**YOSEMITE/SEQUOIA RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

**Spring Quarterly Meeting**

***April 29, 2021***

***10:00 AM – 12:30 PM***

**eMeeting Instructions**

Pre-register for Zoom Meeting:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvf-CopzIpGN1OqHcYNuE5tR3T53EIm-6h

Meeting ID: 982 8909 9329

Passcode: 297476

Dial-in: +1 669 900 9128

**Present at the Meeting (via remote call)**

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| --- | --- |
| Sponsor Organizations | Larry Micari, Tulare County SupervisorNathan Magsig, Fresno County SupervisorSteve Haze, Sierra RCDKelly Kucharski, Sierra RCDTom Wheeler, Madera County SupervisorLynn Gorman, Sierra Foothill ConservancyHoward Hendrix, Highway 168 FSCJulie Konno, Coarsegold RCDAlex Davis, Coarsegold RCDDotty Woolum, Oak to Timberline FSCMahalia LoMele, Oak to Timberline FSCRick Fleming, Big Sandy RancheriaBob Puls, Tulare County RCDBarbara Cone, Mariposa FSC |
| Partners and visitors | Justine Reynolds, American ForestsBritta Dyer, American ForestsAlex Hepler, NRCSNikki Smith, NRCSJohnnie Siliznoff, NRCSLurana Strong, NRCSBrooke Oliver, Attorney, 50 Balmy Law P.C.Denise England, Tulare CountyGreg Kester, CA Association of Sanitation AgenciesJeannie Habben, Madera County WNRErin Capuchino, YSRCDC Outreach Coordinator applicant |
| Staff | David Konno, Program ManagerRubie Teffeteller, Project Manager Jamie Hinrichs, Outreach Coordinator |

**FULL COUNCIL MEETING CALL TO ORDER** 10:05

Meeting called to order by President Tom Wheeler.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Recite Mission Statement**

**Roll Call & Introductions –** Tom Wheeler led roll call and introductions were made by all present. Quorum was established, with 11 council members present.

**Approval of Agenda –** Motion to approve the meeting agenda made by Nathan Magsig (motion) and Howard Hendrix (2nd), agenda approved.

**Approval of Past Meeting Minutes –** Motion to approve January 28, 2021 Full Council Meeting minutes made by Lynn Gorman (motion) and Nathan Magsig (2nd), minutes approved.

**Executive Committee Report –** Rubie Teffetellergave the executive committee report. Motion to approve the executive committee report by Howard Hendrix (motion) and Nathan Magsig (2nd), report approved.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Larry Micari and David Konno provided the Treasurers report. At 4/01/21 we had a start balance of $12,410.74. Balance as of 4/28/21 is $5,280.18. Are in contact with funders about $50,000 of reimbursables. Motion to approve the treasurer’s report made by Nathan Magsig (Motion) and Howard Hendrix (2nd), Treasurer’s Report approved.

**NRCS Update –** Nikki Smith, Alex Hepler, and Johnnie Siliznoff provided updates from NRCS. Several projects and programs are being worked on. Tree mortality program continues, end of June will have another selection for funding. Encourage partners to get word out about batching periods. Steve Haze shared efforts to work at Auberry Mill Site. Howard Hendrix discussed concern for Blue Canyon, Jose Basin, Meadow Lakes.

**Public Comment –**

* Mariposa FSC has broken ground on Stump Field Road fuel break to prevent another Harlow Fire. Work is being done through an agreement with Abor Works/PG&E. A sennebogen tree crane is being used, which can be viewed in action on Hwy 49.
* Concern for charred trees on private property in burn area along Highway 168 corridor, looking for resource assistance for property owners.
* Unite the Parks, the John Muir Project, and Sequoia Forest Keeper have jointly sued USFS and USFWS for violations of the Endangered Species Act. They claim the vegetative management threatens Pacific Fisher habitat and increases the likelihood of large high-severity fires. All on the line were encouraged to write letters of petition and bring public attention to the lawsuit to avoid an injunction, since the latter would stall several projects vital to improving forest health and public safety in the region. The possibility of a press conference was discussed.
* The State’s wildfire and forest resilience task force will launch in May. American Forests is leading a reforestation working group and lobbying to keep county voices within the task force.

**OLD BUSINESS 10:30 a.m.**

**Project and Programs Update** – Staff reviewed the projects and programs (see Projects and Programs sheet). More information was requested regarding the status of the biomass plant. Tom Wheeler suggested CDC meetings / contacts as the best source.

