

Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

SPECIAL BOARD

MEETING

April 8, 2024 at 12pm
305 Lincoln St.
Sierraville, CA

DRAFT

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION

Note: This is audio only. Video conference will not be available.

Phone Number: 1 (669) 444-9171

Meeting ID: 860 5842 7118

Passcode: 354174

MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order at 12:06pm

2. Roll call – Directors present: Rick Roberti, Annie Tipton, Chad Smith, Lorenzo Larrucea

Not in Attendance: Bryan Griffin

Others in Attendance: Victoria Fisher, Tracy Schohr-UCCE, Ben McNalley-NRCS, Rachel Hutchinson-Sierraville USFS District Ranger, Willo Vieira-Plumas Sierra Ag Commissioner, Kristi Jamason-Feather River Land Trust

3. Approval of Agenda

**Director Tipton motioned to approve the agenda with an amendment to add the Plumas Sierra Weed Management Area MOU under Committee & Agency Reports. Director Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

4. Public Comment: None.

5. Approval of January 8, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

**Director Smith motioned to approve the January 8, 2024 minutes. Director Tipton seconded the motion. All other directors were in favor. Motion passed.*

6. Announcements: None.

7. Discussion/Action: Committee & Agency Reports

- A) Agency/ Committee Reports, Open Floor:** Ben McNally reported that they just wrapped up their first round of EQUIP with 19 total apps preapproved. 14 applications are in Plumas and 5 are in Sierra. They are designated as follows: 1 crop, 4 catastrophic fire, 10 forestry, 1 range, 3 pasture. The board would like to meet with Ben again to discuss what funding NRCS has to offer in more detail. The board will schedule this for July. Willo is monitoring the grasshopper situation. She is also trying to assist with wolf tracking to see where they are traveling at this time. It was also noted that Fish and Wildlife are looking for a new biologist. Willo reported that the AG Pass training should be in June. Tracy reported that they had a great turnout for the Ag Legacy training. There will be a follow up in the future. She has been working on vacant allotments with Plumas National and narrowed it down to 2 to prioritize. There is interest in real time air tags and virtual fencing. They are looking at projects within these areas. They are also working to assist teachers in ag gazing classes within high schools and local colleges through a grant they received. Rachel Hutchinson reported that their district staff is looking good and they have several fuels reduction projects in progress. They are looking to move ahead on some 3-4 timber sales and also are considering a few areas to burn in. They did have to extend a few contracts to allow time to remove past timber sales out of the forest.

B) Plumas-Sierra Weed Management Area MOU: Victoria mentioned that this MOU has been received and needs to be signed. By consensus, the board approved having Victoria sign the MOU on behalf of the RCD.

8. Discussion/Action: Financial Report & Executive Director's Update

A) Financial Review/ Payment of Invoices: Director Tipton reviewed the bank statement for March 2024 and invoices from Victoria Fisher. Victoria reported that insurance was paid and current reporting to the state has been completed. She has also submitted an invoice for \$2,500 to Sierra County and it has been approved. Director Tipton motioned to approve the financial report. Director Larrucea seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion approved.

B) General Account Balance: Account balance is \$1,244.65. No checks pending.

C) SNC #1314 Money Market Account Balance: Account balance is \$120,708.92. No checks pending.

9. Discussion/Action: County Conditional Permitting

A) Permitting Recap: Victoria provided a handout recap from July 2023 that was given during a board meeting by Brandon Pangman.

B) Potential Action Options: Rachel mentioned that USFS projects go through NEPA which is required to have public comment. There was concern whether the RCD wanted to take on more of a role with this. The board feels that it is important to get Sierra County's feedback on what they want our role to be.

C) Board Discussion/ Action: The board would like to reschedule to meet with Brandon Pangman and would like to review the technical assistance agreement.

10. Discussion/ Action: Allotment Grazing Update

*Director Roberti and Tracy Schohr have been working to learn more about NEPA and have been working towards opening allotments in Plumas County. There are 2 that have been prioritized in Plumas National. Rachel reported that there is 1 open allotment on the east side. NEPA is completed and it can be re-flown. She knows that there are some people interested in this allotment. Other allotments updates were provided by Rachel. Tracy offered to assist Rachel on the Tahoe National if needed to gather data on vacant allotments.

11. Adjournment: Adjourned at 1:59pm.

NEXT MEETING: May 13, 2024