the fact that the Decision Memo had been signed and the project had been properly scoped allowing the Tribe sufficient time to have objected prior. Deb stated that consultation is always open with the Tribe and they can comment on projects that have already had signed decision. Deb and Robin also cited short staffing, lack of necessary personnel, and fires as the reasons why more forward progress has not been made in many project areas. There was further discussion regarding improving communications between project partners (FS/PRT/RCD) and that the RCD would like to have their concerns considered equally to PRT’s. Board members also mentioned the irony of having a fuel reduction project go backwards when the we all should be on high alert to treat heavy fuels asap. The discussion ended with Crossroads timeline and the concern of the project being able to meet them.

Job Description for WUI Coordinator – A job description was handed out to the board members for discussion. Board members will take home job description and give Sharmie any feedback and/or comments within one week.

Conflict Waiver IMF/RCD Agreement – Randall Harr has volunteered to prepare an agreement between IMF/RCD for the IMF well, free of charge. M/S/C Don/Chris to approve a conflict waiver for Randall to be able

to represent the RCD and write the agreement which will be presented to the IMF/RCD boards for review and final approval.

Cal Fire Resolution – Sharmie explained the resolution would give her permission to sign as designee for grant funds. The grant is for fuels reduction work on private lands off of 299 and 89, Big Eddy Estates and other private lands. M/S/C Pat/Chuck to approve Resolution 2022-01 as presented Roll call: Yes – Don, Chris, Dan, Chuck No: 0 Absent: Clay.

Gun Club Lease 2022 – There was discussion about the Gun Club lease being up for annual renewal as well as whether the lease amount should be adjusted. Sharmie presented the 2021 income and expenses. There was further discussion about road maintenance and whether RCD or the Club would be responsible for the cost. There was some discussion as to whether the annual fee should be reduced as the Club provides an opportunity to the community that is not available elsewhere in the Fall River Valley or nearby areas. M/S/C Chris/Pat to keep the lease at the current rate of \$4,000/yr. Sharmie will prepare the new lease and invoice and provide to Julie to send to the Gun Club's treasurer.

Board Meeting Minutes – There was discussion as to how the board wanted to handle sending draft minutes to requesting parties. The board agreed minutes would not be posted or sent to anyone in draft form. Requesting parties will be directed to the RCD website where final approved minutes are posted.

Grant Opportunities – Julie presented two grant opportunities to the board. The first being Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant and the second a RCD Financial Assistance Grant. Julie explained that the RCD has been awarded both of these grants in the past and wanted to know if the board had interest in pursuing either grant in the future. M/S/C Pat/Chuck to pursue both grants opportunities. Julie will write up an informational paragraph and questionnaire to add to RCD website regarding interest in Solid Waste Cleanup.

Old Business

Strategic Planning and Project Prioritization – There were no comments or concerns from the board. M/S/C Chris/Dan to approve as presented.

Shooting Sports Complex – Oak Removal – Tabled until next meeting.

Office Remodel Updates – Aaron Gardiner informed the board there would have to be some changes in the HVAC heating and cooling system due to County regulations. The heating and cooling system will have to change from electric to natural gas, approximately \$6,500 cost increase. There was also discussion on how to move forward with the braces and outer siding of the building, whether to be done in phases or all at once. Aaron gave an estimate of \$17,000 to redo the siding and paint on three walls. M/S/C Don/Clay to approve additional costs and to move forward with office remodel and residing the building at the same time. Aaron will provide a couple different options for the front of the building to Julie and Sharmie. Aaron gave a timeline of 8-10 weeks for total project once started. Start date still dependent on final approval from County.

McArthur Swamp – Future Plans (Farming Fields) – Tabled

Hire WUI Coordinator – Tabled until approval of job description.

Employee benefits – Tabled

Consent Calendar

Minutes November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting

Expenditures November 17, 2021 through January 17, 2022

M/S/C Don/Chuck to approve the consent calendar and the financial reports (balance sheet, profit and loss, and transactions) as presented.

Executive Director Report

Sharmie gave an update on the status of the IRWM well drilling. It will be put out to bid in phases. There was further discussion about the bid process and how to move forward. Sharmie then gave a grant status update and informed the board of what grant funds were remaining as well as indirect costs. There was discussion on how to use the indirect costs. Sharmie and Todd then discussed the Wood Utilization Campus, which is proposed to be located on Swamp property and would serve to feed the bioenergy facility as well as a learning campus for Forestry students and others. Todd will look into potential grants and put together a draft plan for DU. Sharmie updated the board on the status of the Stewardship Council, they will now be disbanding mid-2023 and the timeline to spend funds has been extended to 2025. There was discussion on remaining funds and their allocations.

Range Manager Report

Julie gave an update on the Earth Imaging Surveying which was unable to occur due to wet conditions. Julie will continue to check conditions and schedule the surveying as soon as possible. Gary Mann is expecting to close down business sometime in April, Julie mentioned that the surveying may not take place if conditions don't allow for it before then. There was some discussion about SGMA data and availability. Julie then gave an update on the status of the DU well. The project is still awaiting movement on PG&E's end however, DU will be putting the drilling out to bid soon. Julie then notified the board that there are plans for DU to put in for the Duck Stamp Grant for pipeline funding. Julie is also looking into funding possibilities through WCB, US Fish and Wildlife, and Cal Deer for both the Swamp and FRPU properties. Lastly, Julie gave an update on the PGE Water Use Agreement. A draft agreement was submitted to PGE with edits, there was some discussion regarding those edits. PGE held a meeting to discuss the Agreement and fees, Julie has sent an email to check on the result of the meeting and is awaiting response.

Adjourned at 8:38 p.m. by Chairman Buckman

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