

Monthly Report - February 2025

This February I've been able to start implementing a lot of the preparatory work that I did last month. I created two social media accounts for TEAMRCD and have begun posting information on each site for a WETA workshop and the Menifee Wildlife appreciation day.

I've started working directly with Keir Thomas on the NRCS application assistance that is outlined in the grant that funds my position. We had a few preparatory calls where Keir had me prepare by reading some literature and researching local partners for the work he does. Then we met in person to go over the general procedure for the NRCS technical assistance application. The application itself takes nearly an hour of constant work and reading to fill out, so Keir had me focus on what is needed where and making sure I understood every field so I can explain it to a producer. With Keir, we then went on a field visit to a ranch near Lake Riverside to assess the area and find places that the NRCS can provide funding or technical assistance. The field visit consisted of walking the ranch with the producer and filling out a Conservation Planning Checklist. Once we were done on the property, Keir and I met on zoom and discussed the checklist, and I learned how to research the specific information he needs on the Conservation Planning Checklist.

Lance Andersen and I have been working to potentially apply for the NACD's Urban and Community Agricultural implementation grant. The grant due date is currently unknown as the NACD has paused applications. Mt. San Jacinto College has acquired a large grant to develop an agricultural teaching farm and is hoping Lance and TEAM can use the UAC grant to turn a 78 acre plot they own into something that can be used for their program. Lance and I have been brainstorming the budget for the grant as well as possible uses TEAM might have for the area. I will be working with him on preparing the application materials for when it opens once again, I will have more information at the next meeting.

For social media, I have set up a Facebook and Instagram account for TEAMRCD. Our instagram username is "Temecula_rcd" and we've already gained

nearly 30-40 followers, a combination of other RCD's and members of the public. I have also created a Facebook page specifically for TEAM, and have joined some bulletin board groups on which I can post fliers for events. I have also created some QR codes for people to easily follow us when at tabling events, like the Menifee wildlife Appreciation day. From what I can tell, the social media can be kept to a small amount of time, a post during an event, or a post advertising a workshop that I'm already sending to other groups. I think keeping the Instagram more focused on the Community aspect of TEAM and using our Facebook for producer related information might be a good way to make a bigger name for ourselves in those communities.

This month I've also started attending the CARCD District manager meetings on Friday mornings and have been added to the District Manager listserv so I can better get an idea of the state of RCD's across the state. At the time of the Board meeting I will have attended two small Winegrowers meetings and advertised an upcoming WETA workshop at the most recent one. I have been traveling to farmers markets in the area to connect with producers and hand out fliers for the upcoming WETA workshop and general WETA advertising.

This month I have also spent some time researching possible ways that TEAM can better help and interact with new producers. Providing them with resources, or information about agricultural and conservation easements, matching them with current producers, finding grants that we can help them apply for, learning more about the NRCS grants so I can help Keir get new customers in our area. I want TEAM to be one of the first groups new producers connect with and can depend on to provide aid and information.

Finally I have done a lot of preparation for the Menifee Wildlife appreciation day which I will be attending the Saturday before the districts board meeting. While preparing for this, I have prepared a lot of fliers and other materials for use of future tabling events, like at Earth day or whatever we can find. I have been wanting to interact more with the community and spread our mission in both residential and agriculture aspects, so I will be spending time this upcoming month making a plan for better community outreach.

