



Officers & Directors:

Lorri Pride, President, Mike Landini, Vice President, Mike Yalow, Secretary/Treasurer
Bruce Roundy, Donnan Arbuckle, Jerry Ehorn, Jim Giachino

Associate-Directors:

Anjanette Shadley Martin, Chet Vogt, Danielle Spring Groteguth, Greg Massa, Jill Egly, Karalissa Cutler, Karissa Leonard,
Laura Powell, Peter Carley, Susan Steuben

Staff:

Kandi Manhart, District Manager

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, June 16, 2008
Time: 8:00 a.m. to Noon
Location: Willows USDA Service Center
132 North Enright Avenue, Suite C
Willows, CA 95988

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Mike Yalow, Bruce Roundy, Jim Giachino, Donnan Arbuckle, Mike Landini, and Jerry Ehorn.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Lorri Pride.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Peter Carley and Jill Egly.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ABSENT: Anjanette Shadley Martin, Chet Vogt, Danielle Spring Groteguth, Greg Massa, Josh Enos, Karalissa Cutler, Karissa Leonard, Laura Powell, and Susan Steuben.

OTHERS PRESENT: Claudia Street; Kara Baker, Baker Bio-Industry; Keith Hansen, Supervisor; Rob Vlach, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Kandi Manhart, District Manager.

I. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Landini at 8:02 a.m. He stated that President Pride was unable to attend the meeting due to prior obligations and noted that there is no need for introductions because everyone knows each other.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT (limit 5 minutes): None.

III. MINUTES

A. Approve meeting minutes for May 19, 2008

Arbuckle noted he opposed item VI.D.1 on page 3 of 6; he did not abstain. *Yalow moved to approve the meeting minutes with noted correction for May 19, 2008. Roundy seconded. Approved unanimously.*

IV. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Directors and Associate-Directors

Ehorn – None.

Roundy – He reported he attended the Lower Stony Creek TAC Meeting June 12th and thought it was really well done; he suggested Graham Matthews attend a Board Meeting to present the preliminary design for the priority project area (Sawyer-Arbuckle/Baker Project). Street confirmed that Matthews is eager to present and asked if this meeting would be appropriate. Matthews will be invited to the July Board Meeting.

Arbuckle – He reported he also attend the TAC Meeting June 12th; he has been looking for the Tamarisk eating beetles on Lower Stony Creek but hasn't found them. He discussed the General Plan Update and noted that apparently it has been put on hold; however, the committee members were never notified by Dan Obermeyer. When confronted, Obermeyer said there are other things to do and there is a lack of budget. Arbuckle strongly feels the committee should have been notified of the timeline change. Lastly, he sprayed for White Horse Nettle on his property, even though the Ag Department no longer has a budget to perform the invasive specie eradication program.

Yalow – He reported there is a Central Sacramento Valley RC&D Council meeting June 19th. He mentioned the fires which occurred in Orland. Vlach recommended the landowners be contacted in the burned area to encourage spraying the burned Arundo; landowners include Syar Industries, Inc., City of Orland, and Bureau of Reclamation. Roundy noted he has begun drafting code enforcement to prevent such a thing again.

Carley – He reported he has a WHIP application pending with NRCS and thanked the NRCS and FWS for all their help.

Giachino – He reported the Personnel Committee has met a few times to discuss Cory Scott's resignation and the hiring process to fill the vacancy; there was a cover letter/resume screening and an interview process.

Street – As a resigned Associate-Director, she reported the Buckarettes recently attended a horse expo in Sacramento; they had many ladies sign-up for the ride (75% returnees), although the state of the range and economy is not doing well.

Landini – He reported the rangelands in the far North area of California are doing great.

B. District Manager

Manhart reported off her written report. She added that Christine Green of Children Services presented the RCD with a Certificate of Appreciation for helping to sponsor a graduation for three foster students; staff donations were used. Also, she noted she has a Farm Bill summary page if anyone was interested in a copy.

C. Conservation Planner

Manhart noted that Cory Scott's last day of work was June 13th; Manhart presented her written report and asked if there were any questions. A picture of the Tamarisk eating beetle was requested.

