



Lake County Resource Conservation District
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Charlotte Griswold
President

MINUTES
November 8, 2016
3865 Main St. Kelseyville CA 95451
minutes taken by Secretary Victoria Brandon

Secretary Victoria Brandon called the meeting to order at 10AM

Directors present: Paul Aigner, Victoria Brandon, Jim Bridges, Judy Cox, Harry Lyons; others present: Tracy Klein, Greg Dills, Korinn Woodard, Kate O'Donnell, Linda Juntunen, Greg Giusti.
Directors absent: Charlotte Griswold, Bill Lincoln

1. INTRODUCTIONS: none needed

2. PUBLIC INPUT: none

3. SAFETY MEETING

“Holiday Safety “ conducted by Brandon

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF October 11, 2016 MEETING

Motion: Aigner moved and Lyons seconded to **approve the October 11 minutes**

Ayes: Aigner, Brandon, Bridges, Cox, Lyons

Noes: none

Absent: Griswold, Lincoln

Abstained: none

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

5.1 Monthly Report

Klein informed the Board that she is unable to insert a line item for Fire Recovery Projects in the County Treasury asset list but will supply an ongoing accounting. An additional \$1000 donation has been received from Walnut Creek Fireplace, and also a number of deposit checks for seedling conifers. She will obtain a Resellers License from the Board of Equalization.

Motion: Cox moved and Aigner seconded to **accept the financial report**

Ayes: Aigner, Brandon, Bridges, Cox, Lyons

Noes: none

Absent: Griswold, Lincoln

Abstained: none

6. APPROVE & PAY BILLS

Motion: Cox moved and Bridges seconded to **approve and pay outstanding bills**

Ayes: Aigner, Brandon, Bridges, Cox, Lyons

Noes: none

Absent: Griswold, Lincoln

Abstained: none

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The County has sent a single hard copy of our annual budget. No digital version is available. The Auditor's office needs a director signature on our Conflict of Interest Code filing. Brandon will take care of this on Thursday.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Recruiting of Associate Directors: nothing new

8.2 Cobb School Project: the invoice for printing the Cobb School posters has not yet arrived so we have nothing to pay at this time.

8.3 Meisenbach Scholarship: it would be great to be able to extend the internship program countywide, but the terms on which donations were solicited make it impossible to use the current funding outside the East Lake benefit zone. We need to initiate a new round of fundraising to expand the program.

9. REPORTS/UPDATES

9.1 Lake County Fire Safe Council Report - Linda Juntunen: has participated in monthly agency meetings and assisted with Firewise applications and renewals, and is working with local, state and federal fire agencies on the update of the Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. On November 15 the Fire Chiefs expect to go before the Board of Supervisors to discuss the weed abatement ordinance.

9.2 NRCS Report - Korinn Woodard: the next EQIP funding application deadline will be December 2; there are about another half dozen fire related projects pending. Lake County is the only northern California county included in beetle kill funding. This money is available to all landowners but since payment is based on acreage it's most suitable for owners of larger parcels.

9.4 Eightmile Valley Project - Greg Dills: no activity this report period. The BLM staff person involved with the project was on leave for the month of October.

The Goat's rue project was suspended by the October storms at the end of the month. Over 150 bags of plant material have been filled and are waiting for transport to the County landfill. Public Services granted a fee waiver for dump fees for the project. BLM will provide transport to the landfill.

The start, or ground zero, of the infestation was documented above Eightmile Valley, but the end of the infestation has not been located at this time. Plants have been found well below the valley and in Scotts Creek. We are waiting for dry weather to resume surveying,

9.5 Valley Fire Chipper Program - Greg Dills: October storms and equipment failure halted chipping for most of October. The repairs were made by the County's Lakeport Maintenance Yard and chipping resumed November 3rd. We should ask LARCA for an additional donation to allow the service to continue.

9.6 Indian Valley Project - Paul Aigner. Aigner announced that family obligations will force him to resign as of January 1 2017. There is no money in the Indian Valley budget to pay a project manager since he intended to do the work as a volunteer to provide the necessary 25 percent grant match. He is still willing to raise the native nursery stock in the in the McLaughlin greenhouse but will need help gathering the propagation materials. Perhaps Bill Lincoln could take over the environmental review? Perhaps the BLM would be willing to make an in-kind contribution. Consensus that we should try to make it work.

