



Lake County Resource Conservation District
889 Lakeport Blvd. – Lakeport, CA 95453
Phone (707) 263 4180
E-mail info@lakercd.org

Harry Lyons
President

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2024 BOARD

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – President Harry Lyons calls the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.
Alma de Paredes will take the Minutes.

Directors Present: Jim Bridges, Randy Krag, Kate Schmidt-Hopper, Harry Lyons, Shula Shoup,
Merry Jo Velasquez

Directors Absent: None

Others Present: Alma de Paredes, Laurie Hutchison, Erica Lundquist (NRCS), Megan McCleur (JAIDE),
Kristen Murphy (JAIDE), Lawrence Ray, Wren Ward

1. **INTRODUCTIONS** and Consideration of extra Items not appearing on the posted agenda. **NONE**
2. **PUBLIC INPUT** - Anyone may speak for 3 minutes on a subject not on the agenda; no action will be taken by the Board. **NONE**
3. **CONSENT CALENDAR: ACTION** - APPROVE MINUTES of December 12, 2023, Board Meeting MEETINGS; ACCEPT MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT; APPROVE AND PAY BILLS. Note: any item may be pulled from the consent calendar if requested by a director or member of the public.

Motion to Approve Minutes and Pay Bills: Merry Jo Fernandez **Seconded:** Randy Krag

Aye: Unanimous

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

Motion to Approve Financials: Kate Schmidt-Hopper **Seconded:** Merry Jo Fernandez

Aye: None

Nays: Unanimous

Absent: None

Abstained: None

4. **SAFETY MEETING** – Group Lockout – Randy Krag explains it as a remote/security feature. Shula Shoup will read after the Board Meeting.

5. DISCUSSION & ACTION

5.1 VOTE on opening a savings account – Will be used for benefits as the RCD grows and needs to be kept separate from all other funds.

Motion to Approve Opening a Savings Account: Merry Jo Fernandez **Seconded:** Randy Krag
Aye: Unanimous
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstained: None

5.2 VOTE on QuickBooks On-Line Subscription – Costs depend on the subscription features but would assist in the separation from outside accounting firm.

Motion to Approve Online QuickBooks On-line Subscription: Merry Jo Fernandez **Seconded:** Randy Krag
Aye: Unanimous
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstained: None

5.3 VOTE on signing a new task order with JAIDE – Tabled until next month's Board Meeting to reconsider pro-bono hours. Kristen Murphy to work on new Task Order. No Vote.

5.4 VOTE on Resolution for CalFire Grant(s) – Approve resolution to apply for the CalFire Lidar/GIS Tree Health grant. Will assist in accessing tree health and to determine treatment priority.

Motion to Approve Resolution to Apply for the Tree Health CalFire Grant: Merry Jo Fernandez **Seconded:** Randy Krag
Aye: Jim Bridges, Randy Krag, Kate Schmidt-Hopper, Harry Lyons, Merry Jo Velasquez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstained: Shula Shoup

5.5 DISCUSS Ag TA Job Description & Other Staffing Matters – Discussion regarding Agricultural Technical Assistant and Conservation Planner positions have been drafted and will be emailed to the Board. Another discussion regarding having Megan McCleur functioning as a principal of JAIDE or an employee of the RCD and which one would be more fiscally responsible.

5.6 DISCUSS posting of minutes – Discussion regarding the posting of Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas to the new website as well as training to do same.

6. ONGOING PROJECTS – Roll Call on Annual Projects and Board Hosts.

Recruiting – Kate Schmidt Hopper will reach out to TERA at Megan McCluer’s suggestion and will send the Board Member Responsibility document for their review. Additionally, Megan will bring attention to the at-large director position with her contacts at TERA.

Meisenbach Scholarship – Harry Lyons and Kate Schmidt-Hopper – Scholarship paperwork is in the hands of the schools and will await their decision.

Field Days in the Creek – Kate Schmidt-Hopper and Shula Shoup – Elementary school(s) have reached out and discussions are ongoing for dates (April time frame).

Kids in the Creek – Merry Jo Velasquez – Coordinating with teachers regarding dates. Randy Krag has been asked to assist and Shula Shoup will volunteer to assist on the project.

Trout in the Classroom – Tony Blyleven – Six school rooms are scheduled to receive trout eggs. Harry will be involved this year, and a story board will be generated to post on the new website.

Invasive Weeds Tour – Nothing to report.

7. REPORTS/UPDATES

7.1 Hiring Update – Kristen Murphy – Forester candidates vetted, and info sent to Erica Lundquist for review. The Executive Director position opportunity has received three applications so far. The search will be expanding for more candidates. Sonoma County will refer candidates to the RCD. Questions are being formulated for candidate review.

7.2 Lake County Fire Safe Council Report & PG&E Grant - Laurie Hutchison – Utilize AmeriCorp teams for outreach to potential homeowners for defensible space work. PG&E project is completed and working on success story board. Updating LCFSC website.

7.3 Forestry Report & CFSC Defensible Space Grant – Wren Ward/Kevin Soland – Stop work order issued on December 22, 2023, until some logistics are worked out by the grantor. The Forestry NACD TA to begin work after some final documents due on January 26, 2024, are submitted. Wren Ward is the lead.

7.4 Goats Rue Project - Greg Dills – No activity.

7.5 Caltrans Revegetation Projects - Greg Dills- Staff checking Middletown sites for weather damage and vandalism. No activity for the Hwy29 project.

7.6 Lake County Land Trust Wright Project – Larry Ray – Communicating with Army Corps of Engineers for permit status. Will begin mapping around the road that needs to be repaired. Need to determine whether the road is on wetlands. Water Board permit may not be needed but will need the final determination from the Army Corps of Engineers.

7.7 President/Director Reports

Harry Lyons – Ami Olson will be giving a presentation on native and regional plants on January 23, 2024, for those interested in attending.

Merry Jo Velasquez – Announced the Keathly Property closing. Succession addition of eighty more acres to the Land Trust. Partnered with the Pomo Tribe and Flow West will work on the planning, permitting and work.

Shula Shoup – Is considering assisting a local conservation group.

Jim Bridges – Nothing to report.

Randy Krag – Nothing to report.

8. **NEW BUSINESS** – None.

10. **GENERAL DISCUSSION** - no action will be taken by the board - None

11. **ADJOURN**

Motion to Adjourn: Kate Schmidt-Hopper **Seconded:** Merry Jo Velasquez

Aye: Unanimous

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Attachments: