



**East Merced Resource Conservation District (RCD)**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

In person, Call in and Zoom meeting.

East Merced RCD – admin@eastmercedrzd.org

**REGULAR RCD Board Meeting (3:01 PM) - Called to Order at 3:04 pm**

**In Person:** Shirish Shah, Matt Bahm, Ursula Stock

**Zoom Attendees:** Jean Okuye, Trina Walley, Reyn Akiona, Lynn Sullivan, Bob Bliss, Rachel Patteson

**Absent:** Joe Melo, Aaron Wentzel

**Oral communications:** None presented

1. Consent Agenda (**ACTION**)

- a. January 2022, minutes approval with edits and signature Stock
- b. Treasury Report for December 2021 Walley
  - i. Balance as of Jan. 31 is \$0
  - ii. AFT invoice #1 for \$2351.45 (RCPP) due EMRCD from December, is unpaid
  - iii. Sweep invoice is due Feb 28<sup>th</sup>
  - iv. Deposit WCB \$6111.00, (Nov) (payment to Vollmar \$6,540 w/10%witheld)

**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. NRCS hired one new soil conservationist, Jacob Wright, starts Feb 28th
  - 2. RCPP meeting with Ursula and Raini this week
  - 3. Local Workgroup Meeting moved to fall, NRCS, EMRCD, & Farmers
- ii. Groundwater Sustainable Agencies (GSA) Okuye
  - 1. Jean reported on MIU GSA, (Merced Irrigation Urban GSA) coordinated water meeting, includes cities of Merced, Atwater, Livingston and canals. It is one of the three agencies (Merced Subbasin, and Turner Island) representing our water basin.
  - 2. Jean attended SGMA stakeholder meeting and updated us
- b. East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District (ESRCD) Walley
  - i. Submitted WETA Irrigation Lab grant in collaboration with East Stanislaus and Madera RCD's, as part of larger CARCD grant for CDFA funding. We expect to hear back in March or April. EMRCD is lead administrator for \$50,000.
  - ii. Submitted EMRCD individual app, to CARCD to be jointly submitted for WCB funding (yes, this has 10% withholding) for habitat restoration.
  - iii. Working on FEMA collaborative application through CARCD for hazard mitigation: drought water quality and floodplain management.
- c. Grizzly Core Projects Updates: Patteson

- i. CFP with Sarah Westfall is being handed off to Jeff Borum due to time constraints
    - ii. Fully in NRCS system (CART training and LincPass), ready to fill out two apps from Matt for NRCS due early April
    - iii. Work on connecting hub and directory of RCS of Valley to begin next week
    - iv. Calendar project, and 1-2 checklist for area farmers will begin next week too (when grants are due, listing permitting requirements, etc.)
  - d. Manager Report - Stock
    - 1. Attended CARCD Conference held from Jan 24-Feb 4. Thank you
    - 2. Due this week: Grizzly Corps midterm assessment
- 3. Financial and Project Review
  - a. Transactions and Invoices for approval of payment **(ACTION)** Stock
    - i. \$25.57 WF Elite Card- \$18 Google Suite, \$7.57 ream of paper
    - ii. \$4,317,00 East Stan. Invoice from last July
    - iii. \$92.43 Ursula Stock travel for LincPass pick up, U and Raini carpooled
  - b. EPA-Invoice submission for payment **(ACTION)** Stock
    - i. Deposit: EPA Wire transfer, Vernal Pools \$9,280.  
Pay Vollmar NLC invoice: \$8,780 (\$500.00 for EMRCD admin.)
  - c. WCB- Invoice submission for payment **(ACTION)**
    - i. Invoice WCB (2022-01) \$6,507.00 (requires 10% held till grant complete, ttl of \$22,330)
    - ii. Pay Vollmar (2022-01) \$6,980

**MSC to approve WF elite card, travel reimbursement, WCB and EPA transactions. MSC to hold payment on East Stanislaus invoice, by suggestion of Trina Walley, until funding for cash flow comes through. MSC Reyn/Jean, passes unanimously.**

- d. Bookkeeping and Audit updates: Quick books is entered, but need way include manager wages. Because all funding goes through county, do not know how to enter. U will ask auditor how to do this.
- e. Ursula reviewed planned use of Line of Credit (awarded) and interest free loan (not yet awarded)

**MSC Board report only**

- f. Pending Grant Applications
  - i. DWR Grant was granted, submitted by Jean at MID for \$15,500 for 100 gallon water trailer, with \$500 for project admin.
  - ii. Submitted outline of plans for MID for Round 2 DWR, application for \$60,00 to cover education and stewardship. Due date postponed to May (Bond, Proposition 1, rnd 2)
  - iii. Collaborative WETA Irrigation Lab grant with East Stan and Madera RCD, as part of larger CARCD grant for CDFA funding. \$500,000 requested over three years. Expect to hear back in March or April. EMRCD is lead administrator for \$50,000.
  - iv. Applied to CARCD block grant with other SJV RCD's for Monarch habitat.

**MSC report only**

- g. Pending Contracts with Partners
  - i. RCPP- came in \$30,000 less than expected; Trina wrote Tom Stein (AFT) on behalf of impacted RCD's to clarify expectations. RCD's are awaiting revised contract
  - ii. \$30,000 line of credit was approved on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> by County Board of Supervisors.
  - iii. Ursula has submitted application for interest free loan from CARCD for \$20,000.

**MSC motion to approve RCPP revised contract language based on East Stanislaus Board vote of approval to fit the timeline. (Shirish/Jean motion), unanimously approved.**

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 March meeting. MSC (Shirish/Jean motion) Passed by unanimous vote.**

- b. Board members- Ursula's goal to have welcome packet for Lynn & Reyn by next month
- i. Joe Melo has stepped down from the board, Jean has a signed letter. Joe, THANK YOU for your service to EMRCD!
  - ii. Ursula will have a welcome packet for Lynn and Reyn for March meeting.
- c. Tier One
- i. Ethics training completed by Shirish, Jean, Lynn, outstanding Bob and Aaron. Shirish offer to help Bob with site access.
  - ii. 700 forms (economic interest as part of political reform act) will be sent out. Board members must fill a new one each year. Jean can explain.

**MSC report only**

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

Walley/Stock

- i. Policy manual, read by Shirish, recommends adoption, U want to add more. Shaw
- ii. Atwater Community Garden, project w/o funding. Jean and Shirish met landowner and partners on site. They believe this is a good partnership for EMRCD.
- iii. Kayak training- Jeans is working on this with tentative date of April 30, May 1.
  1. Let us know if you or an acquaintance would like to participate/know more about this.
  2. Training helps us sponsor events using our 12 sit on kayaks
  3. Insurance to cover events provided by ACA is very reasonably priced (used to be \$5 per participant pre covid).
- iv. 5 year plan was done in 2020.

e. Review and consideration of correspondence

1. 700 forms arrived, Board members will be sent an email with to fill out the forms, required for Tier 1.

5. Adjournment at 4:17 pm

**NEXT MEETING March 16, 2022, 3:00 pm (Hybrid)**

Minutes approved:

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

*Shirish Shah*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3/16/22.

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

SHIRISH SHAH.

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

President.

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Minutes approved:

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

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