V. PARTNER REPORTS (limit 5 minutes, unless previously scheduled)

Vlach – He reported that there is another round of WHIP sign-ups, from June 9th to the 20th; this will be the last time that non-agriculture producers may sign-up (= no RCDS, non-profits, etc.) Also, the payment limit will be up to \$50,000 to ag-producers. He also explained an opportunity to apply for Rapid Watershed Assessment funding through the nationwide NRCS program; he worked with Manhart to determine a high priority area for the RCD and they determined that Upper Stony Creek would be the most value-added project area in the County. They thought it would complement the PL 556 projects that occurred. Lastly, at their Cluster meeting they discussed the opportunity for range landowners to obtain a Safe Harbor Agreement via the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (Glenn, Tehama, Butte and Shasta Counties). It would be a 10 year agreement with an option to renew, confidential also.

VI. CONSERVATION PLANNER

A. Authorization to hire a new Conservation Planner at Level 1, A effective June 10, 2008

Manhart reported that per the last round of hiring a Conservation Planner the Directors recommend she hire a Conservation Planner and then they affirm her decision through action. She hired Street June 9 and she began work June 10; therefore, recommends the Directors reaffirm her hiring of Claudia Street. Discussion occurred on the purpose of reaffirming the District Managers decision. *Arbuckle moved to confirm the hiring of Claudia Street as the Conservation Planner at Level 1, A effective June 10, 2008. Yalow seconded. Approved unanimously.*

VII. PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

A. Friend of Education Award for 4th Grade Pioneer Days

Manhart referred to Egly to talk on this subject, as she was ill and could not accept the award for the RCD (Scott accepted the award). Egly reported the 4th grade students gave her so much information regarding the RCD's education learning station on Watersheds and the water quality demonstration that Manhart and Scott did. She noted the parents were curious and their interests were sparked about RCD and what we do; Debbie Green even noted that she wants to begin attending the meetings. Manhart displayed the plaque and the personalized thank you cards made by the students were distributed. Egly also noted that Pioneer Days at the Landini's went well also; the students did a community service project and made directional signs for the Colusa Basin Drainage District. Roundy commented that Pioneer Days is just what students need, per studies he has read.

B. No Glenn County nominations received for 2008 Leopold Conservation Award

Landini reported that no nominations were received from the community; a press release was submitted to local media and posted on our Website.

C. Approve letter of support for Upper Stony Creek Rapid Watershed Assessment dated May 29, 2008

Manhart reported more on the Rapid Watershed Assessment discussion noted under *Vlach's* partner report. She recommended the support letter be formally approved. Discussion occurred on approving a letter after the fact; there was a consensus that the President may write and support projects as this on behalf of the Board. No action was taken.

D. Bio-energy project on Hwy 32, letter of support requested by owner

Yalow reported he has been assisting Kara Baker with developing a renewable energy industrial park. They are currently assessing what makes the most sense in recycling

materials to make useful products. They are working with the County in zoning issues, traffic issues, etc. and will be ensuring that the project makes economical sense. Baker discussed the project in further detail; project will be on 112 acres off HWY 32, East of Orland. Hansen noted that they are looking at removing the railroad tracks due to the high price of steel and to keep abreast on the “potential” issue. *Arbuckle moved to provide Kara Baker, owner of Baker Bio Industry (BBI) a letter of support for the project. Yalow seconded. The Directors commend her for her efforts. Approved unanimously.*

E. WMA funding opportunity

Manhart reported there is another funding opportunity through the US Department of Food and Agriculture for WMA projects; this program funded 20 acres of Arundo removal on the Smith/Baker Ranch in Fall 2007, Spring 2008 (grant administered through WMA). She asked if there were any project ideas; her idea was to continue maintenance on the 20 acres removed last year and to continue removing downstream. Vlach suggested spraying the burned areas in Orland, Carley suggested that the Ag Department uses a needle and injects Arundo with herbicide. *Yalow moved to submit an Arundo removal project to the WMA. Roundy seconded. Approved unanimously.*

