



# Tulare County Resource Conservation District

3530 W. Orchard Court ~ Visalia, CA 93277  
Phone: (559) 622-0378

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16 January 2024

## Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Warren Hutchings, Johnny Gailey, Scott Powell, Marlon Daly  
Staff: Teri Van Huss, Antonia Perez, David Witt, Bob Puls  
NRCS: Lurana Strong  
Cal-Fire: Chief David Shy, Nick Shew  
Tranquility RCD: Steve Haze  
Guests: Cody Moody; Andrew Sybesma, CPA, Coleman Nieblas

Warren called the meeting to order at 12:00 a.m.

**Review Minutes:** The minutes for 19 December were reviewed. Johnny moved to approve the minutes. Marlon seconded. Aye vote ensued.

**Financial Report:** Financials were presented for December/January. Marlon moved to approve the Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable, Johnny seconded. Aye vote ensued.

The Board welcomes Andrew Sybesma, CPA, from Bakersfield, who is assisting us, and Teri, with reporting and accounting best practices. He and Teri created a priority list of tasks, the first of which is to give all our contractors a "Vendor Template" of everything that needs to be on their invoices. A template was presented to the Board, which they approved.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Request for host Area IX meeting in March** – Board discussed what date, preferably a Friday, would work the best and decided on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Location venue will be Whitney Wild Oak Ranch in Exeter, with a possible tour after lunch to a local packing shed.

## CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES:

**Cal-Fire and USFS Fuel Break projects (Clearances, Ward Canyon, Direct Award, Whisset, Grouse, Eshom,)** – Bob reported we have received the signed agreements for two new Cal-Fire projects – Balch/Blue Ridge Fuel Reduction and a new Cal-Fire demonstration area at the Tulare County Fairgrounds.

**Cal-Fire / USFS Fuel Break projects (Ponderosa)** – David reported recent activities for the Cal-Fire grants included clearing some private lots. Activities for the Forest Service included working on the salvage logging plans, and the NEPA is almost completed by the FS.

**Case Mountain, BLM project:** David is working with Danielle Thomas, the BLM Forester, on setting up mastication, hand crews, and logging coming up. BLM's goal is to get this area in good condition as it has Sequoia trees of all ages. David is also working with the Plumas project to create more projects for Case Mtn.



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**Forest Health Task Force:** The next meeting is in February.

**Regional Partner Updates:** None noted.

**SGMA:** No changes really.

**CARCD RCPP / NACD:** Both of these funding sources are in renewal for Antonia, with new ways of reporting. Antonia has begun another round of outreach activities for RCPP projects in the Sierra. NRCS expressed a need more assistance because of staff shortages, and Antonia will need to up her hours for awhile.

**NRCS Updates:** Lurana is navigating a lot of changes because of IRA monies, new programs, and rankings. There are currently 300 applications, and not enough staff to handle it all.

**Public Comments:** Steve Haze joined us on zoom from Tranquility RCD and giving information on what he's doing now; several projects he's working on in Tulare County.

## **Correspondence:**

Meeting Adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes by Teri Van Huss. The next RCD meeting is January 16<sup>th</sup>, in the NRCS Conference room and by Zoom