



Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

5855 Capistrano Ave, Suite D, Atascadero, CA 93422 | 805.460.7272 | www.us-ltrcd.org

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes November 2023 Atascadero, CA

- I. Call to Order, 4:05pm: not enough board members to call to order
Attendance
Board Directors: In Person - Randy Heinzen, Director; Dolores Howard, Director; Tom Mora, Director.
Staff: Devin Best, Executive Director; Lauren Danna, Program Manager.
Public: Dylan Wilder, USFW; Joshua Kuroi, CC Carbon Farm Coordinator
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code 54954.2(B)):
- III. Public Comment:
- IV. RCD Reports
 - a. Board Updates: Dolores Howard: SLO Beaver Brigade has been active - Received donations to monitor two dams and an additional 3 more dams from Giving Tuesday. Hoping to cover 3-4 beaver dams in Atascadero. There has also been an increase in beaver activity near monitored dams due to ATV riders staying away. Attended Ecologistics meeting 11/29 – A Salinas River center is being established to heighten public awareness of the Salinas River. Tom Mora: Expressed hope for county creating way to capture run-off from big storms to avoid large water loss.
 - b. Executive Director Report: DB: Updated Project listing for ED Report. Waiting for closeout on Healthy Soils. For 2021 Projects – big project is Cal Trans project. Phase 1 is complete, will be starting on Phase 2 proposal in the next few weeks. Adelaida Hydro Study is ramping down. Community meeting will be in early 2024 to communicate the study done by USGS. Sustainable Land Initiative (Project 22-04) SLI biochar kilns are being released next week and CP faculty members have been asked to make a compost spreader. The word reagrding SLI is spreading to other RCDs. Devin & Michael Larcher will present on SLI at CARCD conference. WCC – have rolled out Conservancy Job Steward position.
 - i. DH – mentions Happy Valley Ranch and asks about Natures Engineers.
 - c. Program Manager – Lauren Danna: LD: Originally from Yuba City, CA, a small, farming town in Northern California. Studied AgriBusiness at Cal Poly. Would be 5th generation farmer if she chose to continue family operation. Graduated during Covid and due to this, took the first job offer received; a financial auditing firm, Deloitte, in Denver, CO. Found herself studying Regenerative Agriculutre in her free time. After a year with Deloitte, returned to the Central Coast to work a harvest for Tablas Creek Winery to learn more about Regenerative growing practices. After harvest, she joined Albertsons Co. Corporate food sourcing team to stay within food business, but also SLO as this role was remote. After almost 2 years at Albertsons, she came across the Program Manager opening at USLTRCD. She understands the challenges of being a farmer and landowner and hopes to provide assistance however she can to help reach their goals, especially regarding conservation efforts and sustainable practices.
 - d. Draft FY 24 Budget: Marina is helpful in changing this. Looking good for 2024. Plan is to present in January. No changes to the budget.



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- e. New Office 5855 Capistrano Ave, Atascadero: Smooth transition. Only a few hiccups – Wi-Fi was an issue but is fixed now. New truck was purchased as part of our PG&E project.
- V. Consent:
- a. Approval of regular meeting minutes (distributed prior to next meeting): TM – moves, RH – seconds, TM - with a condition that we amend and approve the September meeting. All in favor
 - b. Approval of treasurer’s reports:
- VI. Other Agency, Director, and Association Reports
- a. NRCS Report- Hilary Phillips - Not Present
 - b. USFW: Dylan Wilder – Federal Budget – There was a shut down in beginning of Oct. Funding ends in New Year, 2024. Won’t know if there are more additional funds until budget is approved. Potential funding opportunity with USLTRCD. Mentioned previous BDA project with City of San Luis. Up and coming groups to make note of– Autobon, CA Rangeland Conservation Coalition.
 - c. WRAC: Dolores attended WRAC meeting in October. Presentation by Bliane – highlighted use of remote sensing to help determine consumed water and its advantages. The presentation is on WRAC website.
 - d. ALAB: No report. RH has an attendant employee who will provide us with notes. To be shared next meeting
- VII. Board Action Items
- a. Resolution to apply to WCB PBR
 - i. DH - approves, RH- seconds, Item is approved
- VIII. Agenda Setting
- a. Next Board Meeting: January 18th 4pm-6pm
 - b. Detailed update on WCC
 - c. Update on Bank Account Change
- IX. Adjournment of meeting: 5:50pm. Next meeting is Jan. 18th at 4pm.