



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 December 11, 2025

- I. Call to Order, 4:00pm by Tom Mora
Attendance
Board Directors: Tom Mora, President; Steve Carter, Treasurer; Chris Smith; Eric Michielssen
Staff: Drew Loganbill, Executive Director/Board Secretary
Associates: Hilary Phillips, NRCS
Public: none
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code § 54954.2(B)): None.
- III. Public Comment: none
- IV. **RCD Reports**
 - a. Board Updates – EM – reported he met with Rob Rutherford about grazing and he could be a good resource to us if we consider grazing at WCC.
 - b. Executive Director Report - Project updates:
 - a) RCD staff is finalizing a Forest management plan for York Mountain/Niner Winery and recently completed 5 acres of fuels reduction for emergency vehicle access
 - b) RCD staff partnered with CALFIRE to burn 25 piles in November at UC Rancho Marino Reserve. Pile burning operations will continue this winter as weather allows.
 - c) Approximately half of the 300 acres Pico Monterey Pine on Hearst Holding has been completed. RCD staff are working closely with Firesafe Council to provide crew supervision, technical assistance, and administer the RCD Public Works Plan
 - d) RCD staff will be working with landowners to implement approximately 20 acres of oak woodland fuels reduction in 2026.
 - e) CD staff is working closely with Greenspace Land Trust, the Coastal Commission, and a local shepherd to develop a grazing plan for Strawberry Canyon (Cambria Monterey pine)
 - f) Centennial Creek – Staff will have a planting day 12/12 to plant additional trees. Hailey and Amy have been working with Caltrans staff to develop a monitoring protocol that will be used for the 10 years of monitoring and reporting that begins in 2026.
 - g) Wildlife Conservation Board Pollinator and Wildlife – Hailey is leading a volunteer planting day 12/6 in partnership with Audubon at Canyon Ranch and another in partnership with Fiscalini Ranch Preserve on 12/13 in Cambria..
 - h) Camp SLO & Camp Robers Monarch Installations – The CCC crews have been out at Camp SLO & Camp Robers spreading large mulch pads and installing milkweed to create monarch habitat. These sites will be maintained by both RCD staff and CCC staff through the summer. Next fall, we will add additional plant species to support overwintering Monarchs.
 - i) Paso Robles Reveg –Staff completed a planting day in late November.
 - j) Cal Poly SLI Sub – Hailey has been working to start up the Equipment Library Program. The RCD is working with Coastal SL, Cal Poly, and FarmOS to create a platform to track projects. This new platform is free.
 - k) NRCS GLCI– Amy attended their first Rancher to Rancher hosted by the Central Coast Soil Hub and really enjoyed it.
 - l) Audubon Habitat Management Plan – New contract for staff to develop a Habitat Management Plan.



Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

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

- m) Pending Grants:
 - Coastal Conservancy SLO Prescribed Burn Association - RCD recently received grant to write a strategic plan for the San Luis Obispo Prescribed Burn Association
 - CALFIRE Direct Award - Pending grant to conduct hand crew and prescribed herbivory fuels reduction treatments at Willow Creek Conservancy
 - CALFIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant - Pending grant to conduct 33 acres of fuels reduction/forest health treatments in Cambria Monterey pines
 - CALFIRE Forest Health Grant - Staff is planning on submitting a FHG application with an 800-acre minimum for treatments. The application for this grant will open in January.
 - Toro Creek Mitigation – We are slowly moving project forward with Cal Trans. Hoping to have contract signed in Spring 2026.
- n) Willow Creek Conservancy –
 - i. Volunteer hours 24 with 2 people assisting shade house management and greenhouse construction
 - ii. Outreach: presentation/coordination with regional scout troops. Meetings with scoutmasters and scouts to arrange for future projects with multiple regional scout troops.
 - iii. Tribal coordination with Salinan tribal council to arrange for cultural burns
 - iv. Planted 350 trees this month to meet the numbers (650) included in the annual report. These include 3 species of oak acorns, and saplings of 2 species.
- o) Vehicles: Silverado pending sale, discussing to see if possible to sell water truck for water trailer with CalTrans.

V. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of regular meeting minutes for October
 - v. EM motion to approve, CS second, all present approve.
- b. Approval of special meeting minutes for October 30, 2025
 - i. EM motion to approve, SC second, all present approve.
- c. Approval of November Treasurer's Report – no report this month

VI. Other Agency, Director, and Association Reports

- a. NRCS Report – Hilary Phillips – Back from furlough and have back log on items. Funding is coming but timing is unknown. Look for upcoming updates. Process for agreements are changing with cuts to funds and more competitive which possibly be harder for RCD's to get agreements. NRCS announced \$700 million for Regenerative Ag projects through EQIP and CSP programs. Details pending.
- b. WRAC- no meeting
- c. ALAB – last meeting was to extent moratorium on sewage sludge application and try to figure out how to treat.

VII. Board Discussion and/or Action Items

- a. Technical Advisory Committee for Willow Creek Conservancy - Seeking approval to formulate a TAC for WCC to provide guidance and direction for future projects, outreach, community involvement, grants, and agricultural operations. Committee would be comprised with RCD staff, Board member, and 4-8 members of the public from list of people interested that would represent. Asking for a board member to be part of the TAC that would meet at a periodically (monthly or bi-monthly). Hoping to start TAC meeting in mid January. Chris Smith and Eric Michielssen nominated. SC motion to approve, TM second, all present approve.



Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

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

- b. Finance Committee nominations - as discussed at our special meeting, the board approved new financial policy for review and oversight of finances, but we failed to nominate an additional board member to serve on the committee. Eric Michielssen nominated. SC motion to approve, CS second, all present approve.
- c. Appoint delegate for CARCD - each RCD that is a member of CARCD must designate a delegate board director to vote for CARCD Board Officers, resolutions, and new bylaws. At the CARCD conference, there was an attempt to get delegates to attend the annual meeting, but they were unable to achieve quorum therefore they will be following up with voting by mail on various resolutions and bylaws. Chris Smith nominated as delegate. EM motion to approve, SC second, all present approve.
- d. Financial review – Discussion - Review budget vs. actuals statement. January finance committee meeting will review budget adjustments for the quarter.
- e. Audit update – Discussion – Received Financial Statement Report for 22-23 audit resulting in Disclaimer of Opinion. Working with CPA to get additional information to make improvements on future audits. Looking to starting 23-24 audit ASAP.

VIII. Adjournment of meeting: 5:40 pm.