



East Merced Resource Conservation District (RCD)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Call in and Zoom meeting.

East Merced RCD – admin@eastmercedrccd.org

REGULAR RCD Board Meeting (3:04 PM – Prompt) - Called to Order at 3:50 pm

Shirish Shah, Jean Okuye, Ursula Stock, Matt Bahm, Lynn Sullivan, Aaron Wentzel, Trina Walley

Oral communications: none

1. Consent Agenda (**ACTION**)

- a. September 21, 2021, minutes approval and signature Stock
- b. Treasury Report for August 2021 Stock
 - i. End of Fiscal year balance \$ 5,744.33
 - 1. Down from opening balance of \$63,839.08
 - 2. Due to: GC funding \$20,000, \$13,000 pay roll-manager and
 - 3. Vernal Pools contractor was paid, but payment from WCB came in after fiscal year. \$27,090 was deposited in September 2021.
 - ii. Balance as of Sept. 30 is \$14,333.
 - iii. CDFA (can bill \$31,000 in hours) and a portion will cover Ursula's time
 - iv. WCB (10% withholding) means we pay out more than we take in each month until the grant is complete.

MSC Motion to approve Minutes and Treasurers report (Aaron/Jean), passes unanimously

2. Written and Oral Updates from Partners and Projects

- i. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Bahm
 - 1. Matt reported: expecting new batching deadline after first of year
 - 2. Two new position GS 9 or 11 soil conservationists
 - 3. Request for letter of support for Hills Ferry Bridge easement mitigation was sent on to Grasslands RCD who will write the letter as neighboring RCD
 - 4. Discussed possibility of joining with Gustine Romero (the non-functioning RCD)
- b. Groundwater Sustainable Agencies (GSA) Okuye
 - i. Jean showed water district map to encourage people to attend meetings
 - ii. Stakeholders group (Nov 8th, 1pm) and SGMA on Oct 26 at 10am. [You can sign up for Stakeholders group \(virtual and online\) here:](#)
 - iii. You can sign up for SGMA meetings here: <http://mercedsgma.orgmeetings#listserv>
 - iv. Merced subbasin committee, Local meetings are at 2222 M Street in Supervisors' Chambers
- c. East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District (ESRCD) Walley
 - i. Rachel and Chris are conducting a Nutrient and Irrigation Management Workshop tomorrow for EMRCD. We have, 20 registered, and that satisfies AFT outreach for grant with RCPP. East Stanislaus is paying for lunch, estimate \$120.
 - ii. Rachel working PT for East Stanislaus and part of that includes RCPP. Her training is to

be paid by other grants as RCPP does not cover training. She will get NRCS conservation Desktop training through NRCS.

- iii. Collaborative RCD irrigation projects with Modesto, Merced, Madera, East Stan
 - iv. Nov 16th Burroughs family farm pollinator planting- volunteers welcome. No registration needed.
 - v. Ursula and Trina met for 3 hours for training on new Quick books.
 - d. Grizzly Core Projects Updates: Patteson
 - i. Nov 13th Merced college pollinator planting workshop, volunteers welcome, sign up at eastmercedrkd.org under volunteer
 - e. Manager Report Stock
 - i. Corigin will present next month, 10 min presentation, 5 min q&a
3. Financial and Project Review
- a. Transactions and Invoices for approval of payment **(ACTION)** Wentzel/Stock
 - i. WF \$18 Elite Card
 - ii. Ursula \$106.27 cell and travel
 - iii. CARCD \$ 410.00 dues
- MSC to approve transactions and invoices MSC: Jean/Aaron, passes unanimously**
- b. EPA-Invoice submission for payment **(ACTION)** Walley
 - i. Deposit: EPA Wire transfer, Vernal Pools \$7,600.00
 - Pay Vollmar invoice: \$7,100 (\$500.00 for EMRCD admin.)
- MSC to approve transactions and invoices MSC Bob/ Shirish, passes unanimously**
- c. WCB- Invoice submission for payment **(ACTION)**
 - i. Deposit of \$5,004 (\$5,560 less 10% held till grant complete- totaling \$22,330)
 - ii. Pay Vollmar NLC Invoice #5 for \$5,310.
 - iii. \$5,560-250 (EMRCD admin cost)
- MSC to approve transactions and invoices MSC: Jean / Aaron, passes unanimously**
- d. Bookkeeping and Audit, **(ACTION)** Stock
 - i. Beginning communication with potential new auditor, David Farnsworth**No action required**
 - e. Pending Grant Applications
 - i. Western SARE, November due date
 - 1. \$50-75,000 for training and research,
 - 2. Application will take 20-40 hours
 - ii. Regular Specialty Block Grant, due Oct 8
 - 1. Failed to get it in on time
- MSC no action needed, already approved.**
- f. Pending Contracts with Partners
 - i. Subcontract, AFT, Paul Lum \$11,465 to be paid out of \$59,000 grant (technical asst for SWEEP) remainder to EMRCD for expenses

MSC to approve contract subcontract with AFT (Aaron/Jean), passes by unanimous vote

4. Requirements of the Board

- g. AB361, Resolve to have hybrid meeting for both public and voting board members
- h. Minutes MUST REVEAL WHO IS ATTENDING from HOME- Brown Act
- i. NRCS requires vaccine status required to enter, add to agenda, 12 people max in BR

MSC to approve hybrid November meeting (Aaron/Jean motion) Passed by unanimous vote

- j. Ursula will send out link to free ethics training. Walley/Stock

MSC No Action required.

5. Review and consideration of correspondence (**ACTION**)

Walley/Stock

- i. CARCD Annual meeting in Santa Barbara, cancelled, moved to virtual in 2022
 - 1. Discussion about who will attend and funding postponed to next month
 - 2. CARCD delegate to vote at annual meeting, Shirish volunteered
 - 3. All board members invited to attend, U will send link to Lynn
- ii. U signed up for 8-hour CFP workshop, funding for \$350 was obtained to attend
- b. Review and consideration of correspondence
 - i. Jean reported on RAC meeting, regional Advisory committee meeting round two money from prop 1, EMRCD is in for \$60,000 for stewardship that we applied for several years ago. Jean and Ursula are pursuing partnership to apply for round two funds

6. Adjournment at 5:12 pm

NEXT MEETING November 17, 3:00 pm

Minutes approved:

Board Signature:

Jean Okuye

Date:

11/17/21

Name:

Jean Okuye

Title:

V-President

present:

Jean Okuye
Shirish Shaw
Aaron Wentzel
Lynn Sullivan
Matt Bahm

NRCS STAFF MEMBER

absent:

Joe Melo
Bob Bliss