



**CENTRAL SACRAMENTO VALLEY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA COUNCIL
P.O. Box 606 • 327 Fourth Street, Orland, CA 95963**

MINUTES

Date: Monday, March 8, 2004

Time: Called to Order at 9:07 a.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, Treasurer and Mayor of Orland
Ernie White, Tehama County RCD
Peter Jukusky, Colusa EDC
Claudia Martin, Business Resource Specialist, Tehama Local Development Corp.

B. Members Absent

Margie Sawyer, Glenn County RCD
Ross Turner, Tehama County Board of Supervisors
Gary Evans, Colusa County RCD

C. Other Guests

Lin Brooks, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations
Ed Chombeau, Butte County RCD
Barbara Patton-Sichel, Olive Industry
David Rose, District Conservationist, Glenn County
Steve Smith, District Conservationist, Colusa County
Bill Burrows, Sunflower CRMP
Larry Akin, RC&D 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 January 12, 2004 Meeting Minutes

White moved to approve the minutes with presented corrections. Scofield seconded. Approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of Recommended Invoice Payments

Yalow presented one outstanding invoice for Driver Alliant in the amount of \$1,121.25. Scofield moved to approve the payment to Driver Alliant Insurance Services in the amount of \$1,121.25, including the pro-rated amount not to exceed \$700.00. White seconded. Approved unanimously.

Manhart asked if she should continue the process of obtaining bond insurance through State Farm. The Council replied no, because Driver Alliant Insurance includes the coverage.

V. Partner Introductions and Reports

Rose noted that they received 101 EQUIP applications this year, an increase of five times the previous year. A significant portion of the applications were from olive growers. White noted that Tehama County received approximately 80 applications. Rose mentioned that EQUIP helps the grower of Ag land to provide an environmentally sound program; commercial land is not applicable for the program. Rose commented that the funding has increased from \$42 million to \$60 million for the State of California.

Brooks noted that almost the entire budget for the area is in place; the missing piece is the Emergency Watershed Program. Congressman Jerry Lewis sponsored legislation and changed the language of the Emergency Watershed Program. The language changed to helping situations after-the-fact and allows for an earmark of \$150 million for the three to five year program, \$120 million to be used for the remaining area that is not burnt. The proposed changes did pass. He suggested that the RC&D's help participate in the distribution of wood that comes from the clean-up. Brooks also mentioned that another Soil Conservationist for Butte County will be hired. A new Engineer in the area will also be hired within a month and a half. There is still a need for a coordinator for the North Coast RC&D. Efforts are being made for Humboldt and Del Norte Counties to join Trinity RC&D.

President Freeman noted that the CSV RC&D needs to set a time to discuss the Farm Bill and deliverables.

VI. Acceptance of Grant Response to Develop Ag/Nature Workshops from Farm and Agriculture Collaborative Training Systems

President Freeman noted that an RFP was distributed and the RC&D received two responses; the two were FACTS and Pacific Advantage Consultants. He and the Executive Committee recommend the use of FACTS. The end date for the project is in July 2004 and the end date for the grant is at the end of September 2004. Martin moved to accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee to award the bid to FACTS for the scope of work presented. White seconded. Approved unanimously.

VII. Sunflower Coordinated Resource Management Plan, Presentation by Bill Burrows

Burrows talked about Sunflower CRMP which covers 40,000 acres, south of Cottonwood Creek in the Tehama County area. CRMP is a landowner driven process that was passed by the legislation in the early 1970's. The mission of the Sunflower CRMP is to enhance 40,000 acres of chaparral belt land and associated areas in order to make the area more productive and safe for the social, financial, and environmental needs of the temporary stewards of the land. Burrows proceeded to talk in further detail of the CRMP activities and their reasoning for existence. He stressed that partnerships are key in being successful and he thinks the RC&D is a prime key in accomplishing the same goals. He noted that there could be ag/nature tourism possibilities if they coordinate together. Jukusky moved to approve writing a resolution in support of the Sunflower CRMP. White seconded. Approved unanimously.

Burrows invited the Council to the May 1, 2004 Stewardship Day and will send an agenda for distribution.

