



**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, May 9, 2005

Time: Called to Order at 1:07 p.m. by Gary Freeman, President

Place: Colusa County Business & Visitor Center
2963 Davison Court
Colusa, CA 95932
(530) 458-5955

I. Roll Call/Introductions

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
Peter Jukusky, Colusa County EDC
Gilbert Ramos, Colusa County RCD
Ron Warner, Mayor of Tehama, Tehama County Supervisor

B. Members Absent

Mike Landini, Glenn County RCD
Claudia Martin, Business Resource Specialist Tehama Local Development Corp.
D.C. Jones, Butte County RCD

C. Other Guests

Thomas Bowers, CEO, Colusa Biomass Energy Corporation
Bill Waite, Colusa County Supervisor
Cale Kelly, Sutter County
Ernst Paschke, District Conservationist, NRCS, Sutter County
Reina Rogers, American Indian Liaison, NRCS
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 March 14, 2005 Council Meeting Minutes & April 11, 2005
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Yalow moved to approve the March 14, 2005 minutes with the correction of Maurice Penna's name. White seconded. Approved unanimously.

White moved to approve the April 11, 2005 minutes as presented. Scofield seconded. Approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of Invoices for Payment

Yalow presented the following invoices for payment and noted they are in the budget:

1. State Fund	\$502.44
2. CARC&DC conference registration	\$195.00
3. EDD	\$261.27
4. Quickbooks (Mike Yalow)	\$396.81
5. Mike Yalow (CARC&DC conference)	\$175.77
6. Secretary of State	\$20.00

White moved to approve the presented invoices. Scofield seconded. Approved unanimously.

Yalow noted an invoice from Digitalpath will be coming and asked the Council for approval to pay the invoice. Scofield moved to pay the Digitalpath invoice upon receipt. White seconded.

It was also mentioned that the Council could benefit from owning a san disk. It was agreed the Council would for backup and large file transfer purposes.

V. Public Comment

Jukusky welcomed the Council and guests to the new Colusa County Business & Visitor Center. He gave a brief history of the building and invited everyone to the 2nd Annual B-B-Q Lunch on July 15, 2005.

Bowers discussed his involvement with the Colusa County Biomass Energy Corporation. He provided a handout. The company was formed in 2003 expressly to develop markets for products produced, refined or derived from waste rice straw. Their patent covers the processes which convert waste rice straw to ethanol, lignin fuels, and silica/sodium oxide. When built the company estimates they will produce 44 on site jobs and 16 to 19 indirect jobs. Bowers asked if the Council would be willing to help support the project. The Council is willing.

Paschke and Kelly expressed interest in Sutter County joining the Council area. The Council thought the County would fit nicely in the area. Akin noted the East side of Lake County also expressed interest recently and said it would be more convenient to have one annexation letter. **He suggested the Council develop a fact sheet stating the logical reasons for each area to join.** Paschke and Kelly invited President Freeman and Akin to the next County Board Meeting, June 6th. Yalow moved to add this topic as an emergency action item to the agenda, before VIII. President's Report and Comments, due to immediate timelines. Warner seconded. Approved unanimously.

VI. Partner Introductions and Reports

Rogers gave a PowerPoint presentation on Tribal Nations (on file at the CSV RC&D office). She discussed the proper ways to contact and do business with the local tribes. Rogers volunteered to help in creating a relationship between the

RC&D and tribes in the area. She noted that Glenda Nelson is the new Enterprise Rancheria Chairperson.

VII. Adopt CSV RC&D Project Proposal Submission Form

Akin mentioned the form has been created and in draft form until approval of the Council. He noted the number of jobs a project creates is becoming more important in grant reporting and this is one way to help define that in an application. The Council thought it looked good; however, expressed concern for page 3. The information should be more general and incorporate the Council Area and Annual plan objectives. Jukusky moved to approve the Project Proposal Submission Form, with revisions to page 3. Yalow seconded. Approved unanimously.

VIII. Annexation of Sutter County

Yalow moved the Council give direction for President Freeman and Akin to present at the Sutter County Board of Supervisors meeting to encourage annexation into the RC&D area. White seconded. Approved unanimously.

