



East Merced Resource Conservation District (RCD)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 18, 2022
In-person, Call in and Zoom meeting
East Merced RCD - admin@eastmercedrzd.org

**EAST MERCED
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

REGULAR RCD Board Meeting 3:00 PM Called to order at 3:02 PM

In Person: Shirish Shah, Jean Okuye, Matt Bahm, Ursula Stock, David Farnsworth (auditor), Thomas Ebersole (council)

Zoom Attendees: Bob Bliss, Lynn Sullivan, Reyn Akiona, Trina Walley, Raini Patteson, Emma Adest

Absent: none

Oral communications: None presented

Public Comments: Introduction of Tom Ebersole, Asst. County council, assigned to work with special districts and provide legal services, is here for this meeting and available by phone normally.

1. Consent Agenda (**ACTION**) 5 min

- a. April 20, 2022 minutes approval and signature Stock
 - i. Jean Okuye gave correction to minutes stating the \$50 reimb. for county recording fee was for (NOE) 2022 Environmental document filing fee, listed as regarding water trailer Purchase.

- b. Treasury Report for May 2022
 - i. Balance as of May 1st \$895.51.
 - ii. Amount borrowed from Line of Credit is \$4735.35.
 - iii. Deposit of \$11,836.98 from SWEEP grant, added April 29th, does not show on May 1st report.
 - iv. Line of credit will be paid off automatically from \$11,836.98 payment.

MSC Motion to approve Minutes (with correction) and Treasurer's Report MSC: (Bob/Jean) Passes Unanimously

2. Written and Oral Updates from Partners and Projects- 3 minute each, except guest speaker

- a. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Representative Bahm
 - i. Detail posted for replacement position. Interim position person will come in a week after Matt leaves.
 - ii. Meeting held before Sept. 30th to understand local stakeholder priorities.
 - iii. Funding deadline on 27th.
 - iv. RCPP will be done by NRCS. Working on how EMRCD will cover grant deliverables with new hire.

- b. Sustainable Groundwater Agencies (SGA) Representative Okuye
 - i. New wells processed first by GSAs - Merced Subbasin to review, applicant then files with County for permit, then complies with state to address issues with basin plan. Deadline of June or July.
 - ii. Supply/Demand - working with Lacey McBride from County.
 - iii. County has final review, issues permits. GSAs will have a say in well locations. Starting to post plans for public review on the State website. GSAs putting off overdraft issues until 2025.

- c. East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District (ESRCD) Walley
- i. Irrigation Evaluations will be starting in July.
 - ii. NACD Urban Ag Planning grant awarded, starting program for backyard gardens/habitat planning.
 - iii. 1st Garden Training scheduled for Garden Center on June 11, 2022.
 - iv. Load of compost donated to EMRCD Community Garden, waiting on transportation.
 - v. Merced, Madera, Stanislaus RCDs jointly applied for Grizzly Corps Fellow, 2022-23.

- d. Grizzly Corps Projects updates Patteson
- i. Newsletter has been sent out, updated every month.
 - ii. Hub planning - Raini putting together resource document of all Central Valley RCDs.
 - iii. Conversation about merging RCDs in Merced County. Raini has found some interest.
 - iv. Currently writing report for Merced Mobile Irrigation Lab, program and resource documents set up hopefully by June, in prep for program with ESRCD/Madera-Chowchilla.
 - v. Learned that Caddie with UC extension is doing SWEEP contracting/Healthy Soils and application help. Raini handing off projects to her.
 - vi. Two projects in July - Collective Agency event (CDFA, Farm Bureau, farmers), making video with a farmer who has had a successful SWEEP project.
 - vi. Not doing RCPP assignments anymore, 2 months left with Grizzly Corps and potential extension into Sept. for Irrigation Eval.

- e. Manager's Report Stock
- i. Applied for CARCD loan, haven't heard back.
 - ii. SWEEP invoice #21-0519-000-SG-1S for \$11,836.98 has been approved for payment. Processed as of April 18. Payment within 45 to 90 days.
 - v. Mira set up Division 9 RCD meeting, includes Valley RCD's from Merced down to Bakersfield.
 - iv. Weekly meetings with Raini, Shirish, and Jean.
 - v. Monthly meetings, RCPP, NRCS.
 - vi. Kayak event on Saturday, everyone is invited to paddle on lake Yosemite
 - vii. Policy Manual on hold, running past legal council then will be released. Needed for hiring.
 - viii. Cleaning out office downstairs to carpet and paint.