**CASA Presentation** – Greg Kester (CA Association of Sanitation Agencies) gave a presentation on the objectives and results of the CASA Wood Innovations Grant, done in partnership with YSRCDC from 2017 to 2019. The project aimed to test the utilization of biochar in waste treatment facilities in California. Greg offered to provide a presentation on biosolids in the future.

**Sponsor Organization MOU –** Rubie Teffeteller reviewed the development and purpose of YSRCDC’s Sponsor Organization MOU. The final draft will be sent out to Sponsor Organizations the first week of May for signature.

**Fundraising Report** – Rubie Teffeteller went through the current grants outlook. PG&E funding awarded for 3 projects: Timberview Phase 2, PAR Fuel Reduction (SRCD), and Big Sandy Power Line Clearance. YSRCDC is launching a project prioritization process with American Forests and Sponsor Organizations to have a list ready for early action funding.

**NEW BUSINESS 11:30 a.m.**

**Forest Resilience Subcommittee –** Rubie Teffeteller invited YSRCDC Sponsor Organizations to participate in a project prioritization process that YSRCDC is launching with American Forests by submitting project information into a database and attending a workshop on May 6th. The latter will discuss the development of a Forest Resilience Subcommittee, which will collectively create a prioritized list of projects ready for early action funding using the project database Sponsor Organizations fill out.

**SPONSOR/PARTNER UPDATES 12:15 p.m.**

**Nathan Magsig, Fresno County** – Wrote letter of support to get governor’s support to apply CCC resources to the Old Auberry School Site, which will help Auberry and Creek Fire recovery efforts. All on the line were encouraged to write a similar letter of support.

**Howard Hendrix, Highway 168 FSC** – Actively involved in Shaver West Project, along with projects in Meadow Lakes and Blue Canyon. Distributing seedlings at an Arbor Day Event on April 30th in Prather in support of Creek Fire recovery.

**Barbara Cone, Mariposa RCD** – Working on grant applications for Mid Pines community running parallel to highway 49 and SNC grant.

**Steve Haze / Kelly Kucharski, Sierra RCD** – Getting new hires oriented to Highway 169 Stewardship program, which has translated prevention work into recovery work due to Creek Fire. Highway 180 fuel reduction and fire prevention project starting soon. Working with CAL OES and CalRecycle on biomass utilization and log deck removal in Meadow Lakes area.

**Julie Konno / Alex Davis, Coarsegold RCD –** Alex Davis has just been hired as the Conservation Resource Technician. Have packets of milkweed seeds for monarch habitat restoration, those interested can contact Julie. Working on CAL FIRE application for May 19th deadline.

**Rick Fleming, Big Sandy Rancheria** – Busy with Cedar Valley Private Lands project with YSRCDC. Will be clearing under powerlines in Rancheria through PG&E 2021 funding and reducing fuels around the Rancheria through CAL FIRE project.

**Lynn Gorman, Sierra Foothill Conservancy** – Closed conservation easement just outside the city of Madera, and now have over 50,000 acres of conservation. Online fundraiser on May 14th, celebrating 25 years of conservation.

**Larry Micari / Denise England, Tulare County** – Working on getting stewardship agreement. Meeting with Sequoia National Park planned to get 11 agencies to develop a healthy forest program. Many giant sequoias lost in last fire.

**Dotty Woolum / Mahalia LoMele, Oak to Timberline FSC** – Partnering with Sierra RCD on CFS grant to help with Highway 180 corridor and provide fire assessment reports residents. Log removal from tree mortality felling through CCI CAL FIRE grant, which is being used for a family firewood program. Through lessons learned from the Creek Fire, brushing 30-35ft from road edge along ingress/egress routes in Pinehurst and Miramonte. Working on proposal for CAL FIRE grant for May 19th deadline. Providing tree seedlings at Bear Mountain Library for Firewise weekend.

**Tom Wheeler / Robert Macaulay, Madera County** – Meetings on Bass Lake surface water plan and solid waste coming up.

**Britta Dyer, American Forests** – 300,000 seedlings have been given to Sierra National Forests for Creek Fire recovery so far. Working with Central Sierra Resiliency fund go get seedlings to private landowners. Developing efforts with Tule River Reservation and Tulare County.

**Adjourn at 12:27 PM**