Akin noted the County does not necessarily have to be a member for Sutter County to be part of the CSV RC&D area, however, it is encouraged. Others in Sutter County that can become members are RCDs, EDCs, entrepreneurs, organizations, etc. **He also noted he would like to form a drafting team with interested parties from Sutter County.**

IX. President's Report and Comments

President Freeman noted the CARC&DC Spring Legislative Conference was a success with many good comments. He mentioned that Trinity RC&D will be annexing other counties as well. Also at the conference, the Association was given the final strategic plan for the State. The Council will be receiving a CD of the plan. A copy of Building Better Rural places will also be coming from Gerald Willis, Assistant to the Chief, NRCS.

He encouraged Council members to attend the CARC&DC Annual Fall Conference in the Palm Springs area. The dates are September 28, 29, 30, 2005. The theme is water, Salten Sea, Smart Growth, invasive species.

President Freeman also noted the Pac Rim conference will be the last week in October, in Hilo, Hawaii.

Lastly, he passed around a Success Stories booklet of the RC&Ds in California. It was developed by NRCS and will be continually updated.

X. Program Coordinator's Report

Akin mentioned the Council submitted three out of four grants to the Forest Service for the Economic Recovery Program call for proposals. Lack of information and time was the result for the one not submitted. Yalow asked about the ag/nature tourism map grant to put it on the internet. Akin said it was also not submitted from a result of lack of time.

Akin said the Forest Service map grant is progressing. He noted the map might not be in the detail as planned due to the large land area. Deborah Lucero has her class helping with the phone calls; however, is receiving a lot of hang-ups. Production is still scheduled for June 2005.

Carolyn Ruttan, Eastern Lake County RCD has contacted him with interest to join the Council. Akin noted the County must first be part of the RC&D area.

Akin handed out the Thomas M. Bonnicksen CD, "Solving the Wildfire Crisis – Learning from History", from the CARC&DC Annual Fall Conference 2004. Additional copies can be obtained by visiting www.calforestfoundation.org.

Akin noted he received an email from Dan Macon, High Sierra RC&D, requesting a letter of support for a project proposal. The Council agreed it would be appropriate for Akin to submit a letter.

Akin mentioned the RC&Ds may take part in a statewide strategic plan for Biomass. He will be contacting Jim Kocsis, Assistant State Conservationist, NRCS, for further details.

Akin said he is still progressing with the ag/nature tourism workshops in Tehama County. However, the Council needs PageMaker to edit the document. The Council is unsure on how they will pay for it.

He also noted the sponsorship letters and invoices are drafted and will be sent out immediately.

Lastly, GSA will not allow water to be purchased for the office anymore. **He noted the Council should think about what they want to do.**

XI. agInnovators Grant

Yalow noted they will be **outreaching to groups in order to expose the project to more people. They may also be outreaching outside of the four county area.** He noted there may be a time to collect fees to use the site and asked Akin if that could be accomplished legally. Akin replied that he could write a letter with explanations. Yalow noted additional funding will be applied for. He would like to see the ag/nature map in an internet ready form to host on the Web site as well as the Councils. Modifications are still occurring on the Web site. The group would like to see a secure location, with password, be added to its capabilities.

XII. Financial Report

Yalow also noted the budget will have to be revisited as there are items not being spent and others being overspent. **The Committee will revise the budget according to the Council's need and incorporate those changes in FY 2006.** The Council will also be switching over to QuickBooks Pro shortly and they will be closing out all old grants.

Discussion occurred on grants and their deliverables. **Akin, Yalow and Manhart will meet to discuss in further detail.**

XIII. Other Business/Unscheduled Matters

President Freeman handed out Volunteer Time Tracking Forms and asked the Council Members to please fill it out monthly. He stressed the importance of keeping track of volunteer time for match purposes. Manhart noted the form is on www.csvrcandd.com in Excel format.

Yalow expressed his concern of the Council. He thinks the Council is not excelling as fast as it could be; however, understands the Council is also housing the State Association. He is also concerned of the financial status if the Council is not housing the State Association come Fall 2006 (Association Elections).

XIV. Adjourn General Meeting

Meeting adjourned by President Freeman at 4:29 p.m.

Closed Session: Personnel Performance Review

Respectively submitted,

Kandi Manhart, Executive Assistant