

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TRANQUILLITY RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
August 14, 2023**

The Board of Directors of the Tranquillity Resource Conservation District (TRCD) met in the McMullin Area Sustainability Agency Conference Room for a live and in-person meeting via MS Teams meeting protocols, on Monday, August 14, 2023, at the hour of 3:00 P.M.

Steve Shehadey presided, and Steve Haze kept the Minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Anthony Borges, Patrick Abercrombie, Matt Hurley, and Steve Shehadey

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jerry Radinoff

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Haze – Executive Director

Steve Shehadey called the meeting to order at 3:02 P.M. with a quorum declared.

I. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1. **Board Minutes:** Minutes for July Board meeting was reviewed and approved: M – Hurley, S – Borges. Passed unanimously.
2. **Board Vacancies:** Executive Director Haze reported that Patrick Abercrombie and Matt Hurley were appointed to TRCD’s Board of Directors by the Board of Supervisors on July 18th. Subsequently, Steve Haze as Executive Director administered the Oath of Office, and all documents were submitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, as well with the County Clerk/Elections Office. Sexual Harassment and Ethics courses will need to be taken. Discussions on Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer for consideration at next Board meeting.
3. **CSDA Web Services Program:** The kick-off for developing the district website through Streamline, a specialized hosting service, is scheduled for August 18th.
4. **Consolidation with Westside RCD through Fresno County LAFCo:** Steve was informed that the district had gone dissolution in August of 2022. This was discussed with the Executive Officer at LAFCo. After review of options, it was decided that not to go forward on annexation at this time. TRCD should be able to service clients where there is no active RCD under the Public Resources Code.

5. Executive Director Report:

- a) General: Update of activities associated with the operations was provided. Work will be dedicated to getting the district's website up and running – as well as securing the domain: <https://tranquillityrcd.ca.gov>
- b) Funding: The Board received a report on the status of the TRCD bank account. The account has \$1,559.82. This should cover the 1-year service cost of \$1,008.00.
ED Haze provided an update of the Activities Report which is a consolidated list of several undertakings. TRCD was notified that they had been awarded a Conservation Cooperative Agreement for \$75,000 from the NRCS. The proposal for the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) funding of \$300,000 for a 2-year planning grant was successfully submitted on August 1st.
- c) NRCS Update: Mikhael Kazzi with the Fresno County District Conservationist Office reported that a DC has been selected, Erwin Dunaes who will start on August 28th. Steve will reach out to set up time to meet with him. Mikhael also shared that the new Farm Bill is moving slowly, and that the NRCS will use the current one to operate on. He informed us that there were 22 NRCS WaterSMART applications valued at \$1 million within the McMullin Area GSA.

6. Planning and Priority Discussion:

- a) Annual and Long-Range Plans: Continued discussions on the need to review the annual and long-term plans for re-prioritization of TRCD efforts and the need to perform a regular audit. The next Board meeting will be devoted to begin the review process.

II ADJOURNED TO THE REGULAR September 11, 2023, MEETING

The Board adjourned the regular meeting on August 14, 2023, at 4:11 pm.