3. Financial and Project Review

- a. Transactions and Invoices for approval of payment (**ACTION**) Stock
- i. \$18 Google Suite, \$18 WF Elite card.
 - ii. \$500 to reimburse Jean for kayak instruction.
 - iii. \$1,630.87 for SWEEP contract for American Farmland Trust.
 - iv. \$2,155.50 second half of the 2019-20 audit fee.

MSC Motion to approve paying invoices MSC: (Bliss/Shah), Passes Unanimously

- b. EPA Invoice for submission for payment (**ACTION**) Vollmar/Stock
- i. Invoice EPA \$3,100, will end up with \$1000 extra.
 - ii. \$2,100 to Vollmar.

MSC Motion to approve EPA invoices and payment MSC: (Okuye/Bliss), Passes Unanimously

- c. WCB Invoice for submission for payment (**ACTION**) Vollmar/Stock
- i. No transactions this month

(No Action Needed)

- d. Bookkeeping and Audit Updates **(ACTION)** CPA Farnsworth
- i. Auditor Farnsworth gave PPT presentation with audited financial statements.
 - ii. Issuing an unmodified opinion for fy 2019-20, no issues/difficulties.
 - iii. Letter of Representation from CPA Farnsworth, signed by Shah /Stock.

MSC Motion to accept Audit and sign the Letter of representation MSC: (Bliss, Shah), Passes Unanimously

- e. Pending Grant Applications Walley/Stock
- i. East Stan, East Merced and Madera have been awarded WETA grant for a mobile irrigation lab. No contract yet, but expect funding to begin July 1st, which is already Irrigation evaluation season. EMRCD will earn \$52,441 per year for three years for a total of \$157,323. The board needs to approve acceptance of grant once contract is in hand, and to hit the ground running July 1st.
 - ii. Board approved spending \$250+50 to send Raini to Irrigation Training and Research class. This class has a second location, with added expense.
 - iii. Discussion of position offer w/o training class and field training, or Raini could attend the first part only.
 - iv. CARCD monarch habitat grant, asking about \$338,000 for 4 EMRCD projects, submitted.
 - v. FEMA nature-based planning grant - solely for planning, submitted.

f. Pending Contracts with Partners **(ACTION)**

Stock

- i. LAFCO sent Ursula a letter, regarding search for a FT Executive Officer and their budget has gone up.
- ii. EMRCD has to apply with LAFCO to combine RCDs and change boundaries, or do a project outside of RCD area, hefty fee involved to combine RCDs.
- iii. Letter from County Auditor regarding Special districts. He can change to a biennial or 5 year audit but must not have a budget over \$450,00, and must notify before the end of the fiscal year.
- iv. Discuss rescheduling audits next meeting, and add to agenda.
- v. MID paperwork completed, sent in for Water Trailer.

(No Action Needed)

4. Requirements of the Board

- a. AB361, Resolution required to meet via zoom (hybrid) **(ACTION)** Shah

MSC Motion to continue hybrid meetings MSC: (Okuye/Shah), Passes Unanimously

b. Tier 1 Requirements **(ACTION)**

Stock

- i. Discussion of filling treasurer position, rules on length of interim treasurer position, requirements of having position.
- ii. Board needs two new members, would prefer a person linked to the dairy industry and a business/finance/accountant person. Please suggest ways to advertise for new board members. Suggestion of Mike/Christine Serrano was given.
- iii. Annual work plan for review in prep of June acceptance (will also send out current 5-year plan)

(No Action Needed)

- c. Review and consideration of correspondence **(ACTION)** Okuye/Patteson

- i. EMRCD'S request to extend Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2016-0068-R4 for the Lower Merced River Stewardship Program was denied due to request being submitted past expiration of March 1, 2022.
- ii. Region 9 (central SJV RCD's) will have a meeting on May 20 or June 3, and all board members are invited.
- iii. Aaron Wentzel's formal resignation letter from the Board, Jean will print out and add it.

i. Garden looking good, awaiting delivery of compost.

(No Action Needed)

5. Review and consideration of projects (ACTION)

Patteson

a. Garden looking good, awaiting delivery of compost.

b. Jean is sharing a booth at the County Fair representing EMRCD with Grasslands. Come visit, June 8-12.

(No Action Needed)

Adjournment at 4:39 pm

~~SHIRISH SHAH~~ shpc!

NEXT MEETING: June 15, 2022 at 3:00pm (Hybrid)

Board Signature: Shirish Shah Date: 6/15/2022

Name: SHIRISH SHAH Title: PRESIDENT