

MINUTES
San Benito Resource Conservation District
Board Meeting
Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 4:00 pm
2337 Technology Pkwy. Suite C Hollister, CA 95023

1. Meeting Call to Order and approval of agenda – Cameron Wright @4:05 pm
Directors present: Cameron Wright, Veronica Stork, Paul Hain
Directors absent: none
2. Public Comments *(The public may comment on any item not on the agenda. The law does not permit Board action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. If Board action is requested, the matter may be placed on a future agenda. Speakers' comments will be limited to three (3) minutes.)*

Guests: Dina Iden, Executive Director, Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District
Katie White, Natural Resources Conservation Service Hollister Field Office

Dina shared information about the Speakoff for 2022. This year's speech topic is "How does the long-term California drought affect your region and what can local Resource Conservation Districts do to help?" In the past, LPRCD has reached out to San Benito High School (SBHS) students to invite them to participate in LPRCD's contest. Three volunteers are needed to serve as judges. LPRCD usually provides gift certificates for the top 3 winners, who then compete at a regional contest. The regional winner goes to the CARCD conference in November to represent the Central Coast RCD Area. In the past there has been little interest from SBHS, despite outreach to FFA leaders. In the past two years the LPRCD hasn't had participants from their high schools either, probably due to Covid. Katie knows one of the local FFA advisors (Emily Herzog) and is willing to contact her. Dina will get a flyer to Katie soon. Paul has attended the Speakoff in the past, says it is a worthy event.

3. Approval of Minutes: July Meeting
MOTION to approve minutes by Paul. Seconded by Veronica. Passed unanimously.
4. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Transaction Detail Summary
MOTION to approve the County General Ledger Monthly Report by Veronica.
Seconded by Paul. Passed unanimously.
 - b. Invoices to be paid
 - i. Central Coast Area RCD Annual Dues \$50.00
 - ii. Karminder Brown invoice (July 25- August 25)MOTION to approve the invoices for August by Paul. Seconded by Veronica. Passed unanimously.

5. New Business

- a. CDFA [Conservation Agriculture Planning Grants Program \(CAPGP\)](#) grant opportunity. Karminder and Dina shared information about the CAPGP opportunity. LPRCD will take the lead on applying and is willing to include SBRCD and GPRCD in the grant. Karminder will explore the option further and discuss potential plans with Katie.
- b. San Benito Working Landscapes Group Fall Meeting/Local Work Group Meeting. Karminder is planning the Fall SBWLG Partner Roundtable meeting for late September or October and has talked with James about combining with the Local Work Group meeting. The Board expressed support for sharing in the expense of up to \$250 for SBWLG meeting space and supplies. Karminder will add this to the September meeting agenda. Katie suggested the Epicenter. Paul gets a discount on the Historical Park.
- c. Alternative dates for November and December Board meetings
Due to holidays in November and December, Paul motioned that the Board meetings for those months shift to third Thursdays: November 17th and December 15th. Veronica seconded. Passed unanimously.

6. Old Business

- a. [Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program \(RFFCP\)](#) – Coastal Conservancy/Dept. of Conservation block grant opportunity. KB will meet with other partners on September 6th to discuss further. Dina suggested having the grantee write the RCD in to help with outreach and education. Board is supportive of participating, but not overstretching.
- b. [CalRecycle Farm & Ranch Clean-up](#) grant opportunity. Veronica has not had a chance to speak with her contacts yet. Dina has one of these grants now, and can advise if we have a project and decide to apply.
- c. Director vacancies. Karminder shared the list of current Directors and terms with the Board. Cameron's term expires in November 2022. For vacancies, Karminder suggested some candidates. The Board authorized Karminder to contact people to find out if they are interested and meet the minimum requirements. Then she will invite them to attend a meeting.

The Board directed Karminder to request a dozen copies of the CARCD Directors Handbook, for distribution to current Board and for Board recruitment efforts. LPRCD has a Director's Responsibilities contract that she will share with us. LPRCD is developing an orientation policy for their new directors.

7. Ongoing Reports

- a. Executive Director's Report
After the agenda was posted, the RCD was contacted by a representative of the State Department of Finance (DOF), Office of State Audits and Evaluations (OSAE)

regarding *Agreed-Upon Procedures COVID-19 Fiscal Relief for Independent Special Districts* in relation to the RCD's COVID-19 Fiscal Relief certified application. The application was submitted by the previous District Manager to the CA Department of Finance's Energy, Transportation, Housing, Local Government, and Labor Unit (ETHLL). This is not the same as a financial audit, but focuses entirely on verification of the information submitted by the previous District Manager in the grant application, which resulted in a COVID-19 Fiscal Relief grant to the RCD in the amount of \$51,184.

Karminder will coordinate with representatives of the DOF, the Board, and staff at the County to provide the documentation requested by the DOF.

NRCS On-Boarding: Karminder has spent many hours and traveled many miles during the past month to complete the USDA-NRCS security process to gain access to equipment, internet, vehicles, etc. Executive Directors at regional RCDs recommended strongly against using an NRCS computer to conduct RCD business, due to the stringent security requirements, which take a lot of staff time to keep current and make it difficult to download software.

Karminder is currently using her personal computer to conduct RCD business, which is also not ideal. The RCD laptop used by the prior District Manager is obsolete. The Board directed Karminder to bring information and a price quote to the September meeting for purchase of an RCD laptop.

- b. NRCS District Conservationist Report for Hollister Service Center – Katie White attended in place of James Booth.

There are lots of open positions with NRCS, including a District Conservationist position in Fresno, positions in Merced, and many more positions, permanent and temporary, all over the state.

NRCS started planning for the LWG meeting.

NRCS finished obligations for the current FY and funded 10 contracts on 8,000+ acres in SBC. Over \$1M in total for all contracts. In the next couple of months will get started on biological assessments, get ready for implementation. It's a good time of year to refer new clients to NRCS.

- c. Directors' Report

Cameron – in the past, the RCD neglected to do outreach about what is the RCD, get the word out to constituents, etc. It would be great to do more outreach -- newsletters, etc.

Veronica—Tony resigned from the Board and is leaving the area.

Paul—No report.

MOTION to adjourn at 6:37 pm by Paul. Veronica seconded. All in favor.

8. Incoming Correspondence (Correspondence folder is available for review at each board meeting).
9. Upcoming Meetings and workshops
10. Adjournment
Next scheduled meeting September 22, 2022