

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

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

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

4:00 pm July 23rd, 2026

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD, Conference Room
5905 Capistrano Ave, Suite F, Atascadero, CA

I. Call to Order by Tom Mora at 3:59pm

- a. Directors present: Tom Mora, Steve Carter, Eric Michielssen
- b. Staff, Associates, and Public: Drew Loganbill, Executive Director/Board Secretary; Brian Keeley, Conservancy Steward; Marina Washburn, Finance Officer.

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code §54954.2(b))

None

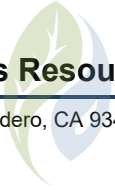
III. Public Comment- None

IV. RCD Reports

- a. Board Updates (limited to 2 minutes per person, NTE 10 minutes total) - None
 - Executive Director Report –
 - College corps – 1 selection, possibly another. 12-15 hours per week throughout the school year (Mid August to end of May)
 - LWG meeting – 80 in attendance. Received positive feedback. Informative talks from SGMA, Preservation Inc. on Ag Order.
 - Site visit w/ Diane with Panetta's office on Tuesday to discuss possible grants, Community Project Funds.
 - Tentative visit with CA senator Laird on Aug. 7 with CSL RCD.
 - Project Updates –
 - DOE – Hailey traveling for conference in Washington state under the DOE grant.
 - Cal Trans Toro Creek – Stall due to participating entities working on language in agreement. Hope to sign into contract by end of August.
 - Cal Fire Direct award – received approval to purchase a dump trailer.
 - Received NACD AMP grant – working on updating statement of objectives, then will bring to board for formal approval. \$6.7 mil, \$4.35 to farmers/ranchers, 5 RCDs and partners. \$300K to USLTRCD
 - Asked to submit full proposal for HSP and SWEEP and WCB Monarch habitat
 - CIG submitting next week
- b. Staff Presentation – Willow Creek Conservancy – Brian Keeley
 - Brian presented on the status of Willow Creek Conservancy (WCC). WCC operates alike to a 3 legged stool – Ecosystem restoration, Community engagement, and Regenerative agriculture. Ecosystem restoration has the nursery for restoration where we can grow plants for needs on WCC and for other projects in the district. BK is experimenting with planting seeds in bags of soil surrounded by bags of wood chips in areas of degraded soil. Has 26 trees growing in these sites without supplemental irrigation. We have increased amount of trees by 125% improving on species diversity. Volunteer seed team = wildlife via scat, help inoculated seeds and are replanted throughout property. Community engagement – working on conducting quarterly workshops. Most recent had 11 participants at mushroom growing workshop. We have scouts, volunteers, Cal Poly staff and students, and tribal engagement at WCC. Cal Poly construction management provided huge benefits by building kiosk, bathroom shells, shade house, and tool shed. Regenerative ag- had group come out to collect baseline data for soil, insects, plant community to determine impacts of grazing. Another aspect that is equally important is admin and financial management at WCC.

V. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of regular meeting minutes for June – EM motion to approve, TM seconds, all present approve.
- b. Approval of July Treasurer's Report – No report



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VI. Other Agency, Director, and Association Reports

- a. NRCS Report – No Report
- b. WRAC – No meeting
- c. ALAB – No meeting

VII. Board Discussion and/or Action Items

- a. RCD Per Diem Policy

Board Action: Review and Approve

Per Diem policy created back in December by Bizhaven when they provided us services. Policy closely follows federal government (GSA) per diem guidance. EM moves to approve, TM seconds, all present approve.

- b. Firesafe Council Proposal for Fuels Reduction Project

Board Action: Review and Approve

Firesafe Council submitted bid for Cambria Linkage project for parcel #2. Bid includes crews to perform work and supervision. Firesafe Council only bid received. Work tentatively planned to start week of August 10th. EM moves to approve, SC seconds, all present approves.

- c. Closeout of FY25-26 Financials [co-Presenter: Marina Washburn, Finance Officer (may present remotely via teleconference)]

Board Action: Review and Approve

Marina provided overview of FY25-26 budget. Slight changes from what was presented at last board meeting. Recategorization was completed to follow state recommendations categorizing income by federal, state, local, and private. SC moves to approve, TM seconds, all present approve.

VIII. Agenda Setting

- a. Next board meeting location and date August 27, 2026.

IX. Adjournment