

MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District Regular Board Meeting Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 4:00 PM

I. PRELIMINARY FUNCTIONS

Call to Order – 4:00 p.m. Meeting recorded by Zoom

Roll Call/Establish a Quorum

Directors Present: Teri Biancardi, President; Pablo Bryant, Vice President; Newt Parkes, Secretary; Rose Corona, Director; Stuart Kuhn, Director

Directors Absent: None

Public Guests: Curtis Tarver (NCRS) via Zoom, Keir Thomas (NCRS) via Zoom.

Approval of Agenda – Director Bryant moved to approve the agenda; Director Kuhn seconded. Upon voice vote, the agenda was approved unanimously.

Public comment – None.

II. Omitted on Agenda

III. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Director Corona requested that the May and June 2024 minutes be pulled from the consent calendar but was advised that May had been approved and was not before the board. The June minutes were pulled for further discussion.

Director Kuhn moved, and Director Bryant seconded to approve for current bills and reimbursements including:

- a) Bills paid
- b) Bills to be paid or reimbursement
- c) Accounts Receivable

Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The board next discussed the June 13, 2024, minutes. There was a great deal of discussion regarding the section reporting on legal correspondence. Following discussion, Director Bryant moved, and Director Parkes seconded, to approve the June 13, 2024, minutes as presented. Upon voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Subject: NRCS Cooperative Agreement

Background: TEAMRCD's existing projects can and have supported the work of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). In circumstances where RCDs support NRCS, Cooperative Agreements can be beneficial to both parties. The Board is asked to consider moving forward with a formal application to NRCS.

Curtis Tarver and Keir Thomas joined the board for a discussion of the parameters of the proposed agreement. President Biancardi laid out her thoughts regarding TEAM RCD staffing under the agreement to conduct needs assessments and resource inventories. Staff would make contact with farmers and conduct workshops, forwarding information regarding the farmers' needs to NCRS to explore future funding for them.

Director Corona asked several questions relating to the interaction of E-qip funds and NCRS funding and the process for qualifying and certifying technical service providers for irrigation evaluations and pump efficiency testing. Director Corona asked for more clarity regarding the proposed budget and the NCRS team responded that after the agreement is signed, a "final budget" would need to be prepared by TEAM RCD for NCRS review in Washington DC. Director Corona also specifically requested that the Agreement, before being signed, include language that any supplies, property or equipment purchased or developed with the grant funding be deemed the property of TEAM RCD alone and not its subcontractors or employees or NCRS.

Following discussion, Director Corona moved, and Director Parkes seconded:

That the board approve the proposed statement of work and budget for the NRC Cooperative Agreement with the changes that were discussed, and that President Biancardi will add in the amount of \$75,000 for one year and authorize Teri Biancardi to submit the full application form to the NRCS.

Upon voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

B. Subject: Election of Officer- President

Background: As a result of a tie vote in June, this item was tabled to July.

Director Bryant nominated Teri Biancardi to serve as President for fiscal year 2024-2025. Director Parkes nominated Rose Corona to serve as President for fiscal year 2024-2025. Each candidate delivered a brief statement of qualifications.

Teri Biancardi was selected:

For Biancardi

For Corona

Biancardi
Bryant
Kuhn

Corona
Parkes

C. Subject: Fiscal year 2024 -2025 budget

The board discussed the draft budget and President Biancardi pointed out that some items could not be pinpointed until more information was available, including the additional projects being discussed with Riverside Flood Control and the costs of the new LSA agreement. Director Parkes questioned the classification of WETA grant funds as “restricted”. Director Parkes moved, and Director Bryant seconded, that the budget be approved, as revised to classify WETA funds as “unrestricted”. Upon voice vote, the revised budget was approved unanimously.

D. Subject: TEAMRCD’s Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSA)

Background: TEAMRCD’s LSA is set to expire on July 15, 2024. The amended version incorporates new activities and project application processes.

President Biancardi reported that the new agreement is now in review with the State but that the existing agreement will soon lapse. She requested that she be authorized to sign the LSA when it is approved by the State, as TEAM RCD might not meet again before the existing LSA lapses.

Following discussion, Director Parkes moved, and Director Bryant seconded, that President Biancardi be granted the discretion to review the final LSA presented to her by the State and, if she finds there are no material changes to the draft presented to the board, that she be authorized to sign the Agreement.

Upon voice vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

E. Subject: Community Wildfire Resilience

Background: TEAMRCD is due to hold another Wildfire Resilience meeting. The previously chosen July date was inconvenient for invitees.

The board discussed holding a special meeting for further Wildfire discussion on August 22, 2024. Discussion centered around whether it was necessary to conduct a special meeting where no board action was being requested or contemplated. Following discussion, Director Kuhn moved, and Director Bryant seconded, that the board hold a special meeting on August 22, 2024, at Supervisor Chuck Washington’s district office for the purpose of discussing Wildfire Resilience. Upon voice vote, the motion was approved, with Director Corona voting no..

F. Subject: Business plan for Cultivating Inclusion

Background: Cultivating Inclusion's and TEAMRCD's selection of company for producing the business proposal continued working on the plan despite not having a contract. The business plan is now complete.

President Biancardi discussed the draft document in the Directors' Packet, and requested that the board approve payment of \$2,450 preparation of the document. Director Parkes noted that TEAM RCD never did sign a contract for services. Director Corona noted that the presented document was not a business plan, but a summary of consulting work completed to date. Director Corona provided a document she pulled from the internet listing the elements of a business plan. President Biancardi stated that would present those elements to Integrative Development and get back to the board regarding completing the business plan before October 31st.

G. Subject: August regular meeting

Upon motion made by Director Corona, seconded by Director Bryant, the board voted unanimously to "go dark" during the month of August and not hold an August regular meeting.

H. Subject: Adding items to the TEAMRCD website.

Background: Director Rose Corona has been recording District meetings and having them transcribed. They have not been reviewed for accuracy or approved by a certified transcriptionist. Director Corona is asking that the transcripts and audio be added to the TEAMRCD website. Currently, TEAM RCD Policy No. 21001.1 requires a copy of the minutes from the prior hearing to be generated, as opposed to a transcript, and those minutes voted upon at the next subsequent hearing. The policy also requires that an audio tape recording of regular and special meetings be made and stored in an appropriate vault or cabinet. Those recordings only need to be kept, per the policy, for 60 days.

The board discussed the retention policy and posting of meeting audio and transcripts. Issues discussed included ensuring full compliance with ADA for items posted on the District website, the need for as much transparency to the public as can be managed, and the time involved for one or more directors to review, transcribe and edit. Director Kuhn discussed several tech alternatives. Following discussion, the matter was tabled for a future meeting.

V. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- Teri Biancardi: Strategic planning, Chris Gray will attend September board meeting; Annual RCD meeting, waiting on date confirmation; SAWA has renewed Brian Brady's contract; Teri Biancardi
- Homeless report: Newt Parkes – no homeless reports, but Director Parkes did attend a meeting of the Lake Elsinore Homeless Task Force regarding their efforts there.

- Microsoft features: Stuart Kuhn led a discussion of what is available and how we might be able reduce electronic storage costs and increase efficiency.

VI. MANAGEMENT REPORT: Rae Shirer

- Records management progress – cataloging continues, with updates to the electronic inventory.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Director Corona requested that the WETA grant be scheduled for a detailed discussion at the next board meeting.

VIII: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, upon motion duly made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:42 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: September 12, 2024, at 4:00 PM