



East Merced Resource Conservation District (RCD)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 15, 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, Ursula Stock, Raini Patteson, Alana Burhans

Zoom Attendees: Bob Bliss, Lynn Sullivan, Reyn Akiona, Trina Walley, Emma Adest, Karen Burr

Absent: none

Oral communications:

Introduction of Karen Burr, director of CARCD

Working on a bill, AB-1902, that revises and updates Division 9 (governs RCDs) which is now in State Senate. She would appreciate EMRCD adding onto a support letter if board is willing.

Public Comments: Announcement: Today is Raini's birthday

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

- a. May 18, 2022 minutes approval and signature Stock
 - i. Minutes shown for approval.
- b. Treasury Report for May 2022
 - i. Balance as of June 1st, \$12,431.98.
 - ii. Amount borrowed from Line of Credit is \$4,735.35.
 - iii. Deposit of \$2,223 (WCB) deposited on Monday June 14, does not show on June 1st report.

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

2. Written and Oral Updates from Partners and Projects- 3 minute each, except guest speaker
 - a. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Representative Burhans
 - i. Intro Alana Burhans from Merced's NRCS office.
 - ii. Current acting DC is Tony Tillman (based in Area 3) is available by phone or email.
 - iii. Contracts - 2.5 million in contract for this year, 40 contracts funded so far. Waiting on outcome of batch 4 soon.
 - iii. Ag. producer applied for RCPP, asked who should be contacted for Irrigation Evaluations. Answer: please contact Chris Yohannan of East Stanislaus RCD).
 - iv. Permanent DC position posted for Merced office on June 6th.
 - b. Sustainable Groundwater Agencies (SGA) Representative Okuye
 - i. June 1st general plan, stakeholder's meeting. All voted to accept 2015 threshold level, except Gallo
 - ii. Ground Water reduction results in reduced river level water as it is all one interconnected system, per webinar attended by Jean
 - iii. Madera County GSA webinar available, has minutes on website.
 - iv. Presentation at LAFCO regional group by Eric Spencer of CSDA. Gave offer for membership, answer requested.

- c. East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District (ESRCD) Walley
 - i. Irrigation evaluations will be starting in July
 - ii. Held first event at SOILS Education Center at new RCD location in Ceres, happy to host meetings there.
 - iii. Donated two truckloads of compost to Atwater Community Garden Project, ¼ acre of sweet potato plants incoming.
- d. Grizzly Corps Projects updates Patteson
 - i. Completed mobile irrigation program/strategic plan - 10 years, has budget and can be used for any grant including new hires.
 - ii. Update on merging RCDs in Merced County: Done 7 RCD interviews so far. Grasslands RCD is not able to merge. San Luis is interested in consolidating RCD, Los Banos RCD is as well. Gustine Romero RCD is inactive but can be annexed in a later process. Bill Nicholson will ask LAFCO to do RCD/MSR review.
 - iii. Report for Merced Mobile Irrigation Lab nearly complete, in prep for program with ESRCD/Madera-Chowchilla.
- e. Manager's Report Stock
 - i. Applied for CARCD loan In December, awarded \$40,000 based on Trina's documentation.
 - ii. Interviewing Grizzly Corps members, decisions pending.
 - iii. Attended Division 9 RCD meeting, including Valley RCDs from Merced down to Bakersfield. Gratitude to Jean for purchasing lunches.
 - iv. EMRCD Office space is SO much better due to cleaning by Shirish and Jean, huge shout out to them.
 - v. Plan to move into office after new carpet and paint, and month of August off.
 - vi. Weekly meetings with Raini, Shirish, and Jean, and some grantors such as Cristina with Cooperative Extension who is walking us through SALC, pre-application.
 - vii. Monthly meetings, RCPP, NRCS, CARCD, SJV hub.
 - viii. Interviewed people for WETA staff in three counties.
 - ix. Policy Manual sent to legal council. Needed for hiring.

3. Financial and Project Review

- a. Transactions and Invoices for approval of payment (**ACTION**) Stock
 - i. \$69.99 Wells Fargo for Microsoft yearly invoice.
 - ii. \$1991.00 GRSM (liability insurance)
 - iii. \$5,764.02 for SWEEP contract for American Farmland Trust, invoice #2. Ursula's invoice is in neighborhood of \$10,000
 - iv. \$5,000.00 Grizzly Corps

MSC Motion to approve paying invoices MSC: (Jean/Shirish), Passes Unanimously

- b. EPA Invoice for submission for payment (**ACTION**) Stock
 - i. Invoice EPA \$10,300, with wire transfer (Vollmar only invoicing for EPA currently).
 - ii. Pay out \$9,300 to Vollmar. EMRCD earned \$1000 in this transaction.

