



East Merced Resource Conservation District (RCD)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

In person, Call in and Zoom meeting.

East Merced RCD – admin@eastmercedrhd.org

REGULAR RCD Board Meeting (3:10 PM) - Called to Order at 3:04 pm

In Person: Shirish Shah, Jean Okuye, Matt Bahm, Raini Patteson, Ursula Stock

Zoom Attendees: Trina Walley, Reyn Akiona, Lynn Sullivan, Bob Bliss

Absent: Aaron Wentzel

Oral communications: None presented

Add item to agenda:

1. Consent Agenda (**ACTION**)

- a. February 2022, minutes approval Stock
- b. Treasury Report for March 2022 Walley
 - i. Balance as of March 1st is \$2,115.72
 - ii. Amount borrowed from Line of Credit is \$1,570.31

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

2. Written and Oral Updates from Partners and Projects

- i. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Bahm
 - 1. 1st batch of EQIP done
 - 2. Meetings for RCPP, plenty of farmer interest
- ii. Groundwater Sustainable Agencies (GSA) Okuye
 - 1. Jean reported on MIUGA meeting 3 9th. Olson consultant secured for MID
 - 2. Jean invited us all to the coordinating committee in AM and steak holders meeting in PM on March 21st, to get voiced heard and be in the know
- b. East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District (ESRCD) Walley
 - i. Mostly work on grants and phone calls
 - 1. CDFA will award/deny WETA Mobile Irrigation Lab this month
 - Contract by May
 - 2. Staff retreat work day at New Office and Demo site at corner of Keys and Central on March 25th, planting a hedgerow and building garden boxes.
- c. Grizzly Core Projects Updates: Patteson
 - i. CFP is nearly done, needs info on compost/mulch/biochar to complete
 - ii. Hub work and directory of RCD's in the Valley is proving to be challenging, as contact information is elusive. She has found the irrigations district to be a source and have been told that RCDS are dissolved. However, it was pointed out that they may not officially be dissolved if they have bank accounts with the county. Some board members offered to help find contact names of RCD's for Raini's work on this.
- d. Manager Report - Stock

- i. RCPP new subaward contract was accepted by ES, meaning EMRCD accepted also
- ii. Attend weekly meetings, Staff, President, and grants education
- iii. Monthly meetings, RCPP, NRCS,
- iv. Submitted sweep invoice for period through December for over \$10,000
- v. Sent in requested documents for CARCD loan application.
- vi. Gathered grants for CARCD Loan application of @20,000
- vii. Regenerative Farm Field day at Burroughs farm- need a title wave of this kind of action
- viii. Kayak class set up for April 30, May 1st, join if you like.
- ix. Met with Merced College farm manager Tim Donovan and viewed Xerces hedgerow
- x. Set up GC Director, Eliza's visit to Sarah's farm, John Vollmer VP tour, Merced College
 - 1. Meal and gas expense were not covered by EMRCD- and is courtesy to do so.
- xi. Policy manual work continues
- xii. FEMA and CARCD grant work with Reyn, Trina, Amy and collaborative applicants
- xiii. Communication regarding IRWMP and MID grants, \$15,500 Traylor, 60,000 outreach
- xiv. Met with Lacey McBride, water resources coordinator for Merced Irrigation District

3. Financial and Project Review

- a. Transactions and Invoices for approval of payment **(ACTION)** Stock
 - i. \$18.00 WF Elite Card- \$18 Google Suite,
 - ii. East Stan past invoice. EStan agreed to wait for payment
- b. EPA-Invoice submission for payment **(ACTION)** Stock
 - i. None this month
- c. WCB- Invoice submission for payment **(ACTION)**
 - i. None this month, John had bicycle accident.

MSC to approve WF elite card payment, MSC Jean/Shirish, passes unanimously.

- d. Ursula requested help to get the last part of QB to set up, so she can use it to produce monthly reports and have a clear picture of the RCD's finances.

MSC Board report only

- e. Pending Grant Applications:
 - i. CARCD monarch habitat, asking about \$338,000 for 4 projects
 - ii. FEMA, nature based planning grant

MSC report only

- f. Pending contracts with partners (ACTION)
 - i. Seed Driller- discussed pros and cons of accepting this donation. It is a tool that can be used in our rental program but it will need lights and a hitch, i.e. financial input. Cindy Lashbrook has used it before, it is good for clover, but not so good for other crops as it is heavy. It is 10 feet wide.

MSC to approve accepting the seed driller as a donation with a letter of donation to the current owner at value of \$800.00, MSC Bob/Jean, passes unanimously

- 4. Requirements of the Board Walley/Stock
 - a. AB361, Resolution required to have hybrid meeting for both public, voting board members

MSC to approve hybrid April meeting. MSC (Jean/ Shirish motion) Passed by unanimous vote.

- b. Tier One

- i. Ethics training completed by Shirish, Jean, Lynn, outstanding Bob and Aaron.
- ii. The Board was notified about the annual requirement to fill out 700 forms (economic interest as part of political reform act) Bob has done his. Due March 1st.
 - i. Annual work plan for review in prep of June acceptance will be sent out next month
 - ii. Discussed Board member time sheets so Ursula can keep track
 - iii. Review and consideration of correspondence **(ACTION)**

MSC report only

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

Walley/Stock

- i. California Special District Association CSDA, Jean connected with a person who offer a \$1 membership. Trina mentioned that the CSDA represents all SD, including parks, cemeteries, mosquito abatement, etc. Their information is less specific to RCDs, where as CARCD is RCD specific and offers more value for her time.

5. Adjournment at 4:38 pm

NEXT MEETING April 20, 2022, 3:00 pm (Hybrid)

Minutes approved:

Board Signature: Shirish Shah Date: 4/26/2022

Name: SHIRISH SHAH. Title: PRESIDENT.