

MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 4:00 PM

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

Meeting recorded by Zoom.

I. PRELIMINARY FUNCTIONS

Call to Order – 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call/Establish a Quorum

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

Directors Absent: Newt Parkes, Secretary/Treasurer.

Appearing via Zoom: Rae Shirer, Office Manager; Kit Swift, Conservation Technician; Keir Thomas (NRCS); James Law (SAWA).

Public Guests via Zoom: Ross Yamaguchi, Stephanie Moreno, Breanna Smith (Riverside County Board of Supervisors, for the Clerk of the Board).

Oath of Office for Director Teri Biancardi

Director Biancardi was sworn in by Clerk of the Board Executive Assistant Breanna Smith for a full term ending November 30, 2028.

Approval of Agenda

Director Bryant moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to approve the Agenda unanimously. Upon voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Ross Yamaguchi, Director at Highpoint Communities. Highpoint's environmental consultant was reaching out regarding a possible project in Temecula, working with IERCD and CDFW on a mitigation site. Wishes to open discussion with TEAM RCD regarding the project and will provide all materials and information for discussion. President Biancardi stated that she would get in touch with the parties involved in the week following this board meeting.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Corona asked that Items 2 and 6 be pulled from the consent calendar, as the Minutes of the January 23, 2025, Special Meeting were not in the directors' packet and no additional information had been received regarding the Soil and Water Hub Agreement.

Director Bryant moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to:

- Approve Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting of January 9, 2025.
- Approve current bills and reimbursements: Bills paid; Bills to be paid or reimbursement; Accounts Receivable.
- Approve monthly financial reports for periods ending December 31, 2024.
- Approve monthly financial reports for periods ending January 31, 2025.

Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Following the vote, Director Corona clarified that she had meant to pull the January 9, 2025, minutes and requested a change to include additional detail regarding what was said during the meeting. Upon discussion and reconsideration by the board, Director Kuhn moved, and Director Bryant seconded, that a new vote be taken to approve the January 9, 2025, minutes. Upon roll call vote, the minutes were approved:

Biancardi	Yes
Bryant	Yes
Corona	No
Kuhn	Yes
Parkes	Absent

III. DISCUSSION

A. Subject: TEAM RCD Financial Standing

Keir Thomas (NRCS) presented a discussion of President Trump's January 20, 2025, Executive Order freezing grant funding and its effect on the TEAM RCD cooperative agreement with NRCS. NRCS programs will be reviewed by the incoming Secretary of Agriculture. Following board discussion, Manager Shirer agreed to submit invoices to NRCS on a monthly basis so that when the funding uncertainty is resolved, the paperwork will already be in NRCS hands.

President Biancardi noted that TEAM RCD has available funds to cover NRCS costs, including the Conservation Technician costs, through the end of the fiscal year. Manager Shirer stated there is currently approximately \$150,000 in unallocated funds and that TEAM RCD is expected to receive an additional \$150,000 from Riverside County Flood Control before the end of the fiscal year.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

B. Subject: Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)

Background: CWDG grants provide funding for the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The Inland Empire Community Foundation is offering support to TEAMRCD and SJBRCD to submit a grant application for funding to develop CWPPs in the Anza and Idlywild areas. The deadline is February 28.

David Hernandez of IECF and James Law of the Santa Ana Watershed Association presented details regarding the grant application process. TEAM RCD would not be a grant applicant — Inland Empire Community Foundation would apply. If the grant is awarded, IECF would subgrant to TEAM RCD and SJBRCD for implementation.

C. Subject: Social Media

The board discussed Kit Swift's proposal for TEAM RCD social media outreach on Facebook and Instagram. Director Bryant moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, that Kit Swift be authorized to proceed with implementation of social media and that Kit Swift be the interim social media manager with the board reviewing the social media planning and implementation in 30 days. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

D. Subject: Document Retention Schedule and Handbook Update

Background: Office Manager Rae Shirer has been reviewing and sorting all District documents and designing a data retention system that will comply with Riverside County's standards. She is also updating the policy manual in coordination with the retention schedule.

Manager Shirer reported that she had not made significant progress, as the onboarding of the new employee had taken up more of her time than expected.

V. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- Teri Biancardi: Reported that there was little to report from SAWA. Proposed that another Community Wildfire Resilience Special Meeting be set for late March and will move forward with that scheduling. President Biancardi also noted that Kit Swift had been working on a report covering numerous topics regarding the district, such as acreage under cultivation, number of farmers, fire resources, etc. A list of proposed topics was included in the directors' packet and President Biancardi requested that the directors review it before discussion at a future meeting. Finally, President Biancardi reported that she had received a cure and correct letter from Rose Corona that would require a special meeting. All directors were asked if their calendars were clear and President Biancardi stated she would go forward with a special meeting on February 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at the Truax Building.
- Stuart Kuhn: Mitigation report — Director Kuhn reported on conversations that had taken place regarding the Highpoint Communities mitigation project that Ross Yamaguchi had addressed during the public comment period. Specifically, the question is whether TEAM RCD has the capacity to take on the easement and long-term maintenance and management of a 30-acre parcel in the Temecula area. The developer feels the matter is urgent and is holding up the development. There was general discussion by the board of discussing the project at a special meeting.
- Pablo Bryant: Watershed clean-up — Director Bryant reported that he has received a funding pledge from Riverside Flood Control of \$5,000. He is now planning for a date in April that would complement Earth Day activities.
- Rose Corona: CARCD policy committee updates — Director Corona reported that there was no quorum at the policy committee meeting, so no action was taken.

VI. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Rae Shirer reported on the onboarding process for Kit Swift, procedures for payroll, and amounts spent to date.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None noted.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was adjourned.

Dated: _____

Teri Biancardi, President