

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
TRANQUILITY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
May 13, 2024**

The Board of Directors of the Tranquility 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, May 13, 2024, at the hour of 3:06 P.M.

Jerry Radinoff, Chair presided, and Steve Haze kept the Minutes.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Jerry Radinoff, Anthony Borges, Patrick Abercrombie, and Matt Hurley

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Stephen Shehadey (Attending National Conference)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Haze – Executive Director, Irwin Duenes, NRCS District Conservationist

At 3:06 pm the President declared a quorum.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

1. **Draft Agenda Review and Approval:** MH Motioned approval and PA seconded. Passed unanimously.

2. **Board Minutes:** Draft meeting minutes for April 8<sup>th</sup> not available.

3. **Executive Director Report:**

**General:** An update of activities associated with the operations was provided.

- Outreach and District development activities are continuing. This includes scheduling a session with U.C. Merced’s Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Research. Still working on a quote from SDRMA for D&O, E&O and General Liability insurance.
- The agreement with the Strategic Growth Council was fully executed on April 9<sup>th</sup>, with an official start date of May 1<sup>st</sup>. First pre-launch planning activities with Partners commenced in April and Partner Sub-Award Agreements were drafted for their review using standard CARCD Agreement format.
- Have been on Stakeholder Committee for MAGSA representing Environment/Natural Resources. Trying to become more engaged now that we have the TCC funding from the Strategic Growth Council in which MAGSA is a Governmental Co-Applicant.
- The ED has been suggested to service on Fresno COG’s Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Roundtable as a representative for the Agricultural Sector. It will require a Letter of Recommendation from TRCD. MH – motioned and AB – seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Continued participation in CERF (CA Economic Resilience Fund) plan development working group representing local governments in west Fresno County in which TRCD is being funded. Submitted 2<sup>nd</sup> invoice for December through February.

- Notified by Erasmo Viveros Public Affairs Field Coordinator - Central Network of the CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) about meeting (I am the Central Valley Treasurer)
- Attended CARCD San Joaquin Valley Region 9 meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Matt Hurley chaired the meeting. Matt was elected as the new Chair, and thus now on CARCD's Board of Directors.
- On May 7<sup>th</sup> met with Erwin Duenas, District Conservationist – Fresno County NRCS to review MOAs, MOUs, CCAs and resource sharing opportunities.
- Had a session with Dusty Ference, General Manager for Excelsior-Kings County RCD, and Farm Bureau on the 8<sup>th</sup> under our CCA with the NRCS and Region 9. A portion of their RCD goes into Fresno County. Plan to have a session with James, Firebaugh RCDs, and then reach out to Tranquillity, Raisin City Irrigation Districts, and others as part of re-establishing the Local Working Group (LWG) under the CCA.
- Will be attending PAGG (Punjabi American Growers Group) Field Conference in Madera on May 18<sup>th</sup> under the CCA – as well as attending the Biochar Benefits Field Day on May 30<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Madera-Chowchilla RCD, UC Merced, and American Farmland Trust.
- Participated in Workshop on Working Lands and Biodiversity facilitated by Ag Innovations on behalf of the CA Biodiversity Network in Sacramento. Stressed importance of Williamson and Super Williamson Acts.

#### **Funding:**

- Was informed that CARCD was awarded funding for Capacity Development for RCDs. TRCD has been recommended for a portion of those funds.
- The first semiannual report and invoice was submitted to the NRCS using their new on-line system -- *ezFedGrants*. This covered from September 2023 through March 2024
- Steve presented current finances. There were no expenses. The Mechanics Bank account was successfully closed out with the balance of \$607.32 transferred into the Central Valley Community Bank account. There is a CERF receivable of \$1,800, \$4,166 for the SJV Natural Resources Hub for 2023 and \$3,440 for the CCA. Total A/R of \$9,406. Total grants in the amount of \$415,534.
- ED Haze provided an update of the Activities Report which is a consolidated list of several undertakings.

#### **NRCS Update:**

Erwin Duenas, Fresno County District Conservationist on the number of EQIP contracts were under review, being 87 – with 19 being for On-Farm Recharging. There were further in-depth discussions about how to coordinate and work together. This included the possible sharing of a CSU Fresno Watershed Management MS student, Mikel Chantelle.

#### **4. Planning and Priority Discussion:**

- Annual and Long-Range Plans:** No Discussion
- Potential Development District Carbon Management Plan:** In conjunction with CCI's SJV Regional Carbon Farming Hub program.

**ADJOURNED TO THE REGULAR June 10, 2024, MEETING**

Adjournment declared at 4:35 pm.