MSC Motion to approve EPA invoices and payment MSC: (Bob/Shirish), Passes Unanimously

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

(No Action Needed)

- d. Bookkeeping and Audit Updates (**ACTION**) Stock
 - i. Auditor Farnsworth sent letter of engagement to be signed for 2021 audit, rate of \$4,500. Will make EMRCD current with audits.
 - iii. Annual budget: Presented with a total revenue \$358,484. Can take advantage of Vollmar's wait for WCB invoicing with funding amount left. \$2,696 missing to balance budget for the year. Undetermined \$20,000 surplus to rebuild reserve.

- iv. County Attorney suggested change to agenda to reflect Tier 1 language. Not reflected in this agenda, will be in next one.
- v. Suggestion to invite Vollmar to next board meeting, or create attendance schedule for board presentations.

MSC Motion to accept and sign the Letter of Engagement and Annual Budget MSC: (Shirish/Reyn), Passes Unanimously

- e. Pending Grant Applications Walley/Stock
 - i. CARCD monarch habitat grant, asking about \$338,000 for 4 EMRCD projects, submitted.
 - ii. FEMA nature-based planning grant - solely for planning, submitted.
 - iii. MID \$60,000 outreach grant, formalized and sent in. A year or so away.

- f. Pending Contracts with Partners **(ACTION)** 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. EMRCD will earn \$49,732.83 per year for three years for a total of \$149,198.50. The board needs to approve acceptance of grant once contract is in hand, and to hit the ground running July 1st.
 - iii. Subcontracts with East Stanislaus
Madera/Chowchilla
 - ii. CARCD offering loan for \$40,000, interest free.

MSC Motion to accept CARCD loan MSC: (Bob/Jean) Passes Unanimously

MSC Motion to accept WETA agreement and sub-contracts MSC: (Jean/Shirish) Passes Unanimously

4. Requirements of the Board

- a. AB361, Resolution required to meet via zoom (hybrid) **(ACTION)** Shah
- b. Annual work plan for 2022-23, June acceptance **(ACTION)**

MSC Motion to continue hybrid meetings and to accept 2022-23 work plan MSC: (Shirish/Bob), 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.
 - iii. Policy Manual approval

MSC Motion to accept policy manual MSC: (Shirish/Reyn), Passes Unanimously

- c. Review and consideration of correspondence **(ACTION)** Okuye/Patteson
 - i. Position available for Region 9 chair - volunteer. 2 regional meetings per year (spring and fall), needs to be RCD member.
 - ii. Dickey Petroleum notice.
 - iii. GSRM invite to 16th annual training conference Thur. Oct 20-Fri Oct 21 in Corning, Ca. No fee, but lodging costs. Info at (530) 934-5633 for questions or additional details.

(No Action Needed)

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

Stock

- b. Trina will submit bill for 16 hours to wrap up past agreement.
- c. Jean shared a booth at the County Fair representing EMRCD with Grasslands. June 8-12. Outreach at County fair with Grasslands and State Park organizations. Reached about 500 people.
- d. Hiring of Trevor - staff person at \$21.00/hr per grant budget, full-time, with health and retirement TBD in 60 days.

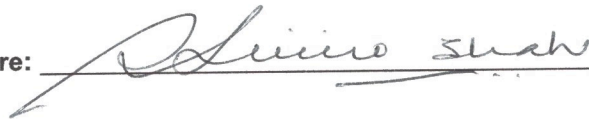
e. Ursula proposes not sending Raini to the Irrigation Evaluations, and get online course and book, with in-person sessions for Trevor to start.

MSC Motion to hire full-time staff person MSC (Bob/Shirish) Passes Unanimously

MSC Motion to send full-time staff hire to Irrigation Evaluations in-person class, and purchase online class and textbook for him if unable to attend MSC (Bob/Jean) Passes Unanimously

Adjournment at 5:30 pm

NEXT MEETING: August 17, 2022 at 3:00pm (Hybrid)

Board Signature:  Date: 7/21/2022.

Name: SHIRISH SHAH Title: PRESIDENT.