



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**October 08, 2021**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yuba County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD) was held on **October 08, 2021**, commencing at **9:34 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  
Pa Yang, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments provided.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

A. No consent items; approval of minutes has been postponed until the next regular Board meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

B. Cal - Recycle Reimbursement to Kelli Evans for Appeal Democrat Article  
Upon a motion made by Director Aseltine Neilson, seconded by Director Fildes and unanimously carried, the Board approved the reimbursement to Kelli Evans.

C. Discussion and approval of Equipment Budget Request.

Upon a motion made by Director Lindman, seconded by Director Fildes and unanimously carried, the Board approved purchasing a stand-alone copy of Microsoft Office 2019 (Word, Excel, and Powerpoint), a universal docking station, a 2 TB external hard drive, and a surge protector.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

D. Partner Reports

Pa Yang - NRCS

Pa Yang from NRCS went over the 2021 end of year report. Pa mentioned she hired a Soil Conservationist on August 15th and is now looking to hire an Engineer (direct hire) in December. Pa Yang briefly went over the Fiscal Year 2021 National Air Quality Initiative (NAQUI) grants, State Funding grants, Local Funding grants, and EQIP-CIC grants. Eleven applications from Yuba County were funded through NAQUI and three were funded through the Local Funding grants. Pa plans to explore how to improve future applications from Yuba County to make them more competitive.

Sutter County RCD

The Sutter County RCD Project Manager provided an update on joint Sutter County RCD-YCRCRD actions. Sutter County RCD just held their second Hub event which was on Hedgerows and was hosted by Paul Hundal. The attendance was good and the speaker was great. Sutter County RCD has their upcoming SWEEP Hub event on November 10th. The project Manager spoke about the upcoming Pumpkin Festival hosted by Farm Bureau on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Sutter County RCD staff plan on attending and will have a Monarch themed booth. The Monarch coloring contest winners have been posted and most have been given their prizes. Sutter County RCD has their annual Speak Off competition on Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup> via zoom. The Project Manager mentioned that work continues on the Parkway project. Since the last event was successful, Sutter RCD will be hosting more river clean up events to increase community involvement. Lastly, the Sutter RCD Project Manager let the Board know that information regarding the awards for this next cycle of Cal - Recycle grants should be available later this month.

E. Financial Report

Director Fildes reported that the current balance is \$20,594.83 which is about \$100 less than last month due to the payment for the Sutter County's Monarch Coloring Contest Prize Invoice.

F. Audit Update

Director Fildes reports that the Yuba County Auditor said that it's okay to perform an audit starting from July 1, 2020, although the audit will just be a qualified audit and not a fully vetted audit. To get a fully vetted audit would require going back to 2008 when the last audit was conducted, and this would be very costly. The Auditor did talk to Larry Bain, one of several CPAs who Director Fildes contacted, and a qualified audit for 2020-2021 seems a reasonable approach. Mr. Bain has now requested specific paperwork so that he can provide YCRCRD a bid. Once YCRCRD has a qualified audit completed for 2020-2021, then the following audits likely will

be considered fully vetted. From all the information that Director Fildes has seen, an audit should be conducted annually and could cost \$4500-\$5500 per year.

#### G. EDD Letters

Director Aseltine Neilson reported that the letters from EDD were nothing to be concerned over and the Yuba County RCD does not owe them any dues.

#### H. Yuba County Food Hub - RFSP Grant

Director Lindman spoke about the Yuba County Food Hub grant application. She talked to two of the principal individuals who are proposing this project to develop a full-service food hub that would be located in the Yuba County foothills. The application is for funding to conduct a feasibility study. The group is currently building regional partnerships to help support this food hub. Director Lindman indicated that the YCRCD is not currently in a position to be a part of this project, but Board members might be able to assist, for instance as reviewers or through outreach to potential supporters. The group is interested in providing a presentation to the YCRCD, potentially at the next regular Board meeting.

#### I. DOC FAP Grant – Updated Work Plan and Budget

Director Lindman is working to update the work plan and budget and discussed these updates with the Grant manager. The Grant manager is supportive of these updates such as supporting part of the salary of a Forest Fellow and a needs assessment. Currently, the updated budget is \$2000 less than the original budget, so some additional tasks could be added. Also, the YCRCD should be hearing back regarding the Forest Fellow later in the month. If YCRCD does not get a Forest Fellow, then the Board needs to consider what alternative options could be added into the work plan. All the work needs to be finished and reimbursement requested by September 2022.

#### J. Project Updates

Director Lindman spoke about the Consolidation meeting with Sutter County RCD and reported that participants identified some good introductory steps for both RCDs. Their short-term goal is to meet all the Tier 1 requirements (which includes an audit). The total process can take anywhere between 18 months to 2 years. There are several small assessments that need to be completed before this proposed consolidation can be presented to LAFCO. There also is a consolidation guidebook that the consolidation workgroup can use as they step through this process. The next meeting will likely be in about a month.

#### K. Website Update

Director Lindman mentioned that the website is almost finished and live. The Board discussed the need to redirect from the old website to the new website. Director Aseltine Neilson will contact Chris at Streamline to see about this redirect and the next steps for getting the new website finished and live.

### **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Director Lindman mentioned that she is continuing her discussion with the Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council and the Yuba Water Agency.

## **DIRECTORS' COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

Director Aseltine Neilson talked about a Butte County Forest Health Guidebook produced by the Butte County Fire Safe Council and the Butte County RCD that now is available at different locations in Butte County. She will reach out to the Butte County RCD to see whether the booklet could be used as a template for a similar document for Yuba County. Some of this cost could possibly be funded through the DOC grant.

The Board discussed potential agenda items for the next meeting. These include the audit, DOC Grant, and a presentation on the proposed Yuba County Food Hub. Pa Yang will give a presentation on NRCS at the December regular meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 A.M.