

MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (MCRCD)
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, May 1st, 2019 @ 2:00 PM

Location: Mariposa County Resource Conservation District Office, 5039 Fairgrounds Road, Mariposa, CA 95338

Directors present: David Mecchi, Lyle Turpin, and John Schroeder.

Directors absent: John Carrier.

Associate directors present: None.

Associate directors absent: None.

Staff present: Vicky Cole.

Guests: NRCS: Robyn Smith. Point Blue: None.

Call to order: 2:02 PM by MCRCD Board President David Mecchi.

Public communication: None.

Minutes:

(M) John Schroeder to approve April regular meeting minutes with a corrections on David Mecchi comment. (S) Lyle Turpin. No discussion followed. Ayes: John Schroeder, Lyle Turpin, David Mecchi. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Correspondence: 1) Received by mail: Letter from Mariposa Planning Department, asking for comments on Project Single Family. NO comments. 2) Received by email, four applications jobs for the Farm Bill Assistant job posting. 3) Received by email, from Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS).Eligibility for the 2018 California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for all Bond Act (Proposition 68).

Information Items and/or Special Guests: None.

Staff reports:

IRWMP: None.

NRCS: Written report submitted by Robyn.

Point Blue: None.

MCRCD: Verbal report submitted by Vicky.

Directors Reports:

John Carrier: None.

Lyle: He attended the Sierra Regional Meeting at Sonora; he had a few questions for Robyn about the RCPP grant. He talked with the new Director of the Conservation Department. He appreciates Melinda's expertise explaining how things could be getting done and hopefully somebody was listening. He wonders about what happens if for example we're going to bankruptcy, do we have some kind of document to protect us? David said that's not possible because we have agreements with NRCS, he said that's our safety net, they won't give us money that they don't have. Lyle asked what about the Planning of Conservation Grants or CALFIRE grants? David said DOC eventually will give us more money and right now we only have the DOC grant that just finished.

Also Lyle asked about 100 feet exemption, Robyn explained that the way is actually set up probably they just will pay 100 bucks and probably the customer has to wait several months for it. Robyn said that NRCS is trying to figure out how to work with the details. Lyle asked if this

program is Federal or State; Robyn said its Federal, it's funding for the regular EQIP program and she said that's why they have to jump on the same hoops because it's a funding requirement. Basically said we can start Smiley working, doing site visits with the customers, doing conservation planner, we are going to ask him to do more than in the past, he can start and getting ready but we're not ready for funding. Robyn said they have over 150 new applications, they are working on get them eligible as fast as they can, getting site visits as fast as they can but we are short staff, we are sinking, she doesn't like use that word but that's the reality. She said that they have been told to every customer that this is a long process. Also Lyle commented that he got sick after attended the Sierra Regional meeting, but now he's feeling ok. Another subject was CAL FIRE, he noticed that the grass is getting high, he said CAL FIRE is going to get busy and David said that they don't budget enough money for prevention so they run off money pretty quickly so in the middle of summer when they should be very active they don't have money. David said they really don't inspection the properties, they just drive by and if looks ok they give green and if looks like they have to come back again, red. They really don't do an inspection. Talking about fire season David commented that now as soon as the sheriff department gets a second call, immediately they send a sheriff on the site. Mariposa County Sheriff, Tuolumne County Sheriff, Madera County Sheriff and Highway Patrol, they work together in a net and have own radios, also social media helps a lot. Lyle ended saying that the county looks like no cattle have been around.

John Schroeder: John talked about his Video grant, he provided handouts, first page is how looks if you access to the RCD page, if you click in videos, you see what it shows on the second page, and we have 14 videos right now. The third page shows playlists; here we can organize the videos that we have. John is going to talk about the playlists on his next meeting on Friday. He said he has a problem, he has 4 videos for review, and these belong to Robyn and she's been busy. Next page shows a playlist looks like; the example shows "Reducing Wildfire Danger in Mariposa County". The last page shows Status report, "U" means up, "UFR" means up for review, "OFR" means out for review and "F" means future. He's concern about the CAL FIRE videos because we have no CALFIRE involve in the last two meetings, and he doesn't know why. Other thing that is nice is that he can search YouTube for videos and put them on our playlist. He found a video about embers and John thinks Robyn would love it, it's with cartoons. The 3 videos that we're working next are one for EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), one for CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) and one for Homeowners Insurance, the committee may decide that they need to include more but for now they only have these three. Also he said that he interviewed John McKenzie, Len McKenzie's son. He does voiceover, he was at his place today morning and he interviewed him, he said he's going to pursue that.

David: He's been busy, keeping everything moving. We did interviews, one group last month and another last week; he will give the report on the personnel committee. He's been getting ready for fire season and trying to get ready for his project, waiting to get funding.

Future Agenda Items: None.

Subcommittee Reports:

Personnel: He gave an interviews report. We did interviews, one group last month and another group last week. We got two candidates from the first batch, Lexi and we're waiting for her, she applied for another job with full benefits, she has experience working with RCD's and she likes RCD's so if she decides for us, she will be hire as Resource Conservation Assistant. The second position is Marissa Mehr, if we hire Lexi, Marissa will be the Farm Bill Assistant. David called yesterday and she called back today morning and said sorry but she took another job. So I called John Grimes and said to him that he was the third on David will call him today to offer the job. Number 4 is Jessica Baker so David called her and explained that she's number 4 and

said to her that don't lost hope. Hilary Mckeon got a job. On the others, David called everybody and left a message. Anne Melrose called back and she got a job also. Tuan Hwang called back and David explains to him that we don't fill the positions yet and he will let him know. Jamie Lynch called back and said that she got a job too. David said that the only one that we're waiting is for Lexi and if she takes the job then we will move for John Grimes for the RCA position and Jessica for the FBA position.

Finance: Vicky gave the Finance report. She said balances are ok; they match with the Auditor's Office balances. She said we got interests, it's every three months, she also said that we didn't get any income but explained that 803 shows income because she transferred workers comp that were already paid on the accounts and transferred also the admin costs from 806 (Downed Tree Removal) and 817 (EPIC grant). She remains to the Board Meeting last discussion about the drinking water and the janitorial services, and basically said that we can't afford them.

Grants: None.

Forestry & Fuels Management: None.

Plant Sale: None.

Policy: None.

Financial Reports: Vicky talked about financials on the Finance committee report.

Action Items: None.

Discussion: None.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM (M) John Schroeder, (S) Lyle Turpin. Ayes: Lyle, David Mecchi, John Schroeder. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Submitted by: Vicky Cole

Date Approved: 07/03/2019

Recorded minutes of this meeting are available in the RCD office. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication or assistance should contact our office at above number, at least 5 days prior to the event. An equal opportunity provider and employer.

MCRCD Mission Statement

The mission of the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District is to encourage and facilitate cooperative solutions to local resources conservation issues and projects. By providing leadership, the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District works with all stakeholders to find solutions that conserve the basic natural resources of Mariposa County. To further this aim, the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District provides technical assistance to landowners, carries out informational activities, seeks and implements grants and other funding sources, and develops cooperative alliances with other agencies and community organizations.