



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 January 22, 2026 Atascadero Library O'Grady Conference Room 6555 Capistrano Ave, Atascadero, CA

I. Call to Order, 4:00pm by Tom Mora

Attendance:

Board Directors: Tom Mora, President; Steve Carter, Treasurer; Chris Smith; Eric Michielssen, Mike Bonnheim

Staff: Drew Loganbill, Executive Director/Board Secretary; Marina Washburn, Financial Officer

Associates: Lance Cowart, Versant Advisors Inc; Daniel Chueng, SLO County Counsel

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code §54954.2(b)): None

III. Public Comment- None

IV. RCD Reports

a. Board Updates - None

b. Executive Director Report:

- Cultural burn at Willow Creek Conservancy in mid-December, involving 12 to 15 tribal members from Salinan tribe and YTT and the assistance of Cal Fire. The 5-acre burn was successful, with no injuries and positive publicity, including a front-page article in New Times. Plots were majority yellow star thistle and coyote brush. We will be monitoring for regrowth as well as follow up seeding of native plants, and grazing.
- We were busy in December with planting projects. We planted native species at Strawberry Canyon, which is in Cambria, additional plantings in Centennial Creek in Paso Robles, and then we had a planting day out on the Fiscalini Preserve in Cambria. We have a project in the Salinas River where we have the beaver dam analogs where we did some maintenance on those including planting some willows.
- Regional Rangeland Planner w/ Central Coast Soil hub – Grant Johnson hired. He is available to provide assistance on rangeland and livestock operation within the district.
- Applied for 2 NACD grants for TA and implementation funds for SLI.
- Awarded Cambria Pines Linkage grant with Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention Grant to treat 33 acres in Cambria.
- CALFIRE Monterey Pine- Burned approximately 25 acres, 300 piles last week at Rancho Marino in Cambria.
- We finished York Mountain Forest Management Plan.
- We will be working with Firesafe Council and Auten Resource Consulting to plan and implement fuels reduction treatments at Fiscalini Ranch Preserve this summer.
- Staff is working on grazing plan for Strawberry Canyon.

V. Consent Agenda

- Approval of regular meeting minutes for December – SC motion to approve, EM second, all present approve.
- Approval of January Treasurer's Report –
 - Approve Budget modification for FY 25-26 Q2 Marina Washburn, Finance Officer, provided explanation of current balance sheet and budget modification request.
 - SC motion to approve balance, EM second, all present approve.
 - SC motion to approve FY25-25 budget modifications, MB second, all present approve.

VI. Other Agency, Director, and Association Reports



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- a. NRCS Report – no report
- b. WRAC – no meeting/report
- c. ALAB – EM officially approve by Board of Supervisors as an ALAB representative. EM attended last meeting and main discussion on how to handle sewer sludge.

VII. Board Discussion and/or Action Items

- a. 2022-23 Audit report – Presenter: Lance Cowart, Versant Advisors Inc. presented why financial review resulted in a disclaimer of opinion. Lance provides an overview of the financial review for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Lance notes the lack of internal controls and the need for better documentation and reconciliation of financial statements. Marina Washburn explains the challenges faced in rebuilding financial records and the ongoing efforts to improve internal controls. The board discusses the importance of accurate financial reporting and the need for regular budget reviews.
- b. LAFCO meeting update and discussion. Drew explained LAFCO staff recommendation that was approved by LAFCO commission which includes adopting MSR and SOI report along with establishing 12-month remediation period.
- c. Approval of USGS cooperative agreement well monitoring report and invoice. Drew explained the agreement and report provided. EM motion to approve, CS second, all present approve.
- d. CARCD Ballot and Election Materials – Board vote on CARCD officers, bylaws, and resolutions. SC motion to approve, EM second, all present approve.
- e. Ethics Training (AB 1234) and Browns Act refresher. Reminder of required trainings that are available on CSDA website.

VIII. Agenda Setting

- a. Next board meeting location and date – February 26 at 4:00pm.

IX. Closed Session

- a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION (pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9) Name of case: [EW v. USLTRCD/23CVP-0171]
- b. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (pursuant to Paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: Three (3)

- X. Adjournment of meeting: 6:25 pm.