



**Central Sacramento Valley
Resource Conservation & Development Area Council**
P.O. Box 606 • 327 Fourth Street, Orland, CA 95963

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

(Items to be followed through with are in bold.)

Date: Monday, June 13, 2005

Time: Called to Order at 1:10 p.m. by Gary Freeman, President

Place: CSV RC&D Area Council Office

I. Roll Call

A. Council Members

Gary Freeman, President and Glenn County Supervisor
Christy Scofield, Vice President and Colusa County Supervisor
Mike Yalow, Secretary/Treasurer and Mayor of Orland
Ernie White, Tehama County RCD

B. Other Guests

Larry Akin, Program Coordinator, Central Sacramento Valley RC&D, NRCS
Kandi Manhart, Executive Assistant, Central Sacramento Valley RC&D

II. Posting of Meeting Agenda

Akin confirmed meeting notice was posted per Brown Act.

III. President's Report

▪ *National Affairs*

President Freeman reported the House passed an appropriation of \$51,360,000, which was an increase of \$132,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of \$25,760,000 above the budget request. The National Association of RC&D Councils (NARC&DC) collected over three feet high of RC&D support letters (or, over 5,000 letters).

▪ *Fall Conference*

President Freeman encouraged the Executive Committee to attend the Annual California Association of RC&D Councils (CARC&DC) Fall Conference on September 27, 28, 29, 2005. The conference will be held at the JW Marriott Resort & Spa - Desert Springs in Palm Desert, California. Scofield noted that Council members could travel together as it would be beneficial for everyone. It was recommended to travel down on the 26th. President Freeman discussed the tentative agenda noting the theme is water; it will incorporate a tour of the Salton Sea, Smart Growth perspectives, optimization of grey water utilization, and more. **Yalow asked if the new State water report will be a topic of discussion. President Freeman will inquire within.**

President Freeman noted the 2006 CARC&DC and Pacific Rim Regional Association of RC&D Councils fall conferences will be combined. The purpose is to save travel expenses and time for those who attend both. It will be held in the Yosemite-Sequoia RC&D area.

- *RC&D Funding*

President Freeman announced the Council will be receiving \$15,000 for FY 2006 operations; the CARC&DC will be receiving \$25,000.

IV. Ag/Nature Tourism Map Project, ending June 30, 2005

Akin noted the map is coming along and will be completed by June 30, 2005. It is an ag/nature based map only; however, will incorporate National Forest contact information. He said it will be broken into sections. The sections are: Agriculture Adventures, Cultural and Historic Sites, Family Fun, Ranch and Farm Stays, and Wildlife and Nature. The map will highlight seasons and major corridors in the RC&D area. Akin said it will be visualized as an orientation map, which will benefit those who want travel down a certain corridor and visit all the locations. He mentioned they have involved the Chamber of Commerce's for additional help in development; therefore their contact information will be on the map. The CSU, Chico students, who Debora Lucero volunteered, produced approximately \$21,000 in in-kind match. **Akin noted the final map will be approved by the US Forest Service at their request with 11,000 copies printed.** In support of the map, an online- directory will be created to provide additional information to tourists. It will contain information such as driving directions, hours of operations, Web site links, etc. Akin noted this portion will require an additional grant. Discussion occurred about the map becoming privately owned in the future.

V. agInnovator Update

Yalow reported that he, Manhart, and Rick Krepelka have had two meetings within the past two weeks to discuss the project. Their determination is the Web site needs to become more specific in nature [by topic - i.e. rice industry], and a "real" conference setting to make it viable and useful. Yalow noted the projects name should be changed to clarify its purpose and attractiveness. Input on the name is welcomed. He passed out a spreadsheet of outreach contacts.

VI. RC&D Biomass Strategic Meeting

Akin noted that NRCS has given the CARC&DC \$25,000 to coordinate a statewide meeting concerning biomass. The three day meeting will cover a variety of biomass topics and will be held in the winter of 2005.

VII. Council Employee Matters

President Freeman reported the employee review with Manhart went well; however, announced that Manhart will be looking for other employment. He said she explained it is not because she doesn't enjoy her position, but because the Council can not provide what she needs. Manhart confirmed that it was a very difficult decision; however, a decision that she had to make for personal reasons. She said it is indefinite as to when Manhart will leave the Council; however, she will give plenty of notice before the time comes. Scofield recommended the

Council **write a letter of recommendation for her search in a new job. The Council agreed in doing so.** Manhart thanked the Council for their support and understanding.

Discussion occurred concerning Manhart's hourly salary. It was decided to give her a \$1.50 per hour raise while she remains with the Council. Increase will begin on June 20, 2005. Manhart gave her appreciation.

XIII. Other Business

Yalow presented the budget report to date. He noted some areas exceed the budget amount, while some do not. A revised budget will have to be approved. They are working on putting the financial records into QuickBooks for non-profits. It will consist of fund accounting methods; therefore, the program will track the budget for each grant, not the deliverables themselves. **The Council agreed if Yalow needs to hire a consultant to help the transfer, it would be beneficial in the long run. Akin mentioned, if there were to be expenses paid out for consulting then the budget will have to be amended.** He said it is an easy process. Yalow suggested the Council take 15% out of each grant for overhead costs, leaving administration costs separate. Akin noted at least 10% would be beneficial.

Akin reported that Ed Burton is the new State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Also, the US Forest Service Economic Recovery proposals should be awarded and announced by next week.

President Freeman noted the OMB gave a negative report on the RC&D program. The NARC&DC produced a report on NRCS as well. Reports have yet to be seen.

President Freeman asked Manhart if there was a link on www.aginnovators.com to the four counties. Manhart confirmed there is.

Akin noted Bill Burrows talked to Sheila Hurst, Great Valley Center, about combining ag/nature efforts to obtain a joint grant, and most of all, to consolidate time and money of organizations. A meeting will occur soon.

Yalow regretfully announced that he may be resigning from the RC&D in the next month or two due to personal reasons.

XIV. Adjourned

Meeting adjourned by President Freeman at 2:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Kandi Manhart, Executive Assistant