



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 March 23, 2023 Templeton, CA

- I. Call to Order, 4:02pm by Mary Bianchi. Attendance- Board Directors: Mary Bianchi, Treasurer; Tom Mora, Director; Dolores Howard, Director; Staff: Devin Best, Executive Director; Amy Smart, Program Manager; Spencer Gordon, Project Manager; Eli Grinberg, Conservation Technician; Hailey Leurck; NRCS District Conservationist: Hilary Philips; Public: Neil Havlik (Ca Native Plant Society), Steve Auten (Auten Resource Consulting), Chloe Node (ARC), Riley McFarland (ARC), John Gee (CalFire), Dan Turner (SLO Fire Safe Council)
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code 54954.2(B)): No quorum, Consent Agenda and Board Action Items postponed until April meeting.
- III. Public Comment:
 - a. Amy Smart: Board member survey provided. Request to have survey responses returned by April meeting.
 - b. Mary Bianchi: Acknowledged safety concerns and police activity at Atascadero office location.
- IV. RCD Reports
 - a. Board Updates: Dolores Howard presented flyer for upcoming Beaver Festival, RCD to attend.
 - b. Executive Director Report: Reviewed report details. Discussed Wildfire Resiliency Task Force Regional Meeting, biochar demo day April 11th, flood repair funding, upcoming need for Board's approval to award selected Contractor for Centennial Creek following Request for Proposals (may require special meeting).
 - c. ~~Board member positions~~— moved to April meeting.
 - d. New Employee – Hailey Leurck: Restoration Technician, background in ecology and education.
 - e. Cambria Project Specific Analysis – Spencer Gordon/Steve Auten: Next Board meeting Board will vote on PSA. Public Comment period open, responding to comments as received, PSAs under review with Coastal Commission. Discussion on Rancho Marino Reserve PSA, Tom Mora asked for cost to implement, Steve Auten reviewed methods and approximate range of costs/acre. Implementation planned for 2024. Dolores Howard asked about methodology and baseline conditions. Discussion on dynamic conditions of Central Coast forests, changing climate, botanical and wildlife surveys, mitigation measures. Updates will be provided to the Board as project progresses. Public comments will be posted on USLTRCD website. Neil Havlik expressed CNPS concerns around Covell project, presented photograph of fuel break, requests RCD have shrub retention for wildlife habitat in PSA. Response from Dan Turner included details on non-homogenous treatments on Covell project and acknowledged understory retention listed in PSA. Discussion over photograph continued. Mary Bianchi acknowledged discussion, challenging to represent large project with single photograph, reminded RCD Board's goal is to make appropriate management decisions given best available science, scale and time of project. Board and staff agrees project is a unique opportunity for local partners to learn as we proceed through unprecedented and necessary work.

V. ~~Consent:~~



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VI. Other Agency, Director, and Association Reports

- a. NRCS Report- Hilary Phillips: Receiving many calls and emails regarding funding assistance for emergency flood relief, especially Watershed Protection Program. Challenging to administer emergency program funding, RCD may provide assistance as third party sponsor. Announced CSP training opportunities for RCDs, incentivizes additional stewardship for landowners. CSP funding applications due April 14th.
- b. WRAC: No meeting, next meeting in April. Tom Mora to provide reports moving forward as RCD representative.
- c. ALAB: No report.

~~VII. Board Action Items~~

- ~~a. Executive Director Salary: Mary Bianchi~~

VIII. Agenda Setting

- a. Next board meeting in April: Spencer Gordon will present PSAs for Cambria for Board's approval. ED salary discussion. Finance Officer position discussion.
- b. Finance Subcommittee scheduling for FY 23/24 during April meeting.
- c. Actively recruit new Board members.

~~IX. Closed Session~~

- X. Adjournment: 5:49 pm. Next meeting is April 27, 2023 at 4pm.