

Minutes of the Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD)  
Board Meeting  
February 1, 2018  
Board of Supervisors Chambers  
891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA

**Call to Order:** Meeting opened by R. Dean-President @ 6:00 pm

Board Members Present: R. Dean-President, K. Hafley, G. Long-Secretary, M. Robie, F. Schabram-Treasurer T. Sullivan-Vice President, N. Valente

Board Members Absent: none

Others Present: Brady Dubois, Bobette Parsons-NRCS, CAL-FIRE Team: Pete Padelford, Mario Hernandez, Roy Evans, Cameron Todd, COMMON GROUND-Kathy Toepel, Elizabeth Thompson, Marg Donnelly, Jill Micheau, Kevin Wright

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**General Public Comment:**

Bobette Parsons presented her report from NRCS.

Kevin Wright-Cal Co Ag Dept reported a new 60/40 contract for bark beetle kill areas to start in July. He noted if people are to pesticide spray near schools that a permit and notifications are necessary and to contact this dept. for help with it. He noted cannabis can continue only until May 10.

**Regular Agenda Items:**

1. Approval of 1/4/18 Minutes. Board Action – T. Sullivan made motion to approve, F. Schabram second. On a 7-0-0 vote, minutes were approved.
2. Cal Fire Grants – Roy Evans and Mario Hernandez presented a map and information regarding the new fire breaks they have designated as needed in the Murphys area. They are 6 miles long by 4' wide, covering 380 acres. It includes 93 property owners of which 65 have given their approval. They transferred all of their plans and notes to Gordon Long to go ahead with the grant. They can help us but we need to take the lead on applying for grant money and managing the project. We should have the intent of hiring private crews. Suggests contacting Fire Safe Council for a list of contractors. A conceptual paper of project is due Feb, 21. The prescription is to take down all dead trees within the fuel break area, but recommends leaving on property. We can consider taking them away for owners, but can be very costly. He noted that trees we take down would be the ones we could take away, but fallen trees due to bark beetle is covered under a different program. R. Evans noted that there are options available if we run out of money or time to finish the project. They recommend doing as much of the work with masticators then go through with hand crews where the equipment couldn't get in. He figures it will be about 50/50.

3. Ad hoc committees.
  - a) Water and Soil – B. Dean spoke with the author of High and Dry, and said he would be bringing copies for the board to read.
  - b) Forestry & Habitat – No report.
  - c) Governance – No report.
4. Discussion on hiring G. Long as Executive Director – **F. Schabram made a motion to hire Gordon Long as Executive Director with pay to be determined at a later time.** T. Sullivan second. On a 6-1-0 vote. G. Long abstained. Passed. Discussion around his pay determined he would eventually start receiving an hourly pay, plus he also would get some monies from administering grants. He then turned in his resignation as a Board Director to immediately assume the new position.
5. Liability Insurance – B. Dean reported he was waiting for a phone call. Should be done by next week.
6. Strategic Planning Meeting – Tabled. Notes from B. Dean, G. Long and M. Cole will be forwarded to all board members to be discussed at a separate special meeting to be determined.
7. Building Reno update – Since the County no longer has the finding for helping us, we need to start over with our own plan to renovate, and then we will invite in potential tenants. It was suggested we hold a separate special meeting to finalize a plan.
8. Building infrastructure – discussion combined with previous item.
9. RCD website – M. Cole presented her initial website design. She will work with G. Long to get the copy written for all of the pages. She handed out instructions to the new @calaverasrcd emails.
10. Tree Seedling Giveaway – G. Long said plans are going well.
11. Contacting BLM – M. Robie would like to see BLM sell off some of their land to private land owners. Suggestions to meet with Bill Hague at the next ACCG meeting in Jackson to start a conversation. **F. Schabram made a motion to begin conversation with Mr. Hague.** N. Valente second. On a 6-0-0 vote. Passed.
12. Common Ground to lease space – Kathy Toepel and Elizabeth Thompson explained their plight with a lease renewal coming that includes an increase in rent, and they feel they need to acquire a different location. They requested renting the basement in our new building. They would help with cleanup and renovations of the space. Their rent needs to be minimal – Roughly \$300/mo. Further discussion and a vote will be placed on agenda for next month.
13. Join Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG) – Jill Micheau discussed the benefits and the process of joining. **K. Hafley made a motion to join the ACCG.** T. Sullivan second. On a 6/0/0 vote. Passed.
14. Additional Grant Opportunities – G. Long is working with the CalAm team for new SRA grants.
10. Board Member Reports – No reports.

**Adjournment of meeting.** Motion to close monthly meeting of the Calaveras RCD initiated by B. Dean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. Sullivan. Motion carries on a 6-0-0 vote. Meeting adjourned @ 8:15 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm, March 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Attest:

President Robert Dean \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary Gordon Long \_\_\_\_\_