



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

MINUTES

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

Date: Monday, January 10, 2005

Time: Called to Order at 1:00 p.m. by Gary Freeman, President

Place: CSV RC&D Area Council Office

I. Roll Call/Introductions

A. Council Members

Gary Freeman, President and Glenn County Supervisor
Mike Yalow, Secretary/Treasurer and Mayor of Orland
Christy Scofield, Vice President and Colusa County Supervisor
Ernie White, Tehama County RCD
Ron Warner, Mayor of Tehama, Tehama County Board of Supervisors
Mike Landini, Glenn County RCD
Gilbert Ramos, Colusa County RCD

B. Members Absent

Claudia Martin, Business Resource Specialist, Tehama Local Development Corp.
Peter Jukusky, Colusa EDC
D.C. Jones, Butte County RCD

C. Other Guests

Linden Brooks, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, NRCS
Andrea Casey, Colusa County, District Conservationist, NRCS
Hue Dang, Butte County, District Conservationist, NRCS
David Rose, Glenn County, District Conservationist, NRCS
Keith Hansen, Glenn County Supervisor
Russell Plumb, Soil Conservationist Intern, NRCS
Debra Lucero, Contractor, Tourism
Jaime Lely, Landowner
Rick Krepelka, President/CEO, Innovative Business Technologies Group
Larry Akin, Program Coordinator, Central Sacramento Valley RC&D
Kandi Manhart, Executive Assistant, Central Sacramento Valley RC&D

II. Posting of Meeting Agenda

Akin confirmed meeting notice was posted per Brown Act.

III. Approval of December 13, 2004 Minutes

President Freeman noted a correction on page two of the minutes under Approval of Invoice Payments. The motion regarding payment of the Councils lunch should

read: Jukusky moved to approve the two invoices, totaling \$60.27, which will be paid from Council funds. Yalow moved to approve the minutes as amended. Yalow seconded. Approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of Invoices for Payments

None. Yalow noted that the FACTS invoice of \$10,250 is still pending; however, will come out of the Forest Service Ag/Nature Tourism grant of \$30,000.

V. Council Member Reports

Yalow reported the trip to attend a holistic facilitation in Oregon was cancelled due to weather; however, they are hoping to schedule another trip the end of January. The trip is designed to engage agInnovators in the concept of holistic facilitation.

VI. Partner Introductions and Reports/Comments

Rose reported that the EQUIP sign-up deadline for Glenn County is January 28, 2005. He noted that if applications are not received by the deadline, applicants must wait until the next cycle which is eight years. He said the program is receiving about the same amount of funding (\$1.2 million). Also, Glenn County has received funds already and is ready to distribute to those applicable. Rose noted that he is acting for Lin Brooks in Area 1 as the "head" of the Conservation Security Program. They are waiting for dates to start the program.

Casey reported that their EQUIP sign-ups closed on December 15, 2004. Also, that assessment books for the Conservation Security Program are available.

Lucero reported that she has and is part of the Butte County Cultural Tourism. It was developed four years ago. She is also involved with the Butte County Economic Development Center and is extremely active in tourism in Butte County. She feels that partnering with multi-counties is essential in developing tourism in this area.

VII. Proposals for Grants

Akin presented the RFP that was distributed by the California Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (CARC&DC). He briefly discussed its scope and said the projects must directly benefit air, water, and/or soil, and involve outreach to the underserved concerning NRCS programs. The deadline for submittal is January 28, 2005 and will be evaluated in Davis, California at the State building. A single project can apply for \$10,000; however, multiple projects may be submitted by the Council. Akin noted a good example would be developing an educational mechanism to help Hmong farmers develop an efficient irrigation method. He also mentioned that the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) will also be distributing an RFP.

Dang is interested in pursuing the Hmong project; however, she will need to discuss it with the District Manager first.

Yalow suggested the agInnovators group apply. Krepelka noted that an outreach project to the RC&D's would directly tie into the design of the website. It would be a way to communicate daily, on topics of an individual's interest, in their particular RC&D area. Yalow noted the agInnovators also have another project plan. It is to

partner with Rose and his efforts in the Conservation Security Program. **Manhart will draft a response and distribute for editing and approval.**

President Freeman suggested the CSV RC&D partnering with Yosemite-Sequoia RC&D in the agInnovator project. Akin said that could be a possibility. The partnering would be contractual between the RC&D's.

