



**Lake County Resource Conservation District**  
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**Harry Lyons**  
President

MINUTES  
10AM May 11 2021

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Harry Lyons called the meeting to order at 10:03AM.

Directors present: Victoria Brandon, Jim Bridges, Randy Krag, William Lincoln, Harry Lyons, Shula Shoup, Merry Jo Velasquez

Directors absent: none

Others present: Greg Dills, Linda Juntunen, Laurie Hutchison, Korinn Woodard, Laurel Bard

1. INTRODUCTIONS: none needed

1.1 Consideration of extra Items not appearing on the posted agenda: Greg Dills announced that since the agenda was posted he learned that our mapping software isn't consistent with the requirements of the report on the Trailside Park project, and that a purchase of Google Earth would be needed.

MOTION: Velasquez moved and Lincoln seconded to **add this urgent item to the agenda under CalTrans Projects**

Ayes: Brandon, Krag, Lincoln, Lyons, Shoup, Velasquez

Noes: none

Absent: Bridges

Abstained: none

1.2 Approve addendum to contract with Ray Consulting for Eightmile Valley plants. It was necessary to incur this additional expense because drought made it impossible to plant last winter; additional funding from BLM will cover the costs.

MOTION: Brandon moved and Velasquez seconded to **approve the amended contract** and authorize the president to sign

Ayes: Brandon, Krag, Lincoln, Lyons, Shoup, Velasquez

Noes: none

Absent: Bridges

Abstained: none

2. PUBLIC INPUT. Linda Juntunen announced her intention of retiring no later than July 1, 2022; in the meantime she's working to assemble a documentary record of her duties and practices.

3. SAFETY MEETING: "Housekeeping: a clean place is a safe place" conducted by Lyons

4. APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION: Lincoln moved and Krag seconded to **approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting** as amended

Ayes: Brandon, Bridges, Krag, Lincoln, Lyons, Shoup, Velasquez

Noes: none

Absent: none

Abstained: none

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

5.1 Monthly Report

MOTION: Brandon moved and Velasquez seconded to **accept the financial report**

Ayes: Brandon, Bridges, Krag, Lincoln, Lyons, Shoup, Velasquez

Noes: none

Absent: none

Abstained: none

5.2. Budget Hearing. Lyons conducted a public hearing on the proposed recommended budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Auditor Zach Pehling has recommended that when separate grants from the same funder for the same project are included each should be given a separate budget line. Native plant project may not take place but should stay in the budget to keep options open. Several codings were corrected. MOTION: Krag moved and Velasquez seconded to **approve the recommended budget** as amended and authorize the president to sign.

Ayes: Brandon, Bridges, Krag, Lincoln, Lyons, Shoup, Velasquez

Noes: none

Absent: none

Abstained: none

#### 6. APPROVE & PAY BILLS

MOTION: Brandon moved and Shoup seconded to **approve and pay current bills**

Ayes: Brandon, Bridges, Krag, Lincoln, Lyons, Shoup, Velasquez

Noes: none

Absent: none

Abstained: none

#### 7. CORRESPONDENCE: none needing attention

#### 8. ONGOING PROJECTS

8.1 Recruiting of Directors and Associate Directors: no update

8.2 Meisenbach Scholarship. The April 1 deadline has passed with no applications received.

8.3 Invasive Weed Tour: cancelled for 2021

8.4 Field Days in the Creek: cancelled for 2021

8.5 Kids in the Creek: cancelled for 2021

8.6 Trout in the Classroom. Project successfully completed.

8.7 CWPP update. Lyons: editing is ongoing, pending instructions from the county about implementation responsibility. Community Assistance team meets next week to work on coordination of disaster response.

#### 9. REPORTS/UPDATES

9.1 Lake County Fire Safe Council Report - Laurie Hutchison emailed

- Multiple meetings on future FSC structure, responsibilities.
- Working with grant partners finishing the Ready, Set, Film youth video contest that started March 1, 2021. Promoting the contest, tracking engagements and getting promotional prizes organized.
- Distributing outreach materials for upcoming events in Lake Co. Gathering information on neighboring FSC's and their structure.
- Continued coordination with the RRA & RRA Standing Committee on projects including CWPP update project.
- Continuing to promote new county wide Fire Safe Lake website ([www.firesafelake.org](http://www.firesafelake.org))
- Public outreach via social media for updates and info on various local fires, Covid 19 and events in the area.
- Continuing work with local groups on different potential local events and opportunities adhering to Covid 19 restrictions.
- Coordinated outreach efforts with local agencies- including promoting local events via social media.
- Looking into grant opportunities for more local event/project funding.

