



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**March 11, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yuba County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD) was held on **March 11, 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:**

Pa Yang, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

**CHANGES TO AGENDA**

No changes were made to the meeting agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were provided.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Approval of the minutes of the January 14, 2022 Regular Meeting and February 11, 2022 Regular Meeting, as written or as modified. Upon motion made by Director Lindman, seconded by Director Fildes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes as written.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- B. Approval for adding insurance coverage with the Golden State Risk Management Authority (GSRMA) for office furniture, computer, and other office items housed at the County office location. Director Aseltine Neilson indicated that coverage through GSRMA for \$10,000 worth of office items would cost around \$25-30. GSRMA would add this coverage to YCRC's current policy at no cost; the new policy would include this additional coverage. Upon a motion made by Director Lindman, seconded by Director Fildes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved increasing YCRC's insurance coverage with GSRMA for an additional \$5,000 to \$10,000 (will depend on the estimated value) to cover office items with the expectation that this annual coverage would not cost more than \$30.

## **PRESENTATION**

- C. Presentation by Juleah Cordi, Office of Assemblyman James Gallagher, on AB 1776, Resource conservation districts: California Prompt Payment Act

Juleah Cordi provided information to the Board members about AB 1776. The California Prompt Payment Act (Act) leverages interest if state agencies do not pay an invoice within 45 days. This Act currently applies to businesses, not-for-profit corporations, and non-profit organizations; it does not apply to other government entities. Resource conservation districts (RCD) fall into a gray area as they are considered government entities, but most do not have a tax base and they operate more like a non-profit. This bill would add the RCDs to the list of entities that are covered by this Act. A hearing date for the first policy committee has been set for March 23, 2022. Juleah is reaching out to get support letters and is hoping to get these prior to the March 23<sup>rd</sup> hearing. She provided a template for a potential support letter. Director Lindman asked the board members if they had any questions regarding the support letter. Director Fildes indicated that the text appeared straight forward. Upon a motion made by Director Lindman, seconded by Director Fildes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved Director Lindman providing a letter in support for AB 1776.

- D. Question and Answer Session with Juleah Cordi  
Director Aseltine Neilson described an effort being spearheaded by the Carbon Cycle Institute to encourage legislators to provide consistent state funding to RCDs. RCDs have been asked to reach out to their local state legislators to support such funding. Juleah asked if information was provided on which legislator was leading this effort. Director Aseltine Neilson indicated that this information was not provided, but she would investigate it and get back to Juleah. Director Aseltine Neilson also asked if Juleah was aware of any particular effort to direct State conservation funds towards grants that are available to RCDs. Juleah indicated that there are grant opportunities available and that she has seen these opportunities increase over the years.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- E. Potential Actions Regarding AB 1776  
This item was covered under the discussion that followed the presentation by Juleah Cordi.

## F. Partner Reports

### Pa Yang - NRCS

Pa Yang reviewed her report that was included in the Board packet. The Yuba City NRCS is beginning the process of hiring a new Civil Engineer/Agriculture Engineer position and a Soil Conservationist position.

The results of the EQIP Batch 3 (ranking from the Yuba City NRCS was due February 23<sup>rd</sup>) became available on March 9<sup>th</sup>. For the National Funding, four projects were selected from Yuba County, all for the National Air Quality Initiative. For the State Funding, the one Tribal project from Yuba County was selected. For the Local Funding, two projects were selected, one for rangeland and one for pastureland.

Applications for the CSP Classic and Renewal programs, the EQIP-CIC Cropland program, and the EQIP Batch 4 are all due on April 1, 2022. The deadline for the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) for cover crops and waterbirds within rice lands also is April 1, 2022.

Director Fildes asked about how the information on the availability of these grant opportunities is distributed to local landowners. Pa indicated that this information is typically provided via newspapers and on-line as well as mailed to those landowners who are on a list kept by the NRCS. Distribution of this information is handled by the state Public Affair Team based in Davis, CA.

Director Aseltine Neilson mentioned that she would like to provide this type of grant opportunity information on the YCRCD website and asked who she should contact for this information. Pa indicated that her primary contact with the Public Affair Team is Victor Hernandez. Pa will send the YCRCD board members his contact information. Pa Yang also will send information about the RCPP (a collaboration between the NRCS and the California Rice Commission) including the best person to contact about this program.

### Sutter County RCD

The Sutter RCD Project Manager was unable to attend today's meeting. Director Lindman indicated that the project manager updated her on the status of the current collaborative Sutter County – Yuba County projects. The cleanup of Yuba County sites covered in the current CalRecycle grant is almost finished. A workshop on illegal dumping and camping on private land, hosted by the Sutter County and Yuba County RCDs, is planned for March 25, 2022. It will provide an opportunity for farmers, landowners, and business owners to hear from, and talk to, Yuba and Sutter County officials regarding the issues around illegal dumping and camping. The Board agreed that it would be good for YCRCD board members to attend this meeting. It also would be good to occasionally visit the Sutter County RCD site to check on what events are scheduled. For instance, the Sutter County RCD is holding a Nature Bowl on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is an environmentally focused education event for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

## G. Financial Report

Director Fildes indicated that there has been no change in the account balances except for interest revenue. The current total balance in the YCRCD accounts is \$13,662.02. The reimbursement check from the Yuba Water Agency for \$6,000 for the Needs

Assessment has been deposited. Director Fildes will be providing this deposit information to the YCRCD bookkeeper, and it will show up in next month's reports.

