



Tehachapi Resource Conservation District

Conserving and Enhancing Our Natural Resources and Environment

(661) 825-5400

TehachapiRCD@gmail.com

Minutes 7 April 2021 TRCD Board meeting

1. Meeting began at 12:15pm at Moessner Farms
2. In attendance: President Jeannine Giuffre, Director Ed Duggan, Director Julia Barraclough, employee Kit Foster, Allen Curry NRCS ASTC-FO, Arnelis Crespo NRCS DC Lancaster, Jaime Quarfeld NRCS Soil Conservation; absent: Director Casdorff
3. Board minutes: Ed Duggan made a motion to approve the minutes, Julia Barraclough seconded; all ayes of board members present.
4. Public comment: No public in attendance.
6. Finance report: Ed asked to discuss finances before lunch adjournment. Julia presented financial reports from November 2020, December 2020, January 2021, and February 2021. Julia brought up that the accountant is including grant expenses in the operating expenses, which are actually kept separate in the bank registers. This makes it appear as if we are operating at a loss on the financial statements. For the next fiscal year, Julia will talk with the accountant to have the different accounts reported separately. Allen suggested we contact Inland Empire RCD for a template on how to keep track of grant money separately. Kit will contact them to get a copy of their template. Ed made a motion to accept the reports as is with the goal of having more accurate reports in the future, Julia seconded; all ayes of board members present.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:30 pm and resumed at 1:15pm

Finance discussions continued:

Julia brought up NACD membership dues, whether we should increase our annual contribution. They requested \$775, Ed suggested we give \$387.50 due to our lack of funding from not holding a plant sale last year. Ed Duggan made a motion to pay \$387.50 and write a letter explaining why, Julia Barraclough seconded; all ayes of board members present.

Julia brought up the need for communication about bills that come in the mail as neither treasurer is at the office regularly. A folder was put in the drawer with a request to text Julia if an expense report or other bill is due when adding items to the folder.

5. NRCS report: Arnelis introduced herself. There was discussion about her working with Kit to do outreach with EQIP in the area. Jaime brought up our empty board seat that needed to be filled. Ed brought up recruiting Associate Directors to train to eventually be board members if they are a good fit for the board. Jaime said there are applications for CSP and EQIP coming in. Jaime and Kit are working on the Envirothon scheduled virtually for the last two weekends in May. Jeannine brought up the scale infestation that caused massive die offs of pine trees.

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Allen gave an official report on behalf of Curtis: he said our partnership is valued and is pleased with the employee that we have from the NACD grant. He is impressed with Jaime and Arnelis and the asset they are to our programs. He encouraged us to be open to other grant opportunities as well, especially from NACD for CSP and soil testing.

7. Old Business

A. Audit: Ed and Julia reported that we are making progress on gathering materials for the 2-year audit. Julia has committed to finish gathering the materials by the end of the week. Jeannine brought up whether we are going to continue doing a 2-year audit, Ed says to wait and see how this one goes. A discussion ensued about how to prepare for future audits.

B. Plant sale: Jeannine talked about April not working out and is considering May instead. The only weekend we think would work is May 15th. Discussion ensued about possibly moving it to the fall instead or in addition to having a spring sale. Kit would be able to help with the preparation this year and possibly another volunteer.

Ed made a motion that we tentatively set the plant sale date for May 15th and to give Jeannine the authority to decide if it is not possible. Julia Barraclough seconded; all ayes of board members present.

8. New business:

A. Discussion on Julia taking over the full duties of treasurer from Ed gradually over the rest of his term.

B. Discussion on Jeannine taking over Cheryl's position as the chair of the High Desert Board.

C. 2021 TA Grant update: we were awarded another year.

D. TRCD by-laws postponed to next meeting.

9. Board Member Comments:

Ed thanked the new NRCS for attending and looks forward to working with them.

Julia reported that she attended the Fresno Sierra Club chapter that month that gave a presentation on the delta tunnel project.

Jeannine brought up the email from Caleb, the chair of the Weed Management Meeting, and offered for them to meet outside at our building the next time they meet. She is also serving on the corps team for CWPP (California Wildfire Protection Plan) and is the resource conservation person on the team that Kern County got a grant to help redo the CWPP for the area with.

10. Meeting ended at 2:30pm

11. Next Meeting: Tentatively May 5

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