

**Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District  
Board of Directors - MEETING AGENDA  
June 21, 2023 5:30pm**

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call:** Stuart Crook, Stephen Dietrich, Kirk Ford, Maiya Morrison, Jim Phelan, Mike Sardella, Galen Weston

**Public Comment**

*(5 minutes per item maximum) We would like to welcome the members of the public who have taken the time to bring their concerns to this meeting. Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any matter within the Board's jurisdiction. This need not be related to any item on the agenda; however, the Board cannot act on an item unless it was noticed on the agenda.*

**Business**

- Discussion and action related to Minutes for May 2023 Board Meeting.
- Discussion and action related to 23/24 Grants Administrator Contract.
- Discussion and action related to 2023 CARCD Conference, staff attendance.
- Discussion and action related to TCRCO Personnel Policy.
- Discussion and action related to TCRCO Grant Program Updates.
  - RCPP Forestry Program
  - Twain Harte Community Stormwater Enhancement Project
  - CAL Fire Fire Prevention Grant - Pine Mountain Lake Fuel Reduction Project
  - Mother Lode PBA Coordination
  - CAPGP Soil Health Technical Assistance
  - TStan IRWM Administration
  - Pending Project Proposals
    - CalFire Wildfire Prevention Proposal - PML Phase II
    - CalFire Urban Forestry Grant Proposal
    - ACT Natural and Working Lands Proposal
    - Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery & Forest Resilience Concept Proposal
    - NRCS Cooperative Agreement Proposal

**NRCS Update**

**District Manager Update**

**Closed Session: PERSONNEL MATTERS – PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT Gov. Code § 54957 – Annual Review of District Manager**

**Correspondence and Announcements**

**Other Matters at the Discretion of the Chair**

**Adjournment**

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact District Manager Lindsay Mattos at (209) 559-9066. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the TCRCO to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II)*

**Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District  
Board of Directors - MEETING MINUTES  
May 17th, 2022**

**Call to Order: 5:34 pm**

**Roll Call:** Kirk Ford, Stuart Crook, Mike Sardella, Stephen Dietrich, Jim Phelan

**Public Comment:** None.

**Business**

- Discussion and action related to Minutes for March 2023 Board Meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as presented by director Phelan, second by director Dietrich, motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion and action related to DRAFT TCRCO Budget. Discussion by board regarding positions and funded projects for the coming fiscal year. Motion by director Dietrich to approve the budget with the opportunity to fill positions within the budget as presented, second by director Phelan, motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion and action related to TCRCO Grant Program Updates:
  - ◆ Justin Walker of Cal Reforestation and Gordon Long of CCRCO provided an update on the Pine Mountain Lake Fuels Reduction Project. Environmental review is almost complete and the next steps will be approving the final documentation and then developing the prescriptions. Director Phelan brought up the issue of education for the public when projects get underway, staff to plan a press release for when project is started.
  - ◆ G. Long also gave an update on RCPP Forestry funding and there was discussion regarding ranking criteria projects and cooperation with the Sierra RCOs. Additionally, G. Long gave an update on the 123 ac. Project being implemented by CCRCO on from Lyons Dam to Middle Camp Rd.
  - ◆ L. Mattos and T. Peller gave updates on the rest of the projects and current grant applications.
  - ◆ Written update provided for Mother Lode PBA by C. Rappaport. (included with minutes.)

**NRCS Update:** Jennifer Wood, District Conservationist, provided an update on staffing at the Jackson office as well as programs. Discussion by the board about sharing of information between NRCS and RCO for planning potential fuels reduction projects.

**District Manager Update:** L. Mattos provided an update to the board, including the recent DM/ED call of the Sierra RCOs.

**Correspondence and Announcements:** None.

**Other Matters at the Discretion of the Chair:** None.

**Adjournment:** 7:42 pm

### May 2023 Prescribed Burn Update provided by C. Rappaport:

The MLPBA conducted a pile building and burning day in Murphys on Sunday, April 23rd. The weather was warm and dry, therefore we did not light as much on fire as we would have liked. However, the landowners - who didn't even know where to start - learned a lot and ended the day with the education and confidence needed to continue and improve the fuels reduction work on their property. Our next burns are scheduled for May 20th and June 2nd and 3rd. The May burn will take place on steering committee member David Wood's Camp Connell property. Wood has several piles ready to go, as well as other slash that can be fed into existing piles as they burn down. The June burn will be on the Sardella ranch on a 10 acre unit. This is a particularly exciting opportunity for the PBA as it is a chance to experience broadcast burning in grassland alongside professionals from varying backgrounds.

On Monday, April 24th, PBA coordinator Claire Rappaport visited the site of a My Sierra Woods project in Twain Harte. This project is approximately 8 acres of masticated brush. The landowners would like to eliminate the masticated fuel via a broadcast burn. A map was created breaking the site down into 3 smaller units and the landowner was advised on the necessary steps to take to prepare the project site for fire. The PBA will keep in contact with this landowner and his progress will be monitored in anticipation for a fall burn.

On Friday, May 5th, Rappaport visited an approximately one acre site in Arnold. This landowner was very familiar with burning and had a burn pile already established, but wanted help cutting up several downed trees and dragging them a few hundred feet to the burn pile. It was decided that this does not fully fit the current goals of the PBA, and the landowner was given alternative resources to investigate to find the help he needs.

Two more site visits are scheduled in the near future, one in Avery on 5 acres of mixed conifer forest, and another in Murphys on 20 acres of chaparral that burned in the Old Gulch fire of 1993, and was masticated in some areas in 2018.

We have had 3 public outreach events in the last month; a meet and greet at the Murphys Pourhouse on April 27th, a fire preparedness town hall in Tuolumne on April 29th, and a fire preparedness town hall in Arnold on May 6th. At each event we saw several familiar faces and several new ones. In the last month the PBA has gained 21 new subscribers on our mailing list, as well as several new, professional contacts in the fire world.

This summer, when the weather is not right to burn and the PBA has some "down time", the goal is to work on the organization of the program, perhaps come up with a mission statement and a membership structure, among other things. With these procedures outlined, the PBA can continue to move in a positive direction and reach an even broader audience to create a fire safe community.