VIII. Working with Native Americans, Presentation by Reina Rogers

Rogers was unable to attend however Akin gave a short report. Akin noted he has a meeting scheduled with the President of the Northern California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He also said that Rogers is creating a binder for each RC&D that will contain tribe information for that particular area. Rogers said that if you invite one tribe you must invite them all; they can then choose to become a voting member or non-voting member. Brooks noted that Cortina Tribe from Williams, CA is interested in the RC&D. Yalow mentioned that Vicky Shidely, Northern Valley Indian Health, said she wouldn't mind coming to an RC&D meeting to talk about the tribes and her connections. Smith volunteered to personally invite the Cortina Tribe to the next meeting since he has a meeting scheduled with them already. The Council thought it would be a great idea to invite them. President Freeman discussed the motivation of having the tribes become involved; motivations are helping to assist with their projects, ensuring they are good stewards of the land, they bring talents and thought to the RC&D, etc. Akin mentioned the Cortina Tribe has previously invited the RC&D Council to a basket weaving workshop.

IX. Insights into Butte County Tourism Opportunities by Debra Lucero

Akin noted that Lucero, who volunteered to be on the Butte County Steering Committee, was unable to attend and will try to reschedule her for next Council meeting.

X. Finance Committee Report

Yalow presented the financial records. He mentioned that there is a need to set-up another account for the Rural Roads Erosion Abatement. It was noted that USDF will be corrected to USFS. Akin mentioned that he has started a spreadsheet to allocate spending to the appropriate grant. Scofield moved to accept the financial reports. White seconded. Approved unanimously.

XI. President's Report

President Freeman reported that the new Glenn County Assistant Ag Commissioner is Mark Black.

He re-invited the Council to attend the CARC&DC Spring Legislative Conference on April 28, 29, and 30th. Brochures were handed out. President Freeman reaffirmed that promotion of the RC&D's helps to continue funding and support. Full funding of \$72 million is requested for the year 2005. Yalow requested that any Council Member interested in attending, please let him know so he can budget the costs.

President Freeman also mentioned that he attended the National Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. The trip was successful.

The State project of outreach and trying to pull education materials together from the lessons learned in Southern California are on their way; President Freeman commented that money may be coming to the Councils for the Outreach project and he and Akin are putting together an RFP for the forest education project to get that project off the ground.

XII. Project Coordinator's Report

Akin mentioned that there will be three outstanding presentations by coordinators at the Spring Legislative Conference. He will be supporting the Ag/Nature Tourism presentation given by Jeff Rodriguez, Central Coast RC&D.

Akin presented a sample letter that was sent to Chamber of Commerce's within the area, along with new Binder inserts, and his report (see report).

There are numerous grant opportunities for the Olive Fruit Fly, some are PG&E, James G. Boswell Foundation, GAG Charitale Corporation, and North Valley Community Foundation. Rose noted that the Butte County Ag Commissioner has submitted a grant proposal for olive tree removal.

The Ag/Nature Tourism project is coming along nicely, the big push right now is developing materials and workshops. He has met with the Small Development Center in Butte County and in Marysville. The downfall with working with them is that they are not Ag oriented. The steering committee's are primarily formed, Yalow volunteered to be chair for Glenn County; however, Colusa County is in need of members.

As far as the Rural Roads Erosion Abatement grant, there will be two days in the spring (end of April) in which workshops will be held.

Akin noted he gave a presentation to the Madera RAC.

Akin mentioned that he discussed the different options the Council had towards payroll services. He noted the Executive Committee favored Bretney-Sutterfield in Corning, CA. White moved to accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee's to start utilizing Bretney-Sutterfield, Corning, CA for the new payroll service. Yalow seconded. Approved unanimously. Yalow and Manhart will meet with the representative from Bretney-Sutterfield. Scofield suggested that the Employee Policy Handbook be placed on the next agenda.

The Butte County Annexation application is being processed and should be hearing from them soon.

Akin asked for CARC&DC Fall Conference location suggestions. Kinocti and Woodleaf were suggested.

Akin suggested the Council subscribe to Capital Press. This item will be placed on the next Executive Committee agenda.

The October Executive Committee meeting is yet to be scheduled. Akin asked for possible dates. Scofield recommended the meeting date be scheduled during the Fall Conference or canceled all together. A conference call is always another way to hold the meeting. Meeting dates and times will be placed on the next Full Council agenda.

XIII. Other Business / Unscheduled Matters

Concern was made by the Council because Sawyer and Evans have not been attending the RC&D meetings.

The newsletter will be sent out in March. The potential "profile" is the Sierra Nevada Cheese Company.

Manhart presented hosting options for the web site. She was given authorization by the Council to go forward with the process. Grant monies will be used.

Akin noted the Council should start paying for postage because it is not the responsibility of NRCS.

The Council has yet to receive the credit card. Yalow will look into it.

Yalow attended the Slow Foods meeting and he made many contacts. He also mentioned that they may be interested in having a representative on the Council.

XIII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned by Freeman at 12:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Kandi Manhart, Executive Assistant