F. Authorization to apply for WHIP funding to implement Arundo donax removal and riparian restoration within the Sawyer-Arbuckle/Baker Project Area pending landowners consent

Manhart reported that there is another WHIP sign-up period, as discussed in more detail during Vlach’s partner report. She called Arbuckle to obtain his thought at re-visiting the Sawyer-Arbuckle/Baker Project Area discussed at the April 8th meeting; he suggested the RCD work with the landowners in the project area and present the opportunity, otherwise we wouldn’t be doing our job in trying to assist them with Arundo and Tamarisk removal and bank stabilization. Scott and Street met with Ron Walker on June 13; however, there is an estimated six out of 11 that are, or very interested, in moving forward with the project. It was noted that Matthews (GMA) said the RCD should 1) remove the Arundo and Tamarisk, 2) realign the stream, and 3) plant riparian habitat. Vlach confirmed it only makes sense doing it this way. Manhart suggested that WHIP could potentially fund step one, and Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) could potentially fund steps two and three; Fish and Wildlife Service is also a possibility. Street commented that it may be wise to perform bioengineering in highly erodible areas and that once the invasives are removed the natives could naturally increase on their own and/or change where the water flows. Arbuckle suggested he believes the creek will not naturally re-align itself. It was noted that NRCS contracts do not become tied to deeds; the “new” landowner may choose to continue the project or not. Roundy moved to apply for WHIP funding to implement Arundo donax and Tamarisk removal within the Sawyer-Arbuckle/Baker Project area pending landowner consent. Yalow seconded. Arbuckle abstained. Approved.

VIII. 2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT

A. Review draft

Manhart presented the draft annual report and asked for comments/suggestions; therefore, it may be on the agenda for approval in July.

XIV. COMMITTEES

A. Finance and Policies Committees

1. Approve Policies – Series 3000 (Financial Record Keeping)

Manhart presented the draft financial policies #'s 3020, 3030, 3032, 3035, 3040; she added these were presented for review in May. No comments were received. She noted that Appendix A and B were added to number 3040 and she went over suggestions submitted by Kelly Kampschmidt, Bond Tax and Financial Services regarding the Appendix A and B. Yalow expressed concern on number 3035. Roundy moved to approve policies 3020, 3030, 3032 as presented, and 3040 with noted changes. Yalow seconded. Approved unanimously.

Manhart will work with Yalow regarding number 3035.

2. Assignments

1. Open House & Celebration – July 21

Manhart reported that Groteguth will be asking the Chico State Meat Department for donation of the meat and she will be submitting a press release to invite the community.

2. Annual Fall B-B-Q – August 8

Manhart suggested a location needs to be confirmed. Discussion occurred on the time of year to hold the annual B-B-Q; it was decided that the goal is to hold it in the Spring, beginning in 2009.

X. FINANCES

A. Finance Committee Report

Manhart reported that the changeover from the County's Department of Finance to Bond Tax and Financial Services (UMPQUA) is going smoothly. We should be receiving our cash by the end of the first week in July; the A-87 Cost Allocation reimbursement should be received by the end of July, or beginning of August. Yalow inquired about the County funding we receive annually; Manhart reported she hasn't heard any new news.

B. Approve FY 2008/2009 budget

Manhart presented the budget; there were no comments. *Yalow moved to approve the FY 2008/2009 budget pending the outcome of setting up our accounts/budget with Bond Tax and Financial Services. Ehorn seconded. Approved unanimously.*

C. Approve monthly financial report and payment of claims

Manhart presented the Financial Report and Payment of Claims and Budget to Actual as of March 31, 2008 (see attachments). *Yalow moved to approve the Financial Report and Payment of Claims and Budget to Actual as of March 31, 2008 as presented. Ehorn seconded. Approved unanimously.*

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Other

None.

B. AB 1825 Harassment Prevention Training – GSRMA

Manhart explained the scheduled training was cancelled due to a lack of participation; she will reschedule for a better time.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Landini moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

Approved on July 21, 2008 by the Glenn County Resource Conservation District Board.

Attested by,

President

Secretary