



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 February 27, 2025

- I. Call to Order, 3:58pm called to order by President Kallen.
Attendance
Board Directors: In Person –Jason Kallen, President; Steve Carter, Treasurer; Mike Bonnheim; Tom Mora; Chris Smith
Staff: Amy Smart, Deputy Director; Brian Keeley, Conservancy Steward
Other Agency: Cheryl Zelus, NRCS
Public: Devin Best, Robert Hartzell, Ramona Messina, Melanie Blankenship
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code 54954.2(B)): remove USFWS report
- III. Public Comment: DB: update on pending National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) grant. Funding will support the implementation and expansion of the Sustainable Land Initiative. USDA reviewing budget revisions.
- IV. RCD Reports
 - a. Board Updates: none
 - b. Staff Presentation: BK provided update on Willow Creek Conservancy. Objectives fall under three categories- restore property, grow native plants, community outreach. Since December (BK start date) electricity is active, equipment has been purchased, wood chips delivered, reviewing site plans (restoration, burn plan, grazing plan), native plant shade house delivered, acorn collection, California Conservation Corps scheduled to assist with shade house and site restoration. Discussion ensued on future funding and enterprise potential. Invitation to visit WCC, contact BK to coordinate.
 - c. Required training, Form 700: AS has requested Company Profile edits to CSDA website to initiate training. Will provide log-in information and schedule trainings as soon as profile edits complete. Link to Form 700 provided to Directors who have yet to submit Form.
 - d. Retaining a consultant for the RCD: JK recommends securing DB as consultant to support transition for the new Executive Director. Discussion on the opportunity to collaborate with Golden State Land Conservancy for conservation easements on the Central Coast. Delegated staff to draft agreement.
 - e. Discussion of possible merger with Coastal San Luis RCD: JK in communication with CSLRCD Board President, presented outline of process to consolidate, likely 1-2 year timeline. Discussion ensued regarding boundaries, varying resource concerns, history of previous RCD mergers, benefits of consolidation given current staff capacity.
- V. Consent:
 - a. Approval of regular meeting minutes (distributed prior to meeting)
 - i. TM motion to approve, SC seconded, all approved.
 - b. Approval of treasurer's reports
 - i. SC presented report, met with Finance Officer to review
 - ii. TM motion to approve, CS seconded, all approved.
- VI. Other Agency, Director, and Association Reports
 - a. NRCS Report: CZ provided update on EQIP FY25 batching, IRA funds released, staff terminations due to Executive Orders and projects that are stalled/cancelled due to lack of Geologist.
 - b. WRAC: SC nothing to report
 - c. ALAB: meeting next week
- VII. Board Action Items
 - a. Adding Steve Carter as authorized signatory for bank accounts: Discussion on benefits of having multiple Board Members available to sign if needed. CS motion to approve, TM seconds, all approve.



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- VIII. Agenda Setting
 - a. Next Board Meeting location and date: March meeting will take place at USLTRCD office located at 5905 Capistrano Ave, Suite F, Atascadero at 4pm March 27th, 2025.

- IX. Closed Session 5:15pm
 - a. Public Employment. (§ 54957) Executive Director position.
 - i. Open meeting resumed at 5:41pm. Reported: Continue with action taken during the January meeting, as recorded in the meeting minutes.

- X. Adjournment of meeting: 5:42 pm. Next meeting is March 27th at 4pm.