

Glenn County Climate Smart Ag Committee
A Standing Committee of Glenn County RCD

Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 29, 2024
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hosted by / Location:
Glenn County Resource Conservation District (RCD)
USDA Willows Service Center
132 N. Enright Avenue, Suite C
Willows, CA 95988

ATTENDANCE:

Committee members:

Lisa Humphreys, *Manager*, Glenn County Farm Bureau (**Chair**)
Brint Foster, *Certified Crop Advisor*, Compost Solutions, Inc. (**Vice Chair**)
Betsy Karle, *Agency Director*, UC Cooperative Extension - Glenn County
Eduardo Briones, *Farmer/Rancher*
Mike Landini, *Director*, Glenn County RCD

Partners / staff / other:

Kristin Guy, *District Conservationist*, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services
Lizzeth Mendoza, *Climate Smart Ag & Community Education Specialist II*, UCCE-Glenn
County Kandi Manhart-Belding, *Executive Officer*, Glenn County RCD
Ritta Martin, *Finance Officer*, Glenn County RCD (acting Project Coordinator)
Kellie Wilson-Burt, *Program Specialist*, Glenn County RCD
Ashlee Veneman, *Office Administrator*, Glenn County RCD

Absent: Committee members:

Mike Vereshchagin, Vereschagin Farms, Inc.
Marcie Skelton, *Ag Commissioner*, Glenn County Department of Agriculture

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
Chair Lisa Humphreys called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.
- 2. Welcome & Introductions**
Chair Lisa Humphreys welcomed attendees and introductions ensued.
- 3. Public Comment (limit 5 minutes):** *Any person wishing to address the committee on items not on the agenda may do so at this time. The committee will not make decisions or determinations on items brought up during Public Comment.*
No public comments were presented or heard.

4. **ACTION ITEM: Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes from June 24, 2024**

Vice Chair Brint Foster made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes as presented; whereby, Member Briones seconded the motion. Motion approved.

5. **PRESENTATION: State Water Efficient & Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Block Grant, Overview of Review Processes + Steps Completed + Statistics**

Finance Officer, Ritta Martin, provided an update on the SWEEP program, stating she and RCD Program Specialist, Kellie Burt, conducted on site inspections July 1- July 11, 2024 to verify the proposed project information submitted by each of the applicants for the grantee program was accurate. Mrs. Martin stated two of the proposed projects would not be moving forward, as their information could not be validated, but two new proposed projects were subsequently approved after initially being denied funding. Mrs. Martin continued that all agreements have been prepared, printed and are ready for final signature and execution, though seven projects are at risk due to the new prevailing wage law, and are confirming their quotes for the solar energy project portions are still accurate. Executive Officer, Kandi Manhart-Belding, noted she has contacted other RCD's across the state, as well as the contracted agency consultant for advisement and thanked program staff for their due diligence. Discussion ensued amongst members regarding providing program awardees with advance payment and project verification methods; Mrs. Martin stated she intends to provide a video and set of instructions for the awardees on the invoicing process and grant portal.

6. **PRESENTATION: Healthy Soils Program (HSP) Block Grant, Overview of Review Process + Steps Completed + Statistics**

Mrs. Martin provided an update on the HSP program, stating the Review Committee has ranked each application received for the program based on a point system (with additional points being awarded to any Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers) and is hoping to fund 42 projects. Mrs. Martin further stated that the next step in the process will be to notify the applicants of whether their project application was awarded or not by August 5, 2024.

7. **ACTION ITEM: Discussion and possible action to recommend HSP projects for funding to Glenn County RCD Board of Directors**

Chair Humphreys introduced the item and invited any questions or comments from the committee members, whereby none were heard. On motion by Chair Brint Foster, seconded by Member Briones, it was unanimously approved to recommend the listing of HSP projects as presented to the Glenn County RCD Board of Directors for funding authorization.

8. **SWEEP & HSP Outreach Update**

Mrs. Manhart-Belding stated no additional outreach will likely be conducted as the applicant pool of projects is currently filled for both programs.

9. **Conservation Plan / Carbon Farm Plan Outreach and Producer Opportunity**

Mrs. Manhart-Belding stated the RCD has funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (Chico State) and the California Agriculture Planning Grant Program (Yolo County RCD) to do approximately nine soil

management plans and two carbon farm plans for interested farmers and ranchers, also noting that there are only two certified consultants who are able to perform this service, one of whom is based in Oregon. Discussion ensued surrounding the application process, time period and steps, whereby it was the consensus of the committee for Members Guy, Foster and Mendoza to participate in the application review process, as necessary. Kandi Manhart-Belding will engage the committee if more applicants were received if number of plans available.

10. Pollinator Grant Opportunities

Mrs. Manhart-Belding stated that Colusa County Resource Conservation District has a Pollinator Habitat Program, noting that the program contact is Natural Resource Coordinator, Tucker Bennett. Kellie Wilson-Burt also reported out and is available to assist interested farmers and ranchers as necessary.

11. Discussion Items (unlisted topics)

No topics were presented or heard.

12. Meeting Review, Next Steps, and Schedule Next Meeting

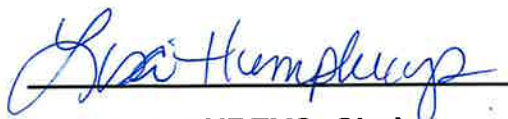
The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 4, 2024 at 3:30 PM at the Glenn County RCD / USDA Willows Service Center.

13. Adjournment

Chair Humphreys adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Approved on Monday, November 4, 2024, by the Glenn County Climate Smart Ag Committee.

Attested by,



LISA HUMPHREYS, Chair



KASHLEE VENEMAN, Office Administrator

Items Attached: NONE