#### H. Audit Updates

Director Lindman and Dewaina Edens met with Larry Bain to go over the financial information that was provided for the audit, and the audit is now done. Everything in general looked good. Director Lindman is now waiting for the management report (initial audit report and recommended actions). The Board then needs to respond with a corrective action report. Larry Bain indicated to Director Lindman that the management report will be done in about a month.

#### I. Website Update

Director Aseltine Neilson mentioned that she will be meeting with Chris Ryan from Streamline to go over the final review of the website. All the required compliance items are in place, the meeting agendas and minutes have been added, some adjustments were made to the navigation menu, and some additional material has been incorporated. The contact information provided on the website includes the YCRCD email address as well as form that visitors can fill out and send. Director Fildes will be monitoring the email address; Director Aseltine Neilson will be monitoring the website inquires.

#### J. Virtual Meetings Update and Meeting Logistics

Director Aseltine Neilson indicated that the criteria and conditions for continuing virtual meetings will likely not be in place after March 31, 2022 and that the Board should consider having the April Regular Board meeting in person. A resolution for continuing virtual meetings was not included in the agenda; if needed, a special board meeting to approve such a resolution could be scheduled.

The Board decided to go back to in person meetings starting with the April Regular Board meeting. It also was mentioned that it would be good to provide a teleconference video and phone call option. The staff person that YCRCD shares with SCRCDC should be able to assist with setting up and initiating the zoom calls. Director Aseltine Neilson will check with the Agricultural Commission Office to see whether the conference room is available on April 8<sup>th</sup> for the Regular Board Meeting. She also will check to see what equipment is available within the conference room that will support a teleconference video and call option.

#### K. Update on Forest Health/Fire Resilience Pamphlet Development

Director Aseltine Neilson mentioned that she had discussed the idea of going with a smaller booklet with Beverly Cameron (who has assisted with the production of the Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council (YWPFS) calendars). Beverly had looked through the Butte County Healthy Forest Guidebook and agreed that a smaller booklet would be best. Beverly also indicated that going back to the designer of the Butte County booklet might work best as that person would have ready access to some of the graphics and pictures that we likely will want to incorporate into the Yuba County booklet.

Director Aseltine Neilson also called the Cedar Creek designer to get more information on the hourly costs and timing. She now plans to work on an outline for the booklet and

then reach out to Allison Thompson (YWPFSC), the new YWPFSC staff person, and Beverly to get their input on this outline.

Director Lindman asked about the cost for designing and publishing the booklet. Director Aseltine Neilson indicated that she did not know the actual costs at this time but given the information she has received from the one designer, the Department of Conservation grant funds should cover the design costs. However, YCRCD would still need additional funds for publishing the booklet. Director Aseltine Neilson mentioned that the Board should consider submitting a grant application to the Yuba Water Agency for the publication costs. This application is due sometime in April. The Board then discussed whether to do a joint application with the YWPFSC. Director Aseltine Neilson will reach out to Allison Thomson about this option.

#### L. Applications for Pollinator and Habitat Kits

Director Aseltine Neilson provided information in the board packet regarding a program that would provide free Pollinator and Habitat Kits to selected applicants. While she noted that this is not a project that the YCRCD with a collaborator could take on at this time, it might be a project that the charter school in Oregon House might be interested in pursuing.

Director Fildes recommended that Director Aseltine Neilson provide the YWPFSC webmaster, Curtis Edens, with this information so that he could post it on the YWPFSC website. Director Lindman will reach out to Louise Miller who is the principal of the YES charter school in Oregon House.

#### M. Project Update

Simar Bains (Sutter County RCD) has been working on the Monarch Working Lands Habitat project. The next work group meeting is at the end of March.

Regarding the Forest PACE funding, Director Aseltine Neilson indicated that she is following up on someone who might be able to contract with us to conduct some grant research and writing. Director Fildes indicated that he talked to Ryan Reger who thought the idea of using the funding for the booklet was a viable option. Ryan indicated that he would check on different possibilities about how the Forest PACE funding could be used and then he would get back to Director Fildes. The deadline for using these funds is the end of May.

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

Director Lindman had nothing else to report beyond what was provided under the Discussion Items.

### **DIRECTORS' COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

Director Lindman noted that she will be participating in a Regional Fire and Forestry Capacity Program workshop that is being offered through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Director Aseltine Neilson brought up the "Be Prepared Fair" that will be on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The Board discussed what items might be needed for a booth including a banner, flyers, and a poster. Director Aseltine Neilson also mentioned that she will be participating in a Sacramento Valley RCD-sponsored climate resilience call at the end of the month. The Sacramento Valley RCD

spring meeting will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> and Director Aseltine Neilson indicated that she can attend this meeting. She also noted that Heather Nichols from the Yolo County RCD mentioned a mobile lab project that would include both Sutter County RCD and YCRC. It would be good to get more information on this project from the Sutter County RCD staff.

For the next regular meeting, the agenda should include updates on the audit, the website, the Needs Assessment, and the booklet development, as well as some discussion on preparing for the Be Prepared Fair. A special meeting might be needed if there is a need to approve a grant application for the Yuba Water Agency.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 A.M.