

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

9481 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422 | 805.460.7272 | www.us-ltrcd.org

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes August 2023 Atascadero, CA

- I. Call to Order, 4:05pm by Susan Cochrane.
Attendance
Board Directors: In Person-Susan Cochrane, Chair; Tom Mora, Director; Randy Heinzen, Director; Dolores Howard, Director.
Staff: Devin Best, Executive Director; Spencer Gordon, Project Manager; Eli Grinberg, Conservation Technician; Hailey Leurck, Restoration Technician.
Public: In Person- Amber Schatt, CAFF; Susan Funk, Atascadero City Council.
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code 54954.2(B)):
IVe. Will be presented at 5:30.
- III. Public Comment: Susan Cochrane mentions she has observed massive weed blooms in this district and attributes it to over grazing.
- IV. RCD Reports
 - a. Board Updates: None
 - b. Executive Director Report: DB reviewed report distributed prior to meeting. A new outside HR consultant was hired to train staff, re-writing personnel handbook to ensure compliance with state laws. Outside financial officer hired. Possibly switching to Gregorian calendar. DB explains that a full board is needed to approve the contract for CALTRANS mitigation project. SC asks staff individually what they have been working on. AS mentions possible collaboration for Equity Grant. DB brings up two bonds. Hoping to gain more funding from the state government for RCDs. DB met with ED from Coastal San Luis RCD. RH would like to invite their board members and/or staff to our next meeting. DB and SG have been conducting interviews for a new PM. Will make decision by 8/25.
 - c. RCD Board Member Candidates- Devin: Amber Schatt, currently working with CAFF. She would be a great asset to board. Two other candidates not present. Conversation ensues regarding changing the time or date of monthly meetings. No changes made. Meetings will continue to be on Thursdays at 4pm.
 - d. Willow Creek Conservancy – Devin: Paperwork signed 8/23 to transfer property to USLTRCD. There was a small 4-acre fire on 8/16 that did some structural damage to pole barn and a well, but mostly burned weeds. The truck that started the fire was removed from property on 8/23. AS asks about potential for a PBA. Conversation ensues about the future of the conservancy.
 - e. Livestock Grazing and Fire Management: Presentation delivered by Adrianna Stagnaro on her master’s thesis on prescribed herbivory along Salinas River for fuel reduction.
- V. Consent:
 - a. Approval of regular meeting minutes (distributed prior to meeting): Moved to next meeting. Unable to approve without working board.
 - b. Approval of treasurer’s reports: Not distributed. Unable to approve without working board.
- VI. Other Agency, Director, and Association Reports



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- a. NRCS Report- Hilary Phillips: New staff member hired. General backlog of applicants. HF requests local workgroup meeting to be added to the next meeting agenda.
- b. USFW: Dylan Wilder – Not present.
- c. WRAC: No report.
- d. ALAB: No report.

VII. Board Action Items

- a. Approve Transition to Five Member RCD Board: Moved to next meeting. Unable to approve without working board.

VIII. Agenda Setting

- a. Next Board Meeting: September 21st, 4pm-6pm.
- b. Local Working Group Meeting
- c. Consent for approval of regular meeting minutes from June meeting.
- d. Consent for approval of treasurer's reports.
- e. Amber Schatt to present fire data collected at October meeting.

IX. Adjournment of meeting: 5:15pm. Next meeting is September 21st, 2023, at 4pm.