

MINUTES
Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Truax Building
41923 Second Street, Fourth Floor
Temecula, CA 92590

I. PRELIMINARY FUNCTIONS

Call to Order – 4:02 p.m. Meeting recorded by Zoom.

Roll Call/Establish a Quorum

Directors Present: Teri Biancardi, President; Pablo Bryant, Vice President (Via Zoom); Newt Parkes, Secretary; Rose Corona, Director; Stuart Kuhn, Director.

Directors Absent: None

Public Guests: Chris Gray, Keir Thomas (via Zoom), Curtis Tarver, NRCS (via Zoom).

Director Bryant, appearing via Zoom, requested leave to participate remotely under the emergency provisions of the Brown Act. Director Bryant had recent surgery and was unable to travel.

Directors Parkes moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to allow Director Bryant to appear remotely.

Upon roll call, the motion was unanimously approved.

Biancardi: Yes
Bryant: Abstaining
Corona: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

Approval of Agenda – Director Parkes moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to approve the Agenda.

Upon roll call, the motion was approved.

Biancardi: Yes
Bryant: Yes
Corona: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

Public comment – None.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Director Corona requested that July 11, 2024, minutes be removed from the Consent Calendar as they were not in the Directors' packet. Director Corona also requested that the Greater San Diego RCD MOU be moved to discussion.

Director Kuhn moved, and Director Parkes seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar, including:

1. Approval of Minutes of the August 22nd special meeting.
2. Approval of current bills and reimbursements:
 - a) Bills paid
 - b) Bills to be paid or reimbursement
 - c) Accounts Receivable
4. Approval of monthly financial reports for periods ending July 31, 2024 and August 30, 2024.
5. Approval of request for a Riverside Corona Resource Conservation District biologist to give a talk in TEAMRCD's service area.

Upon roll call, the motion was approved.

Biancardi: Yes

Bryant: Yes

Corona: No

Kuhn: Yes

Parkes: Yes

III. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Subject: Strategic Plan

Background: Division 9 of the Public Resources Code provides that Resource Conservation Districts shall prepare an annual and long-range work plan.

Strategic Planning Presentation: Chris Gray, providing services at no cost to the District, presented to the board regarding the purpose of strategic planning, a proposed work plan for developing a plan in the District, and his expectations for participation by members of the board in the strategic planning process.

Mr. Gray is 30 year resident of Riverside County and is an executive at the Western Riverside Council of Governments. However, he offers his services to TEAM RCD as private citizen and not as a representative of WRCOG.

Mr. Gray stated that the planning process typically began with forming a Mission Statement that everyone agrees upon before moving forward.

He also stressed the importance of agreeing on a set of organizational values—single words representing the District.

Mr. Gray explained that “goals and actions” were the heart of the process and should be stated so that progress is measurable. A strategic plan provides continuity and assists new directors in understanding the direction of the organization and what goals and actions have priority.

Mr. Gray proposed at least one four-hour session to develop goals and actions for TEAM RCD. He would then compile the input and return with a final document. He stressed that it would only work if the individual directors do their “homework”, including preparing their own mission statement, list of values and proposed goals, with Mr. Gray acting as a facilitator to organize into a usable format.

The board asked Mr. Gray questions regarding scheduling and logistics. Following discussion, it was agreed that the board hold a special meeting on Friday, October 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. for a strategic planning session. The board further agreed that “homework” would be due to Mr. Gray by October 4, 2024. Director Corona moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, that the board proceed with strategic planning, using the services of Chris Gray.

Upon roll call, the motion was approved.

Biancardi: Yes

Bryant: Yes

Corona: Yes

Kuhn: Yes

Parkes: Yes

B. Subject: Natural Resource Conservation Service Cooperative Agreement

Background: NRCS is offering TEAMRCD a Cooperative Agreement grant for one year in the amount of \$75,000 to fund the hire of a Conservation Technician. Due to NRCS's funding cycle, this award will only be available this month.

Keir Thomas and Curtis Tarver of NCRS participated in the board's discussion of NRCS Cooperative Agreement, answering questions regarding implementation of the Agreement.

The board discussed, generally, whether a part-time or full-time conservation tech was needed, whether WETA funds could supplement the funding of the conservation tech (who would also perform tasks under the WETA grant).

