



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 14, 2022

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yuba County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD) was held on **January 14, 2022**, commencing at **9:31 A.M.** The meeting was conducted by Zoom Video Conference and Audio Teleconference.

The Yuba County Resource Conservation District supports the orders and directives from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor’s Office in the effort to minimize the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions.

ROLL CALL

| Directors | Present | Absent |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|
| Alyssa Lindman (President) | X | |
| Gary Fildes | X | |
| Deborah Aseltine Neilson | X | |

Others Present:

Gurveen Dhillon, Sutter County RCD
 Brandon Johnson, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments provided.

AGENDA

Director Aseltine Neilson put forward a motion to add an action item to the agenda to approve fixing the YCRCD Long-term Plan to reflect the current board membership. Director Lindman seconded the motion, and it was then unanimously carried.

Director Aseltine Neilson will add an item (after the roll call) to future agendas for modifying and approving the agenda.

CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approval of the minutes of the November 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting. Upon motion made by Director Fildes, seconded by Director Lindman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes as written.

ACTION ITEMS

- B1. Adoption of Resolution #22-2: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE YUBA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY PERSISTS, RE-RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S ORDER DATED MARCH 4, 2020, AND RE-AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF YUBA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 14, 2022 – FEBRUARY 13, 2022, PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS. Upon motion made by Director Lindman, seconded by Director Fildes and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution #22-2.
- B2. Approval to remove Douglas Neilson, who is no longer with the YCRCD, from the Long-Range Plan (Plan) and to add Deborah Aseltine Neilson to the Plan so that the Plan reflects the current YCRCD board membership. Upon motion made by Director Aseltine Neilson, seconded by Director Lindman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved amending the Long-Range Plan as specified.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- C. Partner Reports

NRCS

Brandon Johnson mentioned that NRCS is starting their funding selection process for Fiscal Year 2022 funds. The first set of EQIP applications were due Dec 10th. The NRCS-Yuba City staff need to process and submit these applications by February 23rd. The next round of applications is due April 1st and these must be processed and submitted by the NRCS-Yuba City staff by May 27th. For this first round, 217 applications were submitted with 43 from Yuba County and 174 from Sutter County. The Yuba County applications included some air quality (tractors), range/pasture, and forestry projects. Also, the deadline for applications for a new cover crops program is coming up January 18th. These need to be submitted by the NRCS-Yuba City staff by January 28th.

While the NRCS does not recommend contractors, the NRCS-Yuba City office does keep a list of contractors/vendors that they can provide to customers. Individuals who do forest cleanup work can call the NRCS-Yuba City office and ask to be added to that list.

Sutter County Resource Conservation District

The Sutter County RCD Project Manager indicated that they are working to get the Monarch posters displayed at the local libraries. They were posted on the Sutter County RCD website. The next HUB event is on January 27th and will be on cover crops. The previous HUB event was a success and although not as many people attended as expected, a number of people stayed afterwards and asked questions. The CalRecycle Yuba County projects have not started yet, but the Sutter County RCD Project Manager will be working on them later this month.

D. Financial Report

As of December 31, 2021, the YCRCD had a total of \$13,388.51 in its accounts. The drop in total assets was primarily due to the payment of an invoice from Solid Ground Consulting for work on the Needs Assessment.

Director Fildes indicated that he looked further into QuickBooks options. The cheapest option is a 1-user version with no sharing and very limited capabilities. This is \$22.50 per month or \$270 per year. The 3-user version has some limitations. It is \$45 per month or \$540 per year. YCRCD's current version allows 5 users and has most capabilities but is \$860 per year. It might be possible to drop down to the \$540 per year version if Director Aseltine Neilson does not need to directly access the QuickBooks reports (which she indicated that she does not need). Since there was still some confusion over what capabilities are needed, Director Fildes will check with the YCRCD's bookkeeper, Dewaina Edens, to see if the 3-user version will meet the YCRCD's needs.

Director Lindman has requested reimbursement from the Yuba Water Agency for the \$6,000 that has been paid to Solid Ground Consulting (as they have agreed to pay \$8,600 total toward the Needs Assessment). Director Lindman also indicated that she has not seen an invoice yet from Larry Bain (who is conducting the YCRCD audit).

E. Website Update

Director Aseltine Neilson has been in contact with Chris Ryan from Streamline about what still needs to be done to get the website ready to go live. She will be working on the website this month.

F. Virtual Meetings Update

Director Aseltine Neilson provided an update on the current status of Governor Newsom's Emergency COVID order and current COVID conditions in Yuba County. There have been no major changes so the board can plan on holding the February meeting virtually through zoom and phone access. The board can re-evaluate this during the February meeting.

