



Lake County Resource Conservation District
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Harry Lyons
President

MINUTES
10AM September 14, 2021
via videoconference

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, Korinn Woodard, Laurel Bard, Will Evans

1. INTRODUCTIONS not needed

1.1 Consideration of extra Items not appearing on the posted agenda: none

2. PUBLIC INPUT: none

3. SAFETY MEETING: Lyons is connecting with SDRMA to find out what replacements are available for the training materials no longer provided. Another organization is offering online courses, but they don't really correspond to the monthly trainings we used to do, and that provided a discount on our workman's comp bills. Lincoln will pursue this.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION: Velasquez moved and Lincoln seconded to **approve the minutes of the August 10, 2021 meeting** as presented.

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

Noes: none

Absent: none

Abstained: Krag

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

5.1 Monthly Report. Discussion about changing our monthly meeting date to make the county reports coincide more closely with the QuickBooks reports and to avoid scheduling conflict with the Supervisors meetings. Agendize as an action item next month.

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

6. APPROVE & PAY BILLS

MOTION: Velasquez moved and Lincoln 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. Nothing new
- 8.2 Meisenbach Scholarship: Lyons will reach out to guidance counselors
- 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: program completed for the year
- 8.7 CWPP update. Lyons: Juntunen is meeting with the editor to put the finishing touches on the document; the county will update hyperlinks, and then send to the fire chiefs for review

9. REPORTS/UPDATES

9.1 Lake County Fire Safe Council Report - Laurie Hutchison

- Prepared Wildfire Preparedness information & items to hand out at the Lake Co. Fair, focusing on creating go-bags, having evacuation lists and knowing your Evacuation Zone (coordinated with Northshore Fire Fund Volunteers in the gazebo) and coordinated volunteers to staff the table at fair.
- Meeting with community partners re: upcoming events, projects -including Upper Lake Fall Festival, Heroes of Health & Safety Fair (both in October) and other possible events.
- Participating in TRES (prescribed burning) planning meetings for later this year (seasons permitting).
- Looking for opportunities for partnerships, funding resources, etc. for grants
- Continued coordination with the RRA, NCO, CLERC and other local partners on projects.
- Continuing to promote county wide Fire Safe Lake website (www.firesafelake.org)
- Public outreach via social media for updates and info on various local fires, Covid 19 and events in the area.

9.2 NRCS Report - Korinn Woodard. A new employee has been hired but start date still unknown. We have more funding for Tom Bendure than is currently being used: anything forestry-related would qualify. Might be able to assign him to some CLERC work, or to offer advice on forestry, fire recovery or resilience to the public. Will Evans: CLERC has been working with Tom. Their \$4.7 million Forest Health grant was approved a month ago; they are now doing environmental paperwork and looking for landowners with appropriate implementation projects. LCRC & CLERC signed an MOU a year ago to share Tom's time, which has been in a holding pattern but about to come together now.

9.3 Eightmile Valley Project - Greg Dills. Because of administrative impediments we won't be able to contract with BLM for reimbursement of \$2000 we owe Larry Ray Consulting for plant care until next month.

MOTION: Brandon moved and Shoup seconded to **amend contract with Larry Ray Consulting** to allow installment payment of amount owing.

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

Noes: none

Absent: none

Abstained: none

9.4 Goats Rue Project - Greg Dills. No activity; BLM is still waiting for herbicide permit

9.5 CalTrans Revegetation Projects - Greg Dills

- Middletown: Summertime weeding and watering is ongoing. An inventory of surviving trees is at 1,357 trees, this is due to various reasons, the biggest being the ground squirrel infestation at the park. The contract with Caltrans calls for 75% survival rate, we are at 67%, so additional trees will be planted this Fall/Winter.
- Upper Lake/Hwy 29: contract for planting, watering, and weeding at the intersection of Hwy 29 and West Lake Rd beginning spring of 2022 through 2024 has been approved.

9.6 Healthy Soils project - Greg Dills: no activity

9.7 Lake County Land Trust Wright Project. Lincoln: nothing new, waiting for biology study to be complete.

Velasquez: some good stands of native grasses have been found on the property.

9.8 President/Director Reports

Lyons: wrote letter of commitment to regional conservation partnership program through NRCS and the county Ag Dept. Forestry and fire prevention/recovery/resilience activities are one source of capacity funding. He has been attending North Bay Association.

Brandon: working to get expressions of support for Cong Garamendi's proposed legislation adding Walker Ridge to the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument; has written a Tuleyome Tale about the LCLT Wright Ranch project. We haven't yet made our annual presentation to the BOS; she will get it agendized.

Krag: has been in contact with Lucas Patzek from Napa RCD about the NACD capacity grant program for technical assistance: they need more information to determine if we qualify. Work with conservation partners is key. We should consider reaching out to the BOS, about obtaining matching funding for implementation of EQIP projects, under NRCS supervision. Soil conservation programs are another possibility. He will consult with Woodard.

Velasquez: Assm Cecilia Aguiar-Curry has been instrumental in persuading the state DWR to extend the deadline of our current Middle Creek property purchase funding from March 2022 to June 2023. The county has agreed to earmark \$800,000 from cannabis permit revenues for their share of the project design funding.

10. New Business

10.1 Discuss and approve procedure for hiring or contracting for a District Manager, including rate of pay. Would it be better to hire a DM or a Watershed Coordinator or Project Manager? Dills: was originally hired more than 20 years ago as a temporary watershed coordinator, funded by capacity grant so no cost to the district, then did basically the same work under many job descriptions. He recommends starting there. A DM would have more responsibility for managing District finances but is that what we really need? Juntunen: usually the Administrative Assistant works under the direction of the DM. We have to decide what we need and define the position. If capacity grant funding is available we could fill this position (whatever it turns out to be) without dipping into reserves. Will: maybe have a special meeting with him and others to discuss collaboration. There is lot of funding right now in the fire and forestry realm and CLERC has gotten some big grants. The 2010 Kelsey and Middle Creek watershed reports identify a number of projects that could be eligible for funding now. Brandon will distribute both reports to the Directors, and Velasquez will send a Doodle to schedule a special meeting to discuss this subject further.

10.2 Decide whether to act again as a Civic Spark Fellow beneficiary. CLERC is about to welcome new Civic Spark Fellow Kristina Linder; Laurel Bard is now a CLERC employee.

MOTION: Shoup moved and Brandon seconded that LCRCD agrees to **act as a Civic Spark beneficiary in the coming year**

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

Noes: none

Absent: none

Abstained: none

10.3 Authorize preparation of the 2020-21 audit. The county usually issues its final report from the past fiscal year in October. It would be good to start working with Zach Pehling on audit preliminaries as soon as that report is available and to finish the audit before Juntunen retires.

MOTION: Brandon moved and Velasquez seconded to **authorize preparation of the 2020-21 audit.**

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

Noes: none

Absent: none

Abstained: none

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION: none

12. ADJOURN

MOTION: Velasquez moved and Lincoln seconded to **adjourn the meeting at 12:02PM**

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

Noes: none

Absent: none

Abstained: none