



BOARD MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday July 13, 2021, at 6:00 pm

1. **Meeting called to order:** at 6:05 pm by David Barhydt
Directors present: Patti Kiehl, Robert Ingram, Jim Drew, Linda Miller, David Barhydt
Staff present: Anne Solik, Sabrina Nicholson
2. **Introductions:** Reed Hamilton was introduced.
3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** *Jim Drew moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Robert Ingram. Approved 5-0.*
4. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** Reed Hamilton moved here in 1983 with a background in farming corn and soybeans in Illinois as well as raising hogs, a career as a contractor, and owned a portable storage container business in Grass Valley. Started farming grain in the Valley in 2007 but lost his lease a couple of years ago.
5. **Correspondence/Articles:** Additional articles were e-mailed to the Board. Hard copies on the table included a letter from the County detailing Higgins Gas Station installation and a description of NRCS's new CIC program. This printout describes the eligible practices.
6. **President's Report:** Dave Barhydt reported the Farm Bureau picnic was warm, but everyone had a good time.
7. **Education/Outreach/Personnel/Scholarship Committee:** Linda Miller talked about the most recent Farm Day meeting and the game plan for using Yuba/Sutter's "Open" model for our next Farm Day. Debbie Totoonchie is checking with Scott Lay (County Superintendent of Schools) about his thoughts regarding school participation as students return to the classroom, as well as reaching out to teachers for a possible head count. Discussion about minimum number of classes for moving forward. Dave Barhydt expressed concern over FFA having enough time to pull this together, COVID-19 status in the fall, and added the notion of holding the event in the spring. Dave expressed wanting to have a deadline for a vote for a Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring & Fall 2022, or just a Fall 2022 event. Board decided on a September 1, 2021, deadline. Linda Miller offered to be on the lunch detail for the next Farm Day event.

Nevada Union High School is hiring a new Ag staff member because their enrollment is blooming. New staff will teach ag science and ag mechanics (hopefully).

As for the ranch school, they put gravel on the driveway and have been cleaning up the property and doing maintenance. Anticipate using the ranch school for future Farm Day events. And the Nevada Union School District Foundation has donated \$2,000 for both high school ag departments to make picnic tables for the ranch.

8. **NCRC D Activity Report:** A written report was included in the mailed Board packet. The report included a list of webinars and classes staff has taken and has planned. It was suggested that staff make an "Coming Up" section for classes and webinars on the Activity Report.

It was mentioned that California Native Plant Society said "good job" regarding our Invasive Weeds of Nevada County booklet. They also posted the .pdf of the booklet on their website.

Patti commented that a Home Hardening and Vegetation Management Fair was a good idea. She suggested partnering with Fire Safe Council and insurance companies. Sabrina listed proposed details of the event. Robert Ingram added that he felt that it was important to focus on the topic of the survivability of a fuel-dominated wildfire versus a wind dominated wildfire. Discussed UCCE video and demonstration of what happens in a wind driven event and choosing a date for the event. November 13th or the 20th was suggested, but options for a Spring event are still on the table. Patti talked about the idea of having a panel for information, questions, and answers.

Sabrina spoke with Julie Suzuki (our insurance broker) regarding lowering our health care costs. As Anne will switch to Medicare starting January 2022, it will save the district her portion of our health insurance bill. Sabrina requested the Board pay Anne's Medicare supplemental plans in lieu of medical coverage. Julie estimated Anne's supplemental plans to cost less than \$350 per month. Sabrina also talked about not changing our health plan unless we have a new employee, and all plans could be re-evaluated at that time.

Linda Miller asked if there was a report from the NID meeting or the Ag Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting. Sabrina mentioned there wasn't a planned AAC meeting for July. Sabrina reported on ideas taken from the NID meeting. Discussion ensued about the AAC meeting dates and the Ag Pass program.

9. **NRCS Activity Report:** No Report. Dave reported talking to Pam Hertzler who expressed that she still plans to return to the Grass Valley office after her current assignments finishes.

10. **Old Business:**

- A. Board discussion/final approval of businesses listed in 49er Farm Trail Map:** Discussion about which items to keep and which to remove. It was decided to remove all picnic areas and all breweries. ***Linda Miller moved to approve printing of 1,000 copies of the map. Second by Robert Ingram. Approved 5-0.***

11. **New Business:**

- A. Board discussion/selection of nominee for Nevada Local Agency Formation Commission's (LAFCo) Special Districts Board:** Discussion about candidates. ***Linda Miller moved to endorse Nancy Pierce for Special District Member of the Nevada County Local Agency Formation Commission. Second by Robert Ingram. Approved 3-0-2 with Robert Ingram and Patti Kiehl abstaining.***
- B. Board discussion/approval of new resolution authorizing our petty cash fund:** The County Auditor-Controller's Office has recently decided to enforce Government Code Sec 53952, which basically says petty cash warrants must be looked at by the County's General Accounting Department and checked against the approved balance stated in our resolution before approving the warrant. ***Jim Drew moved to approve a resolution detailing NCRC D petty cash requirements. Second by Linda Miller. Approved 5-0.***

C. Board discussion/possible action regarding approved holidays listed in the NCRCD's Personnel, Policies, & Procedures manual: Discussed adding Junteenth to list of approved holidays. No nominations for addition.

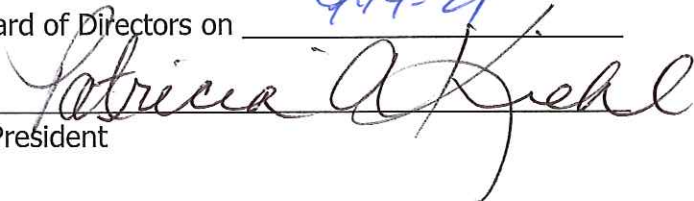
12. **Announcements:** Next board meeting – September 14th, 2021.

Regular Board meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Solik July 14, 2021.



Approved by Board of Directors on 9.14.21 _____



David Barhydt, President

