



Lake County Resource Conservation District
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Harry Lyons
President

MINUTES
10AM June 9, 2020
via videoconference and telephone

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Harry Lyons called the meeting to order at 10:03AM.
Directors present: Victoria Brandon, William Lincoln, Harry Lyons, Shula Shoup, Merry Jo Velasquez
Directors absent: Jim Bridges
Others present: Linda Juntunen, Greg Dills, Laurie Hutchison, Terre Logsdon

1. INTRODUCTIONS: none needed

2. PUBLIC INPUT: Logsdon requested a letter of support for the Scotts Valley Pomo biochar project at Kits Corner. The Planning Commission approved the project but a group identifying itself as the “Red Hills Community Association” and apparently led by Beckstoffer Vineyards has filed an appeal with to the Board of Supervisors which hasn’t been scheduled yet. The main concern seems to be smoke, especially adverse affects on neighboring vineyards, but the project employs new technology that releases no emissions, and will also be conducted on a very small scale. Wood chips will be imported rather than being generated on-site as PGE has done. The location is just up the road from a substation where there are transmission lines to connect to grid. Since the Board has already expressed support for the project, and since approval for comment letters has been delegated to Lyons, no action item is needed. Lyons also offered to reach out to the appellants to attempt to alleviate their concerns.

3. SAFETY MEETING: “CPR and AED, the Chain of Survival” conducted by Lyons

4. APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION: Velasquez moved and Lincoln seconded to **approve the minutes of the May 12, 2020** meeting

Ayes: Brandon, Lincoln, Lyons, Shoup, Velasquez

Noes: none

Absent: Bridges

Abstained: none

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

5.1 Monthly Report. Juntunen pointed out that Wentz has to complete the budget reconciliation with county records before the 2018-19 audit can be completed, and therefore we may not be able to meet the county submission deadline.

MOTION: Brandon moved and Lincoln seconded to **accept the partial May** financial report

Ayes: Brandon, Lincoln, Lyons, Shoup, Velasquez

Noes: none

Absent: Bridges

Abstained: none

6. APPROVE & PAY BILLS

MOTION: Velasquez moved and Lincoln seconded to **approve and pay current bills**

Ayes: Brandon, Lincoln, Lyons, Shoup, Velasquez

Noes: none

Absent: Bridges

Abstained: none

7. CORRESPONDENCE none needing attention

8. ONGOING PROJECTS

- 8.1 Recruiting of Directors and Associate Directors. Randy Krag may be willing take the District 3 Director position. Lyons will follow up with him.
- 8.2 Meisenbach Scholarship. Lyons reported that scholarship recipient Rayne Reese called to thank us; she is about to start at Santa Rosa JC.
- 8.3 Invasive Weed Tour: canceled
- 8.4 Field Days in the Creek: canceled
- 8.5 Kids in the Creek: canceled
- 8.6 Trout in the Classroom: project was completed and fish released despite coronavirus pandemic.

9. REPORTS/UPDATES

- 9.1 Lake County Fire Safe Council Report - Laurie Hutchison. She has been continuing to work remotely, is talking to CalFire about their needs and trying to keep moving forward. The Cobb Area Council had planned a fire resilience event this coming weekend, and instead of canceling changed it to a drive-through format.
- 9.2 NRCS Report - Korinn Woodard is in the field but sent Lyons an update by email. Although NRCS is not fully open yet they are teleworking off and on, and someone is available by phone or email every day. Programs continue roll out as scheduled: 10 projects were selected for funding during the second funding period. The next funding period will be June 26, with a number of projects proposed.
- 9.3 Eightmile Valley Project - Greg Dills: for much of the reporting period there was no access to the project site because of the COVID-19 SIP order. BLM is now allowing entry.
- 9.4 Goats Rue Project - Greg Dills: with access to the project site, Larry Ray met with CCC on June 2 to review the Goats Rue population and discuss CCC involvement with the eradication. Dills has signed the contract. Larry will work with the crew hand pulling the plants during the week of June 22 .
- 9.5 CalTrans Revegetation Projects - Greg Dills: Temporary workers were hired and are currently managing weeds at Trailside Park; meanwhile, he is purchasing materials for the water system to irrigate the seedlings. A container for on site tool and equipment storage was delivered the week of June 1. With a water supplier on site, we will start filling tanks right away and do the bids and paperwork later. He is picking up three tanks from Lauenroth Trucking today. No activity on the Highway 52 project.
- 9.6 Healthy Soils outreach - Greg Dills: no activity
- 9.7 Native Plant Project. Velasquez: Karen Sullivan says she has approximately 135 plants left over from last year that belong to the RCD; since she is unwilling to care for them over the summer and it seems extremely unlikely that we will be able to hold a fall sale Velasquez told her to dispose of them any way she likes.
- 9.8 President/Director Reports
Lyons: wrote a support letter for the North Coast RCD fire resilience grant. We were invited to join the application but were unable to supply the necessary letter of commitment. He is working on transferral to new bookkeeper. He sent out the list of current grants that Juntunen prepared and will distribute an update that includes Hutchison's outreach grant.
Velasquez: the Land Trust has completed purchase of the Wright property on Manning Creek.

10. OLD BUSINESS

- 10.1 Contract for bookkeeping services. Lyons and Juntunen met with Tracy Klein and everything seems to be set for her to take over as our bookkeeper, but she has not yet sent a contract so we don't have anything to approve yet. We can agendize for our July meeting, or hold a special meeting if necessary.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- 11.1 Proposed amendments to the Purchasing section of the Financial Policies. Draft revisions were distributed and discussed. Juntunen pointed out that the current policy requires that lowest bids be accepted, which isn't the necessarily best course of action in every case. The policy also omits to define who would be involved in reviewing bids. Amendments tabled until the July meeting, when draft language addressing these points will be prepared for consideration.

11.2 Continuing membership in the Sacramento Valley RCD. Brandon: from a watershed perspective we are closely tied to the region, and membership has provided opportunities for collaborative work in the past. Shoup offered to represent us and to attend meetings as long as they are held remotely; Brandon will have her added to the email list.

MOTION: Shoup moved and Velasquez seconded to **renew membership in the Sacramento Valley RCD** at an annual cost of \$150.

Ayes: Brandon, Lincoln, Lyons, Shoup, Velasquez

Noes: none

Absent: Bridges

Abstained: none

11.3 Application for a DOC Financial Assistance Grant with assistance from the North Coast RCD Consortium. Consultants are available to assist in grant writing; grants are for a minimum of \$15,000 and maximum of \$25,000, and intended for organizational support such as fundraising, planning, and operational efficiency. A 25 percent match is required, and 40 percent of that has to be in cash. No one was able to think of a project that fit the criteria so no action taken.

12. GENERAL DISCUSSION. Lyons: Blue Ribbon Committee is still collecting member signatures on a support letter for the Middle Creek Project. In the meantime the County forwarded a new letter of intent to Army Corps, and the project may be included in the President's budget in 2021. Four property purchases are moving ahead, and a new contract with Paragon Partners on all the other purchases is in preparation.

13. ADJOURN

MOTION: Velasquez moved and Lincoln seconded to **adjourn the meeting** at 11:19AM

Ayes: Brandon, Lincoln, Lyons, Shoup, Velasquez

Noes: none

Absent: Bridges

Abstained: none