

11 Minutes of the Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD)
Board Meeting
March 9, 2017

Calaveras Board of Supervisors Chambers
891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA

Call to Order: Meeting opened by President R. Dean @ 6:15 pm

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

Board Members Absent: M. Robie, F. Schabram

Others Present: Curtis Tarver, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Assistant State Conservationist, Bobette Parsons NRCS District Conservationist, Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Grants Manager Michael Pickard, Amador County RCD board President Steve Cannon, Amador RCD Administrative Manager Amanda Platt Group, SPI forester Brady Debois,

Pledge of Allegiance

General Public Comment:

1. Curtis Tarver indicated he was excited to be able to work with the new Calaveras RCD as opportunities between our two entities present themselves. The NRCS is open to cooperative agreements and partnerships with the Calaveras RCD. NRCS's base concerns with soil, air, water, and range. They have an 80 year history of working with state RCD's. There are numerous NRCS programs that local landowners can pursue through their agency, including EQIP and WHIP
2. Bobette Parsons introduced herself as the new district manager for NRCS, covering Calaveras, Amador, and Tuolumne counties. She is also enthused that the new Calaveras RCD was formed, and anxious to work with us in the pursuit of long-range land health issues for local landowners.
3. Steve Cannon/Amanda Platt. Steve talked of involvement with the CA Central Sierra RCD, a subgroup of the state California Resource Conservation District Association (CaRCD). Steve suggests we join the CaRCD; there are many benefits to becoming a member of this group. Good conferences, networking opportunities. As a professional forester, he also discussed programs that are available to Calaveras RCD that pertain to forestry issues. Since Calaveras RCD is a new entity, he suggests that we partner with another RCD as our fiscal agent. He believes that Amador RCD can assist Calaveras RCD in numerous ways to help us early in our development. Amanda suggests we send a representative to the next Central Sierra RCD meeting, slated for April 14th.
4. Michael Pickard of SNC adds that SNC can add another piece to our particular puzzle. He wants to help build Calaveras RCD so we can develop and submit grants to the SNC.

Regular Agenda Items:

1. Approval of Minutes. Board Action- T. Sullivan made motion, N. Valente second. On a 5-0-2 vote, minutes were approved.
2. Ad hoc committees. No activity, no action
4. Use of Seed Money. Calaveras RCD received \$500 from the Central Sierra RCD. Money not deposited yet. Item tabled.
5. Tier 1 accreditation through California Department of Conservation (DofC). B. Dean led a discussion regarding steps needed to attain Tier 1 status. Needs for this include writing a work plan, sending in our last six RCD agendas, and that we need liability insurance. Bob has had involved talks with DofC regarding this topic. He says that the DofC believes we should find a fiscal agent to assist with receiving grants and for initial administration. Steve Cannon offers Amador RCD as a potential fiscal agent for Calaveras RCD. Bob mentions that he has been in talks with the Tahoe RCD, so Calaveras RCD has at least two viable options for a fiscal agent. Motion for B. Dean to secure a fiscal agent for the Calaveras RCD. T. Sullivan makes the motion, K. Hafley seconds the motion. On a 5-0-2 vote, the motion is carried on a unanimous vote.
6. Healthy Forest Grant Opportunity. G. Long says that CalFire has not come out with official grant guidelines, so until they are published, we cannot accurately craft a grant. Information only.
7. County Block Grant Possibility. G. Long mentions that the County may cooperate with us in building a capacity building grant for the enhancement of conditions for County residents. Talks still preliminary. Information only.
8. Discussion of office space offer from CCWD. B. Dean met with Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) manager David Eggerton and with Calaveras County Lead Brian Moss about this facility and how Calaveras RCD might be able to acquire space and provide space to other county-oriented groups at a reasonable rental rate. Bob will continue this negotiations. Action tabled.
9. Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Writing Workshop. Potentially set for mid-late June. Sign-ups limited to 15 participants. The \$20 fee would include lunch and snacks over the 1.5 day event. Elissa of the SNC would put on the 1.5-day workshop for us. Two meeting spaces for this workshop was discussed- the Calaveras County Library, and the Ebbetts Pass Fire Department facility. Motion to commit to a Thursday/Friday event in June held at the conference room at the Calaveras County Library. Motion by t. Sullivan, 2nd by K. Hafley. Motion passes on a 5-0-2 vote.
10. Board Member Announcements. T. Sullivan is attending the local Tree Mortality meeting this month. B. Dean wants a permanent agenda item for B. Parsons of the NRCS to build our relationship. B. Dean has asked County Board of Supervisor Micheal Oliverria to approach the California Office of Emergency Services(OES) about forming a volunteer group so that members to be imbedded with fire teams during county wildfire incidents. On a large-scale wildfire, many fire crews are from out of the area, and could benefit from knowledge from local

resident volunteers. G. Long has signed on to be a member of the Calaveras County Fish and Game Commission.

Adjournment of meeting. Motion to close monthly meeting of the Calaveras RCD initiated by K. Hafley, 2nd by N. Valente. Motion carries on a 5-0-2 vote. Meeting adjourned @ 7:58 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm, April 13, 2017

Meeting adjourned @ 8:10 pm.

Attest:

President Robert Dean _____

Secretary Gordon Long _____