**SUTTER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

**DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**June 1, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Kelli Evans called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Kelli Evans, Mike Johnston, Jasdeep Bains

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Jennifer Sanders, Tirath Johal

**DIRECTORS TARDY:** N/A

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Donna Johnston

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ABSENT:** N/A

**STAFF PRESENT:** Nicole Johnson - Administrative Assistant, Karandave Kang - Project Manager

**STAFF ABSENT:**  N/A

**ADDITIONS:** N/A

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Alyssa Lindman- Yuba County Resource Conservation District

DJ Baker -Yuba County Resource Conservation District

Alyssa Lindman, YCRCD announced D.J. Baker as their new Executive Director.

D.J. Baker introduced himself and provided some information on his background which includes experience with Cal-Fire, Owning his own construction business, a BA in wildlife conservation and involvement in wetlands projects.

Alyssa Lindman advised that YCRCD will now be managing the California Swan Festival to be held from November 10 through 12, 2023, and has invited Sutter RCD to participate.

**CONSENT CALENDAR AND MONTHLY BILLS**

**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes from May 4, 2023 were reviewed. **A motion was made by M. Johnston, and seconded by J. Bains, to approve the May 4, 2023 Minutes. Motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.**

**Monthly bills**

**Outstanding invoicing of $24,681.24**

Budget

The monthly bills and financial report for the month of May were reviewed. There was a discussion about the outstanding balance owed to CARCD for payroll invoices. A suggestion to transfer 15,000 dollars from the Sutter County Reserve funds to the River City Bank account and pay 16,000 dollars to CARCD to cover the past due portion was made. **A motion was made by M. Johnston, and seconded by J. Bains, to approve the May, 2023 financial report. Motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.**

**A motion was made by M. Johnston, and seconded by J. Bains, to approve transferring $15,000 from Sutter County reserve funds to the River City Bank account and pay CARCD 16,000 to cover past due payroll invoices. Motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.**

**DISCUSSIONS & ACTION ITEMS**

There was a discussion about an expense operating cap so invoices and bills $1,000 dollars and under can be paid in a timely manner without prior Board approval. It was agreed to make this an agenda item to be voted on at the July meeting.

Kelli gave an update on the project growth of SCRCD and the need for additional staff, specifically a Project Specialist, a full-time position to work parallel but under the direction of the Project Manager, and a Project Assistant, another full-time position to assist both the Project Manager and the Project Specialist, under the direction of the Project Manager. With the current grants and the grants we are working on obtaining, these positions are needed and we can afford them. **A motion was made by M. Johnston, and seconded by J. Bains, to approve hiring a Project Specialist and a Project Assistant. Motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.**

The 2023-2024 Sutter County Resource Conservation District’s annual budget was presented and reviewed. **A motion was made by J. Bains, and seconded by M. Johnston, to approve the 2023 - 2024 Sutter County Resource Conservation District. Motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.**

**ONGOING DISTRICT BUSINESS**

Project Manager Karandave Kang gave an update on Mobile Irrigation Lab. Project Manager Kang reports the MIL project is now underway and he has been working in collaboration with Yolo County staff to start MIL field evaluations. Yolo RCD Staff and Sutter RCD Staff have begun doing their own evaluations to meet number requirements. We have applied for round two of the Equity Grant. Sutter RCD will be collaborating with Wendy at NRCS and creating a Soil Tunnel during the Sikh Parade during the month of November. Healthy Soils / Sweep programs are on track with a new round opening up in the late summer/early fall. Sutter County RCD, Yolo County RCD, Yuba County RCD and Colusa County RCD will be applying in a collaborative effort as this is a Block Grant. The Drought Relief grant is in progress, it was pushed back until June 30th. Our new staff will be assigned to this project. Karandave attended a GIS training program for soil layering and mapping for the MIL project. The certification comes with a free, one year membership. After that, the annual membership will be covered in the MIL Grant.

Kelli Evans gave an update on the Cal-Recycle program. The heavy rains did cause delays in the program. Cameras have been ordered and will need to be distributed. The contractor is just about done. Kelli will then train Nicole on the administrative aspects of the grant so we can get it billed out. Site visits for round two should begin soon as work will begin in August.

Mike gave an update on the Feather River Parkway project. There is generous funding available from the State. Mike discussed some of the potential location sites for salmon habitat restoration where a good amount of funding is being dispersed.

Karandave Kang advised that he was looking into applying for a Capacity Building Grant as soon as it opens up.

Kelli Evans gave an update on the Sac Valley Meeting on May 11, 2023 which she attended along with SCRCD Staff Karandave Kang and Nicole Johnson. The annual dues were raised. SCRCD volunteered to host the Speak Off this year in October. Event ideas were discussed like guest speakers, food and the location.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was a discussion about the disqualification status of Board Member Jonal. It was decided that Kelli Evans and Jas Bains would reach out to Board Member Jonal before the next board meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was a discussion about changing the date of the Board Meeting to the second or third week of the month. Possibly the third Wednesday, to concur with billing.

There was a discussion about possible new opportunities with grants that could be opening up to us, and that more staff may be needed if the grants are realized.

There was a discussion about the County’s janitorial supplies and equipment that still have not been removed from the staff office, and how to obtain a conference table and chairs. Mike volunteered to come by the office to see what removal needs to be done.

**CLOSING COMMENTS**

N/A

**ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Next Meeting will be held on July 6, 2023 @ 12:00 p.m

Sutter County Ag Commissioner’s Office - Conference Room

142 Garden Hwy, Yuba City Ca, 9551