9.7 Reforestation Project

Woodard: a few more orders for 2017 conifer seedling delivery have been received though the deposits aren't in yet: this takes us up to just about 100,000 exactly. She has also worked with some of the customers to adjust their orders to match the stock we have available. We also have received orders for approximately 100,000 seedlings for 2018 delivery, and can place a precise order with El Dorado RCD by the December 1 deadline. Motion: Cox moved and Aigner seconded to order 100,00 mixed conifer seedlings from El Dorado RCD for 2018 delivery.

Ayes: Aigner, Brandon, Bridges, Cox, Lyons

Noes: none

Absent: Griswold, Lincoln

Abstained: none

Cold storage: the best solution is for Scully to chill a storage shed specifically for our use, at \$150/day for electricity (they are not charging space rent). Other agencies and individuals who have seedlings on order can share the expense. Woodard will get a statement to be agendaized for approval at the December meeting.

Trailside Park replanting project. Greg Giusti did a conifer seedling assessment a few days ago: the county had thought lots of conifer regeneration was taking place but actually it's skimpy and spotty. The oaks are coming back strongly but pines need to be replanted to retain the historic balance of trees in the areas. We may not need the 5000 seedlings that we had tentatively allotted to the project. This is a great opportunity for volunteer participation, and we don't need to do the whole project this year. The county does need to remove downed trees and other debris from areas to be planted. We should also plan to make some shovels and other tools available for the project.

Motion: Bridges moved and Lyons seconded to **approve a contract with Mendocino RCD at a rate of \$69/hour to provide professional forester services** to supervise seedling distribution and Trailside Park replanting.

Ayes: Aigner, Brandon, Bridges, Cox, Lyons

Noes: none

Absent: Griswold, Lincoln

Abstained: none

Brandon: Erica Lundquist has harvested several hundred acorns and checked viability: are there people out there who want them? Woodard, O'Donnell and Giusti will inquire.

9.8 President/Director Reports

Lyons:: attended a symposium on climate beneficial vineyard management. Both Napa and Sonoma RCDs are involved with carbon farm plan; central theme that storing carbon in soil is equivalent to improving soil health. This isn't new, but attempts to provide a precise accounting and model are.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Discuss CARCD capacity building program - Jim Bridges. The Department of Conservation doesn't seem very enthusiastic about the Joint Powers Agreement proposal but the group will continue to pursue the idea.

CA RCD has developed an accreditation program with three tiers: we can probably meet the requirements of the first tier quite easily but there's a lot of paperwork involved, with a January submission deadline. Up to \$10,000 in funding is available (per RCD) to help complete the requirements. We do need both an annual and a long-term plan: should schedule a special all-day meeting early in 2017 to develop them.

10.2 Approve contract with NRCS forester

Motion: Aigner moved and Lyons seconded to **hire Tom Bendurer** to assist NRCS with fire recovery-related forestry services.

Ayes: Aigner, Brandon, Bridges, Cox, Lyons

Noes: none

Absent: Griswold, Lincoln

Abstained: none

10.3 Discuss/approve use of remaining Environmental Fine Fees. Dills: some of the fines were used for the Goats Rue project but another \$3580 remaining must be used in the East Lake benefit zone. He suggests using the money to extend the Valley Fire chipping program for another week, while we seek another funding source. Otherwise the crew will have to be laid off next week. There are also other good uses for this money.

Motion: Lyons moved and Cox seconded to **allocate the remaining environmental fines to the chipping program**

Ayes: Aigner, Brandon, Bridges, Cox, Lyons

Noes: none

Absent: Griswold, Lincoln

Abstained: none

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION - no action will be taken by the board. The Lake County Fair Foundation has announced an inaugural Ag & Natural Resources Day on March 16. This could be a great outreach opportunity. Consensus to agendize at the December meeting when we expect Dan Desmond to be present.

12. ADJOURN

Motion: Aigner moved and Cox seconded to **adjourn the meeting** at 12:06PM

Ayes: Bridges, Brandon, Cox, Lincoln, Lyons

Noes: none

Absent: Aigner, Griswold

Abstained: none