



FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

YOSEMITE/SEQUOIA RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Thursday, January 23rd, 2025, 10:00 AM

COUNCIL MEETING CALL TO ORDER

10:05 am

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Introductions & Roll Call
 - Executive Committee: Bobby Macauley (BM), Tara Fouch-Moore (TFM), Lynn Gorman (LG), Eddie Valero (EV), Nathan Magsig (NM)
 - Staff: Erin Capuchino (EC), Raini Patteson (RP), Colleen Laird (CL), Hazel Lavender (HL), Mi-Ling Wong (MW)
 - Contractors: Jessica Rowley (JR); Sandra Adelizi – Busy Bee Accounting
 - Guests: Kip Bowmar – Big Sandy Rancheria; Doreen Alvez – Tulare County RMA; Barbara Cone – Mariposa County FSC; Ashley Nebeker, Kevin Kirk, Breanna Brockman – Eastern Madera County FSC; Dean Goulde – USFS Sierra NF; Chelsea Hutchins – Sierra RCD; Lyanne Mendoza, Araceli Ramirez, Serena Ramos, and Joseph – USDA Rural Development
- President's Opening Statement (BM) – LA Fires are bringing attention to the importance of our work, now is the time to address issues and lean into the focus on wildfire prevention for our mountain communities.
- Approval of Agenda (A)
 - NM moved to approve with added items. EV seconded, and all in attendance approved.
- Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (A)
 - EV moved to approve. LG seconded, and all in attendance approved.
- Public Comment - None

QUARTERLY UPDATE

- Bookkeeper/Financial Report (A)
 - Brief discussion of financial statements for Oct-Dec, 2024
- Grant Report
 - JR informed the board of the status of grant applications and awards, with 39K received and \$5.8M pending for this fiscal year.
- Projects Report
 - Staff (EC, RP, CL) highlighted progress and changes on ongoing projects:
 - 22143: CEQA is nearing completion, Town Hall for landowners in the project area is scheduled for Feb. 27
 - 18655: Nearing close-out in March, with only tasks remaining being acreage confirmations from the USFS and final report preparations
 - 21213: Facing difficulties with the hired contractor retaining staff, EC actively encouraging them to sub-contract to get the work done
 - 972: Grant completed on Dec. 1 and final report has been submitted to SNC, awaiting acceptance of final report and final payout.
 - Madera Firewise/Firesafe: Continuing with publicity and outreach
 - COCO AIM: Nearing completion of grant and CL's Fellow term, Herbicides webinar scheduled for Feb 20.
 - EPIC: no updates
 - NARCDC Subgrant: Continuing with publicity, outreach, and event planning
 - American Water: Workdays, Senior projects, and Americorp Crew days keep the restoration efforts moving forward. More to come in late spring.

NEW BUSINESS

(A)= Action Item

- Strategic Planning Meeting tentatively scheduled for March 21.

UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Sierra National Forest Status Updates
 - Dean Gould, Sierra National Forest, Forest Supervisor – provided a brief overview of the history and current conditions of the Sierra National Forest, followed by updates concerning the new Forest Plan and financial strategies. Explained a recent shift to an IC-like business model to better adapt to uncertain funding timing and availability, pivot to hiring seasonal staff through contractors, and 7M in funding set aside for piloting reforestation strategies.
- USDA Rural Development Programs and Partnership Opportunities
 - Lyanne Mendoza, Rural Development, Area Director – highlighted a few of Rural Development's over 70 programs that could be a good fit for mountain communities, including a Timber Production Loan Guarantee Program and Single-Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants that could assist with home hardening retrofits. Emphasized interest in getting Rural Development programs out into the mountain and foothill communities.

SPONSOR & PARTNER UPDATES Limit updates to 3 min.

ADJOURN

11:56 am

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