G. Firewise Pamphlet or Booklet Development

Director Aseltine Neilson sent an email out to Allison Thomson and Randy Fletcher about scheduling a call to discuss the booklet. She has not heard back from either of them. Director Lindman spoke to Allison Thomson about the booklet; she is interested in assisting with this project and the Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council (YWPFSC) also may be able to provide a small amount of funding toward the printing of this booklet. We also may be able to ask the Yuba Water Agency for some funding of this booklet. Director Fildes asked whether the Forest PACE funds could be used to pay for booklet printing. Director Lindman indicated that she will check on the Forest PACE timeline and whether the funds can be used for printing.

H. Draft 2022 Workplan and Budget Discussion

Director Aseltine Neilson first reviewed the draft budget with the board members. The maximum amount for the audit should be \$6,600 and the amount for training was dropped to \$1750.

Director Aseltine Neilson asked Gurveen to check on what amount YCRCD might expect for overhead from the Yuba-Sutter Specialty Crop Technical Assistance grant and the CalRecycle grant. Sutter County RCD is holding a meeting within the next several weeks to discuss the budgets for these grants. Gurveen can provide more information regarding the budgets after this meeting. The YCRCD also is currently paying for some of Gurveen's CalRecycle work and should get reimbursed at the end of the grant for these payments.

Director Aseltine Neilson already added the Forest PACE funds into the revenue section of the budget. Director Lindman will get back to her on whether these funds can be used for printing or whether these funds will need to be included in another work/budget item.

Director Aseltine Neilson also asked Director Lindman whether the board should be applying for a Grizzly Corp intern as this should also be put into the budget. Director Lindman indicated that this would cost the YCRCD \$10,000 which may be difficult to cover given the other expected 2022 costs. In addition, Director Lindman has not heard from Kelli Evans with the Sutter County RCD about this intern. The total cost for the intern is \$20,000 per year and we would be splitting the cost with Sutter County RCD. The applications are due in January (and we may already have passed the deadline).

Director Aseltine Neilson will contact Elizabeth Harper, the Colusa County RCD Executive Director, to find out more about the Monarch grant budget. Director Aseltine Neilson will likely add a revenue line for this grant into the budget.

For the expenses, Director Aseltine Neilson explained the various items. For the part-time staff expense, work related to the DOC grant and general YCRCD administration are included. Expenses for bookkeeping is estimated using invoices from this past year. For many of the items, Director Aseltine Neilson used similar numbers to those from last year. She will reach out to Chris Ryan at Streamline to find out more about the expected 2022 costs for the website.

For the Work Plan, Director Aseltine Neilson reviewed specific actions with the Board members and asked them to provide any edits that are needed.

I. Project Updates

Director Lindman has been working with Amy Stork with Solid Ground Consulting on scheduling the group meetings for the Needs Assessment. Amy Stork has already talked to all the Board members, and she will be meeting with three focus groups composed of partners and potential partners. Amy Stork still needs to finalize a meeting with Allison Thomson (YWPFSC), Randy Fletcher, and a representative from the Yuba Water Agency. Amy Stork plans to be done with the group meetings by the end of February. After that she will be compiling the results. She also will be putting together some information on RCDs such as how other RCDs cover their basic administrative costs and how much money RCDs can bring into their counties. Grants generally do not provide the RCDs with sufficient administrative overhead. Some RCDs are supported by their counties and the YCRCD should consider pursuing some type of agency support in order to become a viable RCD and asset to Yuba County. The YCRCD also needs increased staffing such as an Executive Director. To help the Yuba Water Agency and

County Board of Supervisors to understand more about RCDs and the YCRCD, Director Lindman will be providing a presentation (along with Allison Thomson, Executive Director of the YWPFSC) to these entities in February. She plans to provide a follow-up presentation around June or July that will include results from the Needs Assessment such as what funding is required for a viable RCD.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Director Lindman talked to Chris Dallas from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy last week to let him know that the YCRCD still would like a Forest Fellow (who would be shared with the YWPFSC). Since the YCRCD has limited funding, this fellow would need to be fully funded through a grant. Chances for getting a Forest Fellow anytime soon are slim particularly since the plans for YCRCD forest projects are not well developed. However, Chris Dalles indicated he would put together a meeting with Alex Vance who leads the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program. It would be useful to know what the YCRCD needs to do to increase our chances of getting a fellow.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Director Aseltine Neilson mentioned that she filled out the Monarch survey that Simar Bains (Sutter County RCD) had distributed, and she will be participating in the Monarch working group meeting on January 20th.

For the next meeting, agenda items should include a website update, adoption of another virtual meetings resolution, update on virtual meetings, and adoption of the annual work plan and budget.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 A.M.