



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 September 2023 Atascadero, CA

- I. Call to Order, 4:05pm: not enough board members to call to order
Attendance
Board Directors: In Person, Randy Heinzen, Director; Dolores Howard, Director.
Staff: Devin Best, Executive Director; Eli Grinberg, Conservation Technician;
Public: In Person- Hilary Phillips; NRCS. Amber Schatt; CAFF.
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code 54954.2(B)):
- III. Public Comment: Amber Schatt - Oct. 18 Policy listening session in Santa Ynez hosted by CAFF. CAFF is contracted as TA advisor for Drought & Flood year funding. Amber Schatt is the English TA advisor. Open until Oct. 31st.
- IV. RCD Reports
 - a. Board Updates: Dolores Howard: SLO Library Oct 23rd Book signing w/ Ben Goldfarb re: new publication on Beavers. Newsletter coming out soon (SLObeaverbrigade.com)
 - b. Executive Director Report: DB: Projects listing format has changed for ED report. Kleeman FMP 99% complete. Endowments for WCC put into our bank account. Road Maintenance scheduled. Conservancy Steward Job position to be rolled out to establish native plant nursery & regional seed bank. Sustainable Land Initiative (project 23-04) is up and running thanks to CP Professor Erin Pierce. RH: Suggests donating some biochar materials to WCC and suggests goat & sheep contractor to WCC. Announces Josh Curry as CC Carbon Farm coordinator, to be housed at Coastal San Luis RCD office.
 - i. AS- Plugs a SIGMA funded project, open to selecting WCC.
 - ii. AS- mentions Spencer had requested a list of farmers in our area to help facilitate tool/equipment sharing at WCC
 - iii. AS- Natalia Pinson crunching data and making policy brief on farm bill re: prescribed grazing.
 - iv. RH – mentions Undoc support & Must Charity provides language support for non English, non Spanish speaking farmworkers.
 - c. Office Relocation- Existing facility being remodeled to create a better office set up. NOV. 1 move-in date.
 - d. Consider calendar year for fiscal year- Marina encouraged DB to switch to regular calendar year to facilitate easier invoicing. DB is going to move forward drafting a new budget.
 - e. Personnel Handbook- Bizhaven is editing and overhauling for 2024. DH asked how board members can sign up for required trainings. DB produces record of trainings and will provide resources from CSDA to enroll in trainings. DB will present on the new personnel handbook at the next board meeting.
- V. Consent:
 - a. Approval of regular meeting minutes: Not enough members to approve
 - b. Approval of treasurer's reports:
- VI. Other Agency, Director, and Association Reports
 - a. NRCS Report- Hilary Phillips: no new reports



Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

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

- b. USFW: Dylan Wilder – Not present.
- c. WRAC: Dolores attended WRAC meeting. Subcommittee looked at proposed water impacts at Dana preserve, water is not one of the impacts of the project.
- d. ALAB: No report. RH suggests one of his attendant employees could provide us with notes.

VII. Board Action Items

- a. Approve Transition to Five Member RCD Board: off schedule
- b. Local Working Group – NRCS.
 - i. HP: outlines funding pools for working group, mentions forestry and fire pool is most underutilized. No cropland projects funded; 3 historically underserved community water development projects funded. Complete number for project funding is forthcoming. Open to hear comments and suggestions on NRCS practices.
 - 1. DB asks what NRCS needs to move forward BDAs as a new practice.
 - 2. HP: Must be backed by science and analysis.
 - 3. AS- gully stuffing of downed woody material is being studied as a recommended practice to farmers.
 - 4. RH- PR Cab Growers got grant funding to do cover crop plantings in vineyards

VIII. Agenda Setting

- a. Next Board Meeting: October 26th, 4pm-6pm. December 7th 4pm-6pm.
- b. Local Working Group Meeting
- c. Consent for approval of regular meeting minutes from June meeting.
- d. Consent for approval of treasurer's reports.
- e. Katie Herzogg- HP suggests adding Katie to USLTRCD Board
- f. DB suggests developing a board member onboarding protocol as a group.

IX. Adjournment of meeting: 5:15pm. Next meeting is Oct. 26th, at 4pm.