

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

5855 Capistrano Ave, Suite D, Atascadero, CA 93422 | 805.460.7272 | www.us-ltrcd.org

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 2024

Atascadero, CA

- I. Call to Order, 4:08pm by Randy Heinzen
Attendance
Board Directors: In Person - Randy Heinzen, Director; Tom Mora, Director.
Staff: Devin Best, Executive Director; Lauren Danna, Program Manager.
Public: Hilary Phillips, NRCS District Conservationist; Dylan Wilder, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Biologist; Steve Carter; Chris Smith
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code 54954.2(B)): None
- III. Public Comment: Devin shared the US-LT RCD has hired Cody Blankenship as a summer intern.
- IV. RCD Reports
 - a. Board Updates: Dolores Howard: Stepping down from the board this upcoming June. May will be the last meeting she attends. Randy Heinzen: Will not be coming back to serve on the board once his term is up this year.
 - b. Executive Director Report: DB: Updated Project listing for ED Report. DB reviewed report distributed to the board. DB reports that Happy Valley agreement has been signed. Implementation is scheduled for October 1-15. DB provided an update on Bianchi project. Dylan Wilder shared he is managing the pond level and hopes to install a pump system. Excavation is planned for September 1 – October 31. Hilary Phillips mentioned NRCS may begin listing BDAs as a formal practice. DB reported County MIL project for 2023-2024 year was finished in June. Lauren Danna shared some background and practices about the project. DB shared an update on the Local Working Group. DB defined it for the board. HP shared that the goal is to find resource concerns specific to the county and find funding for those concerns. HP commented there is a lack of funding simply due to the lack of money in the entire system. DB commented that SLI could potentially be utilized to capture local data to form a survey.
 - c. FY 24 Budget: DB: No Budget update.
 - d. Form 700 – RCD Board Members and Staff: No discussion involving Form 700.
 - e. WCC Update: DB reports road repair completed by Blaze and James Henry. In the process of getting goats on the property. The website for the Conservancy is up. US-LT RCD is holding a kickoff celebration for the Conservancy 10/17/2024.
 - f. Board Member Recruitment: DB mentions the board is losing Dolores and Randy. Please let the team know if you hear of anyone interested. Steve Carter and Chris Smith are in attendance and interested.
- V. Consent:
 - a. Correct the date to June 27th, 2024.
- VI. Other Agency, Director, and Association Reports
 - a. NRCS Report- Hilary Phillips – has been working with Joshua at the soil health hub to build a report focused on NRCS applications funded 2017 – 2023 to see what the funding levels and

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practices have been targeted over the years. HP shared NRCS is near the end of the fiscal year. The organization received half the funding this year in comparison to last. HP provided insight on EQUIP versus CSP history and relevance. EQUIP is more popular in the west whereas CSP is favored in the Midwest.

- b. USFW: Dylan Wilder – Currently working through agreement season. Dylan submitted 3 cooperative agreements. Two in San Luis Obispo County with the Land Conservancy and one in Monterey County. Has approx. \$75,000 per year to spend on the 3 agreements.
- c. WRAC: Tom Mora – In most recent meeting, WRAC voted to transfer water stored at San Luis Reservoir and sell 13,500 acre ft to Kern west side district (\$450 acre/ft). SLO County believes this is excess water that won't be used and could further generate funding for the county. Vote goes to the board of supervisors in the month of August. County is confident that water will be available up until next year in the reservoir.
- d. ALAB: Via a conversation with Mark Lee, Lauren and Devin received approval to attend.

VII. Board Action Items

- a. N/A

VIII. Agenda Setting

- a. DB to mail financial statement to Tom Mora
- b. Board Member Recruitment

IX. Adjournment of meeting: 5:15pm. Next meeting is August 22nd at 4pm.