The board also considered, generally, the pros and cons of direct hiring of an employee, and other alternatives such as an independent contractor, leased employee or temporary staffing.

Keir Thomas and Curtis Tarver also discussed the role of NRCS in carrying out the Agreement. NRCS would monitor progress of the conservation tech in identifying farmers and providing training and support to the farmers in completing NRCS

applications for funding. NRCS would review applications and approve funding where applicable.

Following this discussion, Director Kuhn moved, and Director Parkes seconded, to authorize President Biancardi to sign the Cooperative Agreement with NRCS. Upon roll call vote, the motions was approved.

Upon roll call, the motion was approved.

Biancardi: Yes

Bryant: Yes

Corona: Yes

Kuhn: Yes

Parkes: Yes

C. Subject: NACD Grant Cultivating Inclusion

Background: Integrative Development Consulting has been working with Cultivating Inclusion on assisting with building organizational integrity and a business plan appropriate to the enterprise.

President Biancardi reported that the business plan had been completed with the assistance of Director Bryant and his spouse. She also reported that there were some open items to be completed under the grant, but that Integrative had done substantial work in positioning Cultivating Inclusion for preparation of the implementation grant. President Biancardi asked that they be paid for that work, in an amount based on what has been accomplished.

Following discussion, Director Parkes moved and Director Bryant seconded to authorize President Biancardi to pay up to \$2,450 to Integrative Development for work performed.

Upon roll call, the motion was approved.

Biancardi: Yes

Bryant: Yes

Corona: No

Kuhn: Yes

Parkes: Yes

D: Subject: MOU with RCD of Greater San Diego (moved from consent calendar).

Director Corona began the discussion, reading from the draft MOU on page two, regarding the review and written consent of LAFCO. She discussed the impact of an "out of agency services agreement" and the cost of applying for that through Riverside LAFCO.

Director Corona also pointed out the provision requiring TEAM RCD to indemnify San Diego. She suggested that TEAM RCD do the work needed, avoiding the LAFCO issue

and indemnity issues. She also suggested that Shelli Lamb be invited to a future meeting to speak regarding the larger LAFCO issues.

Director Parkes also questioned why TEAM RCD would allow another RCD to perform work in the District that TEAM RCD could do.

Following this discussion, the matter was tabled.

E: Subject: CARCD conference.

Background: The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts is holding its annual conference in Sacramento on December 10-12. This is an excellent opportunity to network and learn what other RCDs are doing across the state.

Following a discussion of the costs of the event, Director Parkes moved, and Director Bryant seconded, that the board pay the expenses of the conference and hotel for Director Kuhn to attend the CARCD annual conference.

Upon roll call, the motion was approved.

Biancardi: Yes

Bryant: Yes

Corona: Yes

Kuhn: Yes

Parkes: Yes

IV. DISCUSSION:

A. Subject: Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) grant status

Background: TEAMRCD's WETA program has now been in place for nine months. The purpose of this item is to allow for a more in-depth discussion of the program.

The board discussed the current status of the WETA grant. No action was taken.

V. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- President Biancardi reported that WETA now had 7 disadvantage farmers served with 29 pending. However, the funds for pump efficiency are nearly exhausted. The reimbursement process has been difficult, but TEAM RCD's invoice is now being processed for payment. Director Corona requested that future changes to WETA come before the board for approval and expressed concern that not all grant activities had complied with state law.
- President Biancardi reported no real changes at Greer Ranch. She reported that she is finalizing arrangement for the Annual meeting of regional RCDs.

- Director Parkes reported that he continues to receive homeless monitoring reports from SAWA and forwards them to the appropriate municipality. The Lake Elsinore task force meeting was cancelled due to wildfire activity.
- Director Corona submitted printed transcripts for the record.
- Director Bryant stated that he was pleased with the last meeting of Wildfire Action Group.

VI. MANAGEMENT REPORT: Rae Shirer

- Records management progress continues.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

VIII: ADJOURNMENT

Director Corona moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Upon roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.:

Biancardi: Yes

Bryant: Yes

Corona: Yes

Kuhn: Yes

Parkes: Yes

Dated: 12/22/2024



Newt Parkes, Secretary