

MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (MCRCD)
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, November 6th, 2024 @ 2:00 PM

Location: Conference Room at the Ag. Commissioner's Office 5009 Fairground Rd.
Mariposa, CA 95338

Directors present: David Mecchi, John Carrier, Wayne Kelly, Don Smith, and Lyle Turpin.

Directors absent: None.

Associate directors present: None.

Associate directors absent: None.

Staff present: Melinda Barrett, Vicky Cole.

Guests: None.

Call to order: 2:00 PM by MCRCD President David Mecchi.

Public communication: None.

Minutes: (M) Wayne Kelly to approve September 2024 minutes with corrections. (S) John Carrier. No discussion followed. Ayes: David Mecchi, John Carrier, Wayne Kelly, Lyle Turpin. Nay: None. Motion approved.

Correspondence: 1) Received by email from Mariposa County. Resolution Action Requested 2024-418 Appoint Donald Smith as Director of Mariposa County Resource Conservation District
2). Received by email from SDRMA. Certificate of Insurance Invoice.

Information Items and/or Special Guests: None.

Staff reports:

IRWMP: Verbal report submitted by Melinda.

MCRCD: Verbal report submitted by Vicky.

Directors Reports:

Lyle Turpin: Verbal report submitted by Lyle.

Don Smith: Verbal report submitted by Don.

Wayne Kelly: Verbal report submitted by Wayne Kelly.

John Carrier: Verbal report submitted by John.

David Mecchi: Verbal report submitted by David.

Future Agenda Items: Christian Darlington – JPA update.

Subcommittee Reports:

Personnel: None.

Finance: Vicky provided the status with Busy Bee Consultants, the company that is helping us to change to the QuickBooks system. We had the first meeting with them and they charged the initial fee and after that update from them. Also, Vicky notified Don Smith that Pat would like him to join us on our next meeting with them. Lyle suggested that if we do not receive any notification soon, we should send a memorandum on a letterhead to them. Vicky informed the Board that she will take a few days of vacation, she must go to Mexico to resolve some legal matters, she leaves November 8 and returns November 20.

Grants: RCPP Grant – We pay Smiley to do NRCS work. He is not working. He has some health issues. Melinda sent an email asking if they know somebody that they can use and we can hire to do the work for them. CCI2 Grant – We almost finish this grant but CAL FIRE decided to change the way we submit the invoices. We submit an amendment and after gets approved, they need to

update the website and then we can submit our last invoice. The Program Manager is coming to do the final inspection. EPIC Grant – This grant is helping to construct the Mariposa Biomass plant. They got a 30-million Grant from the Department of Energy for three plants. \$1 million for Bernie, \$10 million for Mariposa and \$10 million for Mammoth. They will start with the grading next spring. They cannot move any dirt until spring. WCB2 Grant – Its almost done. We have little money to spend. OPR Grant – Christiana Darlington will give an update of the JPA next Board meeting. Home Hardening Grant – We did a job announcement and we got a lot of candidates. We did the interviews, David met them. We got 4 people trained. Probably we will have to let one person go and another one is going to resign but he is willing to keep helping us on the weekends and he is great with maps. We have a backlog of around 50 applications.

Policy: None.

Financial Reports: See at Finance subcommittee.

Unfinished Business: None.

Discussion:

1. New legislation by Amanda Wolf and Chad Hansen. This legislation prohibits specifically any logging or biomass use, off road vehicles and it takes the forest away from the Forest Service and give it to the Park Service. You cannot do anything with that wood. No timber sale, No vegetation management, No prescribed burning. Christiana Darlington says she does not have a chance but she said it would be good to send a letter opposing it. Melinda said this legislation is very specific. They do not want anybody to cut anything down.
2. David Mecchi has proposed that Vicky Cole's salary be increased. David mentioned that she does a lot of work beyond what we ask for. David suggested to the Board that they will increase her salary from \$26 to \$ 30. The Board agreed to increase it starting this month period.

Action Items:

To write a letter to the Congress and The White House opposing the legislation regarding the duration of the range of light Monument. (M) Wayne Kelly. (S) John Carrier. Ayes: David Mecchi, John Carrier, Wayne Kelly, and Lyle Turpin. Nays: None. Motion Approved.

Vicky Cole Salary increase from \$ 26.00 to \$ 30.00/hr. (M) David Mecchi. (S) Wayne Kelly. Ayes: David Mecchi, John Carrier, Wayne Kelly, and Lyle Turpin. Nays: None. Motion Approved.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:22 PM. (M) John Carrier (S) Lyle Turpin. Ayes: David Mecchi, John Carrier, Lyle Turpin, Wayne Kelly. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Submitted by: Vicky Cole

Date Approved: 12/04/2024

Recorded minutes of this meeting are available in the RCD office. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication or assistance should contact our office at above number, at least 5 days prior to the event. An equal opportunity provider and employer.

MCRCD Mission Statement

The mission of the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District is to encourage and facilitate cooperative solutions to local resources conservation issues and projects. By providing leadership, the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District works with all stakeholders to find solutions that conserve the basic natural resources of Mariposa County. To further this aim, the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District provides technical assistance to landowners, carries out informational activities, seeks and implements grants and other funding sources, and develops cooperative alliances with other agencies and community organizations.