White moved the Council submit an RFP response from the agInnovators to the CARC&DC. Scofield seconded. Approved unanimously.

The Council discussed the possibility of other projects submitting a response. They agreed that at this short notice and due to their purpose, as long as it meets the criteria it may be submitted.

Akin also mentioned to the Council that a grant opportunity has arisen for a Biomass Research and Development Initiative, USDA. He asked the Council if they may have an interest since it ties in with a past project. The grant ranges from \$200,000 - \$2 million. **He noted that he has begun development of a biomass grant already; however, needs expertise in the field to help finish it if the Council decides to apply for it. The Council agreed that it must be economically feasible for it to work, and they will look at the possibility at the workshop meeting on January 24th.** Landini noted that Greg Massa has volunteered to be involved with any biomass projects.

Landini presented the Council two letters from the Glenn County RCD requesting grant searches. President Freeman noted that the letter concerning 4-H would most likely have to be project specific. However, he will check into it. Scofield noted that all 4-H programs are in need; therefore, should all be considered in the search. Concern was raised about project proposal policy. **The letter concerning biomass will tie in directly with Akin's suggestion; therefore, will be discussed at the workshop meeting.**

Ramos asked about the grant search for Colusa RCD concerning the project in the Sites – Maxwell area entailing building a dam structure in a riparian area. **Akin and Casey informed the Council they will meet in order to discuss it.**

President Freeman mentioned that it is time for the Council to adopt a project proposal plan. It will be discussed at the workshop meeting. He also noted that at the time of adoption Sponsorship Dues will aid in the decision making.

VIII. President's Report

President Freeman reminded the Council of the workshop meeting on January 24, 2005. It will be held at the Kountry Kitchen in Orland from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He said it is extremely important for all Council members to attend. More information will be distributed closer to the date; however, the main objective is to revise the plans, establish a grant procurement process, and discuss other Council issues. Akin noted that Community meetings will be held after this workshop for a larger community involvement. Akin and the Council confirmed that it would be

beneficial to invite District Conservationists and other partners to the planning meeting.

President Freeman announced that the CARC&DC - Spring Legislative Conference will be on April 27, 28, and 29, 2005. It will be held in Sacramento, California. He suggested everyone put it in their calendars because the State Association may offer scholarships again. Also, the Council has set money aside for Council members to attend.

IX. Coordinator's Report

Akin suggested the Council start thinking about the new USFS Ag/Nature Tourism grant to make the map. He noted the deadline as June 2005. He suggested the Council set up a committee to discuss in further detail. Lucero volunteered to chair the committee. She asked Akin if he had been in contact with Jaime Johansen of Butte County. Akin said yes and that Johansen is cooperating in providing him the Farm Bureaus map information. He also noted that previous information gathered through the last USFS Ag/Nature Tourism grant and agInnovators will be used.

President Freeman reinforced that Council members need to keep track of their volunteer time for match. Manhart said she has updated the Volunteer Form with the new grants and it can be accessed on the website or contacting the office.

Akins gave a brief introductory of the USFS Ag/Nature Tourism grant and the contract with FACTS to produce Ag/Nature Tourism workshops. He said the Council did receive the materials; however, since they are not editable they are not acceptable. Yalow confirmed that the CD Rom is not acceptable since it is un-editable in its format. He suggested the Council contact them for a Word™ version and obtain the password for the PDF files. Akin asked the Council how they would like to address the problem. The Council agreed that payment should not be made until FACTS provides what they promised in the contract and over the phone. **A registered letter will be sent immediately in regards to the issue.** Warner moved to deny payment of the final, FACTS invoice until they provide an acceptable, editable version of the materials in Word™ format. White seconded. Approved unanimously.

X. Finance Report

Yalow reported the finances have remained the same since the December 13, 2004 meeting.

XI. Other Business/Unscheduled Matters

REMINDER: COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2004
9:30 AM TO 4:30 PM
KOUNTRY KITCHEN, ORLAND, CA

It's Important to Attend!

XII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned by President Freeman at 3:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Kandi Manhart, Executive Assistant