



## East Merced Resource Conservation District (RCD)

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Call in and Zoom meeting.

East Merced RCD – admin@eastmercedrccd.org

#### REGULAR RCD Board Meeting (3:04 PM – Prompt)

- Called to Order at 3:04 pm

Jean, Joe, Aaron, Shirish, Trina, Ursula, Cindy

##### 1. Consent Agenda (**ACTION**)

- a. June 19, 2021 minutes approval and signature Stock
- b. Treasury Report for June, 2021 Stock
  - i. Balance is low, \$5,700 due to wages GSRM and wage
  - ii. WCB payment expected soon for total of \$22,330
  - iii. Trina recommends keeping current signer on grants, ie. Jean keeps signing WCB/EPA Vollmar grants.

**MSC Jean, Aaron, passes unanimously**

##### 2. Written and Oral Updates from Partners and Projects

- a. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Representative
  - i. No rep today, NRCS is in midst of batch processing
- b. Groundwater Sustainable Agencies (GSA) Okuye
  - i. Jean is part of Stakeholders Group, an outreach program for citizens to participate in SGMA plan. Jeans pointed out that the wells are not currently measured so we have no baseline, therefore reduction by some percent is invalid. Jean attends to keep board informed.
- c. Three GSA's in EMRCD: Water usage and removal is unknown now.
  - i. Merced Subbasin: reduction of 10,000-15,000 acre feet by 2025, they then plan reduce by 6,000 per year.
  - ii. Turner Island: by 2025 will have meters on all wells and stay within 1.5 acre feet
  - iii. Merced Urban Irrigation District: Reduce to 1.5 acre feet per acre in 5 years
    - 1. They have conjunctive use, water that seeps into land from unlined canals
- d. East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District (ESRCD) Walley
  - i. Soil sampling, on farm trails, replication, need to recruit more for daughter trials
    - 1. Implement soil health practices
    - 2. Irrigation practices,
    - 3. Payments set up on 100 acres, site determined
  - ii. Monarch habitat kits, ESRCD team will start planning in August
  - iii. *AFT training can start for RCPP projects.*
  - iv. *new QuickBooks*
  - v. *Updated agreement.*
- e. Grizzly Core Projects Updates: Patteson
  - i. Westfall CFP, and information is finally coming in, Rachel believes the time to finish is after first rain (time pressure gone due to Coursegold completion). Trina has some funding to complete this with Jeff Borum's help

- ii. Ursula and Rachel met with Bob Weimer, farmer of sweet potato, peaches, almonds, walnuts, rye.
- iii. Aaron asked about funding for weed control, no funding for that
- iv. Merced College Habitat restoration completed and in packet for viewing.
- v. Graduation invite, Monday at 1:30 is Rachel's 20 min. presentation
- vi. Shane finally contacted us about community garden in Atwater, meeting on Friday

f. Manager Report:

- 1. Roundtable- on women in negotiation, successful techniques

3. Financial and Project Review

a. Transactions and Invoices for approval of payment **(ACTION)** Wentzel/Stock

- i. \$ 0 Wells Fargo
- ii. \$ ESRCDC time invoice \$4,317.50, past agmt, new agmt attached
  - 1. Still need to set up new QB, which will provide simplified monthly review of grants and expenses
- iii. Letter to county approving new rate DM rate of \$26.50, and approval for automatic of monthly stipend of \$?

**MSC** to approve transactions and invoices. MSC (Aaron/Joe). Passes unanimously

b. EPA-Invoice submission for payment **(ACTION)** Walley

- i. Submitting past EPA /Vollmar invoice that was approved in February.

**No action required.**

c. WCB- Invoice submission for payment **(ACTION)**

- i. All three payment requests from WCB for Vollmar's project sent in on 4/13.
- ii. WCB was not satisfied with invoice- John, and Ursula have adjusted. Ursula will resend latest revision, that is finally correct. Expecting payment from that: \$22,330.

**No action required.**

d. Bookkeeping and Audit, **(ACTION)** Walley

- i. No word on audit. Trina will check with Sandy, or we will go to CARCD to find new auditor
- ii. Excel not done, Covid blocked us from meeting in person

**No action**

e. Pending Grant Applications

- i. Pending contracts with partners
  - 1. \$10,398.34 AFT subaward to EMRCD, short term contract, rest of full 49,000 will be coming- covers 90 hours, 300 hrs for shared conservationists, C
  - 2. 300 hours for Rachel Patteson, and Chris Johannan, (both part time)
  - 3. District Management revised contract through Sept

**MSC** to approve transactions and invoices. MSC (Jean/Joe). Passes unanimously.

**No action required.**

4. Requirements of the Board

a. Tier one legal requirements Walley

- i. 700 forms are in, except Joe Melo
- ii. Annual strategic plan, went through this together (fix numbers) **(ACTION)**
- iii. Policy Manual: Section 6 not included, need more time for review

- iv. **(ACTION) MSC** to approve annual plan and invoices. MSC (Jean/Aaron). Passes unanimously.
- b. Board officer Election:
  - i. First meeting with Shirish Shaw, President, Jean Okuye, VP, Aaron Wentzel, Treasurer, Bob Bliss, Secretary

**No Action needed,**

- ii. Review and consideration of projects, meetings and webinars **(ACTION)**  
4H will had camp on restoration site, 28<sup>th</sup> of this month on Bettencourt property. The Story is on our website.
  - iii. Restoration site: Jean invites volunteers to water at 6:30 am tomorrow. No money in grant to water. Fish & Wildlife refused river water access.
  - iv. Bettencourt is selling @25 million, Jean would lie to see public ownership to avoid privatization of water rights that may come with purchase.
  - v. Kayak Instructor Training- Jean is scheduling with instructor in Aug 9-10.
  - vi. Managers review: None at this time Stock/Okuye
- c. Review and consideration of correspondence **(ACTION)** Walley/Stock  
**Invited Lynn Sullivan to be on board, no response, she is in Iceland. No action required.**

5. Adjournment at 4:47 pm

**NEXT MEETING August 18, 3:00 pm**

Minutes approved:

Board Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_