



TRINITY COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

September 20, 2023 * 5:30 PM

Board Members Present: (In Person) Mike Rourke, Mary Ellen Grigsby, Kent Collard, Josh Brown and John Ritz

(Zoom/Call-in): None

Board Members Absent: None

Associate Board Members Present: None

District Staff: Kelly Sheen, Joan Caldwell, Kayla Meyer, and Marla Walters

Other District Staff: (Attended through Zoom) None

Other Agency Staff: (Attended through Zoom) None

Guests:

1.0 Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 5:38 PM by Mike Rourke.

2.0 Discuss and Approve Agenda

MSC –Brown/Ritz to approve the September 20, 2023 Agenda.

3.0 Discuss and Approve Meeting Minutes

3.1 Discuss and Approve Minutes for August 9, 2023 Special Meeting

MSC Grigsby/Collard to approve minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Discuss and Approve Minutes for August 16, 2023 Regular Meeting

M. Grigsby noted an error under 8.0. MSC Grigsby/Brown, with correction. The motion passed unanimously.

4.0 Financial Reports

4.1 Discuss Updated July Monthly Financial Report

Caldwell noted that there is still a lot of invoicing to do, but believes the revenues are looking much better. She also mentioned that we have paid our property liability and workers' compensation bills. We seem to be having fewer workers' comp injuries.



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4.2 Discuss August Monthly Financial Report

Per Caldwell, at first look, we're already off to a good start. Again, invoicing continues.

4.3 Discuss and Approve List of Warrants for August, 2023

Caldwell noted that the yellow highlighting is for reporting purposes. Yellow denotes employee reimbursements. Also, red highlights the Smart Center employees. We were receiving 50% reimbursement for these employees. Discussion was held about our new health and dental insurance (Humana), where we will be able to offer better coverage for less. The brokers will come to us to sign everyone up, likely on October 4.

MSC – Brown/Collard to approve the August warrants in the amount of \$623,948.49. The motion passed unanimously.

Caldwell noted that we have accrued \$16,400 toward the \$28K audit expense. We will have accrued close to \$24K for the 23 – 24 audit. Discussion followed regarding opening a savings account. She found one that offers 4.5 interest, which is higher than the local bank. Caldwell and Sheen will research further.

Grigsby wondered why the current line of credit must be renewed every year. Collard asked if it can be longer than one year. Sheen will check on this.

5.0 Projects Report

The Projects Report was reviewed and discussed.

6.0 NRCS Report

Cole was unable to be present, but Sheen gave his report, which was

“We are finalizing contracts in preparation for the federal fiscal year ending. We had an additional contract selected and are working to pull that together. It is atypical to have a contract selected for funding this late in the federal fiscal year so it's a bit of a scramble.

I spoke with the NRCS state forester. He is one of the members of the governor's wildfire task force. Overall the NRCS doesn't have much influence with how state funds get disbursed throughout the state. That said where projects are fitting together and being carried out successfully is where funding generally goes.”



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7.0 Trinity Collaborative Report

Sheen reported on the recent meetings, 9/8 (Rec) and 9/15 (Full Collaborative). The Minersville Boat Ramp is moving forward. They have an engineer and met on site. There should be a 60% design by the end of this calendar year. Hopefully by next summer, they can award a contract for construction. The bike trail issue continues; it continues to be hung up with CalTrans. The Full Collaborative discussed the tree mortality problem, which impinges upon roads, private lands, FS lands, and the TPUD; it is a difficult problem. Also discussed were local wildfire alert cameras. Only two are working at this time, one on Oregon Mountain and one in Hayfork. Travis Finch from Velocity hopes to connect more of them. Lastly, R. Paris of the WRTC reviewed the LandTender program. Sheen is not sure at this point how it will be utilized.

8.0 Watershed Department Report

Meyer was introduced and gave the Board a bit of her background. She is the former ED of Honey Lake RCD in Susanville. She has experience with NCRS, and has consulting experience with watersheds, flood plains, and agriculture. She has been working to get reporting and invoicing caught up. She reviewed current projects for her department.

9.0 Discuss/Take Action on Resolution 23-04 Authorizing Submittal of a Funding Request to Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program

Discussion took place.

Grigsby/Collard moved that the Board authorize submittal of a funding request to Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program.

Vote:

Collard:	Aye
Ritz:	Aye
Brown:	Aye
Grigsby:	Aye
Rourke	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

10.0 Discuss/Take Action on the Adoption of the California Environmental Quality Act Exemption for Trinity Roads Partnership under class 4, section 15304, Minor Alterations to Lane.

Sheen explained the steps and the need to get the CEQA in place. Discussion followed.

MSC: Grigsby/Brown to accept the adoption of the CEQA exemption for Trinity Roads Partnership. The motion passed unanimously.



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11.0 Discuss/Take Action on Attendance at the 2023 Annual CARCD Conference.

Sheen said that the conference will take place in Sacramento at the Doubletree. Dates are December 13, 14, and 15. Several members were interested. Sheen will handle registration and reservations. After discussion, it was decided that Kent will be our delegate and Ritz will be alternate.

MSC – Grigsby/Brown to have Collard again act as Delegate with Ritz as alternate.

12.0 Board Reports/Correspondence

Collard reported on a successful Environmental Camp. Grigsby reported on attending Science on the River at Indian Creek Lodge, regarding winter flows. She also attended the Trinity River cleanup and said it was well-organized. There was a good turnout.

13.0 District Manager's Report

Sheen reported that the Steel Bridge House escrow closed on September 8; he deposited \$298,845.93. He is putting together photos to thank the family and will draft a letter for Board review. He asked how the Board would like to handle the subject of the investment of the funds. It was decided to make it a separate agenda item. Grigsby asked if there could please be a list of possible recommendations.

The Strategic Plan went to our partners and to the Farmer's Market for review. No edits were requested. It is now out for public scoping.

Sheen said he has been asked to participate on a panel for the Wildfire Task Force. It will be a two-day meeting with field tours. N. Goulette is moderating the panel. We will be a case study for other partnerships.

The recent managers' meeting tackled RAC proposals. A spreadsheet was made and managers are prepping their proposals.

14.0 Closed Session.

No closed session was held.

15.0 Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



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Approved and adopted this ____ day of _____, 2023. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the Minutes of September 20, 2023 were duly adopted by the following vote of the Board of Directors.

(Secretary Signature)