

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

5905 Capistrano Ave, Suite F, Atascadero, CA 93422 | 805.460.7272 | www.us-ltrcd.org

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2026

**Atascadero Library O'Grady Conference Room
6555 Capistrano Ave, Atascadero, CA**

I. Call to Order, 4:00pm by Tom Mora

Attendance:

Board Directors: Tom Mora, President; Steve Carter, Treasurer; Chris Smith; Eric Michielssen, Mike Bonnheim

Staff: Drew Loganbill, Executive Director/Board Secretary;

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code §54954.2(b)): None

III. Public Comment- None

IV. RCD Reports

a. Board Updates - None

b. Executive Director Report:

- USGS presentation postponed to May Board meeting
- Quarterly newsletter was sent out on March 20. This is our first newsletter in years, and we hope to make it a quarterly item.
- Greenspace Speaker series in Cambria on RCD services and Willow Creek Conservancy (WCC) to audience of approximately 30 people was successful.
- Upcoming events:
 1. Beaver Fest – April 11
 2. Cambria Earth Day Celebration = April 19
 3. Earth Day Volunteer Planting Day – April 25
 4. Sheep Shearing Shindig City Farm SLO – May 9th
- Cal Fire Direct Award was funded, and signed agreement yesterday. 30 acres of contract grazing and 5 acres of fuel load reduction, brush mower, and dump trailer, and staff time.
- CALFIRE Monterey Pine- Firestorm burned approximately 100 piles last month at Rancho Marino. 43 acres approximately 450 piles was completed. Project closes in March.
- Cambria Wildfire Prevention Grant- Funding to treat 34 acres of Monterey pine will take place summer 2026.
- Staff is working on developing a grazing management plan for Strawberry Canyon (Cambria Monterey Pine understory) Hoping to have animals on site this summer.
- RCD will be working with FSC to treat 60 acres of Monterey Pine at Fiscalini Ranch late summer.
- NIPFL- 20 acres working with Cal Fire to identify high priority site
- Toro Creek Caltrans - After a few months of work on a cooperative agreement, budget, and scope of work, this project has been sent to Caltrans legal team for final review. Hailey will take lead on the project with field assistance from Amy. We hope to begin groundwork this summer.
- Centennial Caltrans - Amy and Hailey will begin the first year of monitoring this March. Amy has taken a big lead on this project monitoring protocol for the remaining 10 years of the monitoring.
- Happy Valley Ranch - Staff attended a BDA workshop in March to learn more about BDA structures and how they can be used on this project.
- We will be submitting preproposal for Forest Health Grants for 835 acres around Cambria.
- Meeting with Carbajal on April 9th at 4pm. CS is interested in joining.

V. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of regular meeting minutes for January –CS motion to approve, EM second, all present approve.
- b. Approval of March Treasurer's Report –



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- CS motion to approve balance, EM second, all present approve.

VI. Other Agency, Director, and Association Reports

- a. NRCS Report – no report
- b. WRAC – no meeting/report
- c. ALAB – EM reports that there was no meeting in February. January meeting discussed changes to Williamson Act that would allow exemption if in fallow land program.
- d. Willow Creek Conservancy Technical Advisory Committee – had first meeting which was largely introduction to property and current projects. Discussed looking into establishing 501c3 status.

VII. Board Discussion and/or Action Items

- a. Approval of 2024 audit engagement.
 - Moss, Levy, Hartzhiem engagement letter for 23-24 and 24-25 audits review. EM motion to approve both 2024 and 2025 engagement, MB second, all present approve.
 - Update on LAFCO meeting informing that SOI and MSR were approved.
- b. Farm Equipment Rental Program discussion.
 - Gaining interest for many farmers on renting farm equipment. We currently have 3 compost spreaders, Yeomans keyline plow, biochar kiln, and compost injector. While this program is new, we are trying to get agreement and rental costs in place so attractive to community. So far, some constraints have been transporting of equipment (trailer), not having appropriately sized tractor for the equipment. This has led landowners to ask to rent tractor. Staff is also not well versed in tractor operation/maintenance. TM advises not to rent tractor due to liability concerns. Express concerns with maintenance on farm equipment as renters tend to be hard on farm equipment.
- c. RCD Vehicle Discussion
 - Silverado sold. Plan to sell Ford as staff prefers to keep water truck for ease of irrigation.
 - Applied for CA Exempt license plates at DMV. Will result in cost savings for registration.

VIII. Agenda Setting

- a. Next board meeting location and date –April 23rd at 4:00pm.

IX. Adjournment of meeting: 5:46 pm.