

MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 4:00 PM

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

I. PRELIMINARY FUNCTIONS

Call to Order – 4:12 p.m. Recorded by Zoom.

Roll Call/Establish a Quorum

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

Directors Absent: None

Public Guests: Keir Thomas, NRCS (Via Zoom); Stephanie Moreno (North Santa Clara RCD)

Approval of Agenda

Director Bryant moved, and Director Parkes seconded, to approve the Agenda as presented. Upon voice vote, the motion was passed unanimously.

Public comment – None.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR:

The minutes of September 12, 2024, were pulled from the consent calendar, as they were not included in the Directors' packet.

Director Bryant moved, and Director Parkes seconded to:

1. Approve Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting of July 11, 2024;
2. Approve for current bills and reimbursements:
 - a) Bills paid
 - b) Bills to be paid or reimbursement
 - c) Accounts Receivable
4. Approve monthly financial report for period ending September 30, 2024.

Upon voice vote, the motion passed, Director Corona voting no and all other directors voting yes.

III. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Subject: Natural Resource Conservation Service Cooperative Agreement

Background: At the September regular meeting, Directors approved the Cooperative Agreement offered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service to bring on a Conservation Technician for the duration of the one-year grant.

President Biancardi presented a Power Point outlining her research into the alternatives for onboarding a conservation tech (direct hire, independent contractor, lease employee, co-employment, etc.) Issues discussed were the cost of each alternative, supervision of the conservation tech, insurance coverage, and employee benefits.

President Biancardi proposed an ad hoc committee to work with legal to develop a contract for third party HR management of the conservation tech to be recruited either by the third party or by TEAM RCD, with a contract for approval in December and onboarding in January.

Director Corona offered to expedite the process by assembling the costs and benefits of each alternative for review by the board at a special meeting two weeks following this general meeting.

President Biancardi reported that CARCD offers HR services through their partnership with Insperity. However, the recruiting would fall to TEAM RCD and TEAM RCD would have direct supervision of the employee.

Following this discussion, the board agreed to hold a special meeting in two weeks' time to review all the options, with additional, specific information to be provided by Directors Corona and Biancardi.

Director Bryant moved, and Director Parkes seconded, that the board hold a special meeting during the week of October 28, 2024, at a date and time dependent on the availability of a conference room for the meeting.

Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Subject: Greer Ranch and Adeline easement reporting and additional site work

Background: Under the terms of TEAMRCD's easement obligations, the District must monitor conditions and file annual reports to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District has been doing this work on our behalf. Their biologist is recommending some invasive plant removals to maintain quality habitat.

Following discussion, President Biancardi moved, and Director Bryant seconded to approve removal of invasive plants by IERCD on the easements. Upon voice vote, the

motion passed, with Director Parkes abstaining and the remaining directors all voting "yes".

IV. DISCUSSION:

A. Subject: Update on possible agreement with GSDRCD to assist two farmers in TEAMRCD's district on grant application.

President Biancardi reported she had spoken again with GSDRCD and that there was no issue with San Diego LAFCO. Director Corona reiterated that it is the Riverside LAFCO that has jurisdiction in this matter. President Biancardi introduced Stefanie Moreno, Executive Director of North Santa Clara RCD. Ms. Moreno stated she was not representing the board of Santa Clara in the discussion. She commented that the proposed MOU was requiring TEAM RCD to waive its legal rights and that it is the Riverside LAFCO that should be consulted. She further discussed the LAFCO exemptions for small RCDs and the lobbying activity that might change that. She also addressed the issue of indemnity in the MOU. She encouraged the board to seek legal counsel review and Riverside LAFCO input before signing.

Director Corona reported on her research into how these particular grants work at Zero Food Print.

Following this discussion, the matter was tabled.

V. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- Teri Biancardi reported that the annual meeting was set to go and urged members to RSVP. She reported that the 1600 permit renewal was completed and the information is in the Dropbox.
- Newt Parkes reported on homeless activity in Elsinore, Temecula Creek AD 159 and Santa Gertrudes. The appropriate authorities have been updated.
- Rose Corona reported on the status of the CARCD bylaws revision and the interaction of the CARCD policy committee. Director Corona is a member of the policy committee and reported that she has concerns that CARCD is not following its current bylaws in making its revisions. Stephanie Moreno also commented regarding the importance of maintaining communication with CARCD to protect all RCDs legislatively.

VI. MANAGEMENT REPORT: Rae Shirer

- Records management progress – No report.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Director Parkes requested that a detailed review of TEAM RCDs financial reports be scheduled for January 2025.

VIII: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, Director Parkes moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:58 p.m. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Dated: 12/22/2024

Leeta H. Parkes
Newt Parkes, Secretary