9.2 NRCS Report - Korinn Woodard. Worked with CLERC to finalize joint (Lake, Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Yolo, Solano RCD) RCPP application and has just learned that \$4M for fuel reduction projects over 3 years has been approved. She has projects ready to go. In discussion with the county about additional water quality funding that could benefit Clear Lake.

ACTION ITEM: renew Unfunded Cooperative Agreement for Vehicle and Space Sharing between NRCS and the RCD. We no longer need this agreement and the item should be tabled.

### 9.3 Civic Spark Fellow report - Laurel Bard

#### Tasks completed in April:

- Finalized online map of CWPP priority areas, separated by existing priorities and newly suggested priorities
- Used 2010 census block data in conjunction w/Community Growth Boundaries, tribal lands to create more accurate population proxy for prioritization
- Continued field surveys of CWPP priority areas
- Reported to Middletown Area Town Hall about Broom Busters
- Assisted with surveys of private property where management is planned
- Reported more community priorities to RCD
- Assisted with managing meetings and setting meetings of the Lake County Fire Safe Council

#### Tasks to complete in May:

- Publish online map of CWPP priority areas
- Work on story map about work so far
- Initiate and lead surveys of private property where management is planned
- Give final report of tribal land priorities to RCD
- Go through CWPP to create functions of the Lake County Fire Safe Council
- Visit McLaughlin Preserve

9.4 Eightmile Valley Project - Greg Dills: final report, project summary and all deliverables have been submitted and the final invoice is being processed..

9.5 Goats Rue Project - Greg Dills. CDFA funding ended March 31; no herbicides can be used until BLM renews Pesticide Use Proposal. Unable to hire crews because of Covid, and current Ag Dept funding ends June 30: Larry Ray & Scott McLean will do some hand pulling. We may be able to get CDFA funding through the Ag Dept next year.

9.6 Trailside Park project - Greg Dills

- The PG&E connection was installed and the well is functional. The distribution water line to the holding tanks will be installed by RCD staff over the next two weeks
- It may not be necessary to purchase the Google Earth app after all so action item should be tabled.
- Healthy Soils outreach --Mendocino RCD submitted an application and expects to hear in July. Our involvement would be limited to finding a venue for an informational meeting and spreading the word to local landowners.

9.7 Lake County Land Trust Wright Project. Lincoln, Velasquez: volunteer plant survey is progressing, waiting for biology report.

9.8 President/Director Reports

- Krag
  - North Coast Soil Hub: 5-6 years Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino RCDs have been helping farmers prepare carbon farm plans for 5-6 years, and recently hired a Regional Coordinator (Emily Winfield, based in Sonoma. They want to expand and include more diverse farming uses beyond grapes. Lincoln's long experience in writing erosion control plans may be very helpful.
  - Ag economic conditions are terrible right now: grape contracts way down, walnut price collapse, cattle being liquidated, and fire damage as well. When walnuts started to leaf out 3 weeks ago heavy damage was apparent, worst on old orchards. About 25 percent of the trees in the Upper Lake area have no leaves at all. Due not only to drought but even more to very hard early frosts. Big Valley walnut grower Paul Lauenroth says yield in that area will be cut in half if not more. The Ag Commissioner is doing a survey. Rachel Elkins from UCCE is aware of situation, expert coming to evaluate May 20. FSA Tree & Vine Assistance program adjuster will be here to certify. The new NRCS Whole Orchard Recycling project might assist in dead tree removal with chipping and return of plant materials to the soil rather than burning, though it's not yet operative in Lake county. Younger orchards have been suffering the last couple of years, with nuts ripening late and then being frozen so processing was impossible. Early hard frosts also kill growing tips so yield way down, though young trees are generally doing better

than the old ones. There doesn't seem to be much correlation between irrigation and damage in either direction. Now that the federal government has declared a drought emergency low interest loans will be available.

- Shoup: Sacramento Valley RCD's membership bill pending: send bill to [info@lakercd.org](mailto:info@lakercd.org)
- Lincoln: our involvement in fire prevention and recovery programs is important and we should look for funding.
- Brandon: attended the Natural Resources Department's 30x30 conservation North Coast priority workshop on May 4; agency is collecting public input until May 14. She will send link to survey after the call.
- Lyons: four separate committees are trying to determine what the FireSafe Coordinator's duties should consist of. Blue Ribbon Committee: nothing new. Middle Creek Committee has prepared another letter of intent and connected with Reps Garamendi and Thompson.

10. OLD BUSINESS: none

11. NEW BUSINESS: none

12. GENERAL DISCUSSION: none

13. ADJOURN

MOTION: Lincoln moved and Velasquez seconded to **adjourn the meeting** at 12:03PM

Ayes: Brandon, Bridges, Krag, Lincoln, Lyons, Shoup, Velasquez

Noes: none

Absent: none

Abstained: none