

# Fall River Resource Conservation District

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Meeting Minutes Fall River RCD, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
M.C.T.O. at 6:10 pm

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

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

Public Comment: Hugh Williams, agent for Ron Mezzetta – owner of River Butte Ranch, notified the board that he has a hunting lease on the ground adjacent to the seasonal pond on RCD property. Hugh voiced his concerns that the RCD allowing waterfowl hunting on the property would lead to trespassing and poaching as it has been an issue in the past. Hugh voiced that Mezzetta would like to work cooperatively with the RCD to keep out poachers and enhance wetlands through potential exclusion fencing and/or lease/purchase of the seasonal wetland area. Discussion followed. Julie notified the board she has had multiple conversations with Ron Mezzetta regarding the hunting and trespassing on the property and the programs that the RCD has implemented. Julie believed these conversations eased some of Mezzetta's concerns. Julie will talk to Mezzetta and get a clearer understanding of his proposal and bring the results to next meeting. Chris voiced that he was not in favor of giving exclusive use to the neighboring property owner.

Sky Snyder read a letter he had prepared to the board giving some background on who he is and why the Fall River Lake is important to him. Sky voiced concerns regarding the Lake property and current public access. He also discussed the Floyd Buckskin Memorial Trail and how he would like to see it continue to where it circumnavigates the Lake. Sky provided the board with a map showing the area of completed trail system and the proposed area for continued trail system. Julie notified the board that the proposed trail would be on PG&E property not RCD property. Sky stated that in past conversation with PG&E, PG&E wanted the RCD to be on board with the project. Discussion followed. The board expressed that they had interest but asked that Sky bring the board a proposal on how the trail would be managed by PG&E and potential impacts.

Guests in attendance: David Lach, Hugh Williams, Sky Snyder  
Via phone: None

## New Business

ANEW Presentation: David Lach, Director Environmental Products, gave a presentation on ANEW providing background of the company what they do and how potential partnerships would work as a potential source of funding for Fuels Reduction Projects. There was a lengthy discussion on the process, timelines, funding credits and general questions. The board will discuss further and vote at next months meeting on entering into an agreement with ANEW.

Healthy Soils Grant Opportunities: Todd notified the board that there is a lot of grant money surrounding healthy soils projects and that he has the time interest in looking into some of the grants. Todd seeking direction from the board on whether to pursue grants. Consensus from directors to pursue healthy soils grants.

Soldier Mountain WUI NOE: Sharmie discussed the Notice of Exemption for CEQA and asked for a roll call vote. M/S Pat/Chris to submit CEQA Notice Of Exemption.

Bill - Aye

Chuck – Aye

Pat – Aye

Chris – Aye

Don – Absent

Clay - Absent

Motion Carried.

Sick Leave Policy: Tabled to next meeting.

New Savings Account: Sharmie explained that the Cal Fire grants funds needed to be held in separate savings accounts, requiring two new accounts. Need to Provide Plumas Bank with a letter notifying them of the need of two additional accounts. M/S Pat/Chris to write Plumas Bank a letter to open the two new accounts. Motion carried.

#### Old Business

New Board Member: Chris Camarata is said to still be interested in becoming a board member but has not filled out the application. Julie will get in contact with him.

Office Remodel Updates: A board member voiced concerns that the contractor has not been returning calls and has not finished a project separate from the RCD remodel. Sharmie will contact the contractor regarding the concerns. Remodel is scheduled to begin November 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### Consent Calendar

Minutes August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Regular Meeting

Expenditures 08/16/2022 – 10/11/2022

M/S Pat/Chuck to approve minutes and consent calendar as presented. Motion carried.

#### Executive Director Report

McConnell Grant – Vestra: Kick off meeting will be October 24<sup>th</sup> at the fairgrounds.

The RCD will receive \$2,500 to help pay for putting on the meeting.

Sharmie notified the board that the RCD received some pushback on it's Facebook page from a handful community members regarding leasing out the blinds at the Snake Pond.

Sharmie notified the board that a skid steer was purchased for \$65,000, a bucket for \$1,500 and a trailer for approximately \$7,000. The funding to purchase the equipment came from the Fire Prevention Grant. The Skid steer will be used for fire prevention work but and also be utilized on any of the RCD properties.

Bren Adams will be doing a senior project with 30 students from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. The RCD provided \$250 to purchase supplies necessary for the senior project. Students will carry out a series of watershed projects/experiments and give presentations on the results.

Sharmie wrote a letter to WCB regarding the stance they are trying to take on not allowing herbicides to be used in grant projects.

OPR asked Sharmie to administer a grant, the RCD would receive indirect monies. She will be attending a zoom meeting on Monday 10/17 with the OPR Director. No concerns from the Board.

Sharmie notified the Board the Shasta Land Trust had deemed the hunting blinds that were to be placed on the Fall River Lake Property a “structure” and therefore would not approve them to be placed on the property. In order to place them on the property Shasta Land Trust will require an amendment to be made to the easement that will cost the RCD \$5,000. The easement will then have to be re-recorded with the County. The board gave Julie direction to move forward with placing the blinds on the property anyway. M/S Pat/Chris to place an ag storage blind on the property to store fencing equipment. Motion carried.

### Range Manager Report

DU Well and McArthur Rd Well updates – Julie reported that both wells had been completed and have good water. She will work with Copps Irrigation to get plan/specs on a pivot for the McArthur RD well.

WCB Grant review will be pushed back to February instead of November due to changes in how WCB will cover indirect cost within grant. Julie met with Amelia Raquel with DU James Croft with WCB for a site visit of the project area on McArthur Swamp. Julie reported the site visit went well.

Partners Grant Update – Julie reported the full \$100,000 was funded and will be split 50/50 between the Lake and Swamp Properties. Julie will be meeting with Cassie Roeder later this month to begin the surveying and permitting process.

Julie reported that a Point Blue grant proposal was funded through the Climate Smart Commodities Grant. The RCD may be able to request funds for providing technical assistance on projects that fall within the grant proposal but the amount, project, and process was not yet worked out. She should have more information after her monthly Ag Task Force meeting in November.

Julie also reported on the grazing season, she is expecting cattle to stay on the Swamp into November and approximately \$70,000 in grazing income.

### Comments from the Board:

Bill Buckman voiced that he thought the RCD should start looking into a secure storage area for the new skid steer and trailer as well as additional equipment. There was discussion about securing the Pump House area as well as other potential locations. Julie will get measurements of the Pump House and Storage container and bring to the next meeting.

Adjourned at 8:59 p.m. by Chairman Buckman

Next Regular Meeting Date – Tuesday – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 PM