

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TRANQUILLITY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
January 13, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the Tranquillity Resource Conservation District (TRCD) met in the McMullin Area Sustain Groundwater Sustainability Agency Conference Room for a live and in-person meeting and via MS Teams meeting protocols, on Monday, January 13, 2024, at 3:12 P.M.

Jerry Radinoff, Chair presided, and Steve Haze kept the Minutes.

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Prior to call to order the Oath Of Office was administered by the Executive Director to the newly re-appointed Directors Partick Abercrombie and Anthony Borges as required by the Elections Office and County Board of Supervisors. Due to an emergency situation the Oath Of Office will be administered to Stephen Shehadey separately as soon as possible.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by the President Jerry Radinoff at 3:12 P.M. at the District Office 275 So. Madera Avenue, Suite 301, Kerman and via MS Teams remote access and a quorum was declared.

**ROLL CALL:** In attendance were Patrick Abercrombie, Anthony Borges and Jerry Radinoff. Absent were Matt Hurley and Stephen Shehadey

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Haze Executive Director and via MS Teams Erwin Duenas, NRCS Fresno County District Conservationist and Jeevan Singh

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no public comments.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:**

1. **Congratulations** and the acknowledgement of the board members' re-appointments was made. Thanks and appreciation for their voluntary commitment and non-compensated contributions was noted.
2. **Review and Approval of Agenda motion** – AB and second by PA. Passed unanimously.
3. **Review and Approval of draft Minutes from October 10, 2024** (Meetings of November and December canceled). Motioned by AB and seconded by PA. Passed unanimously.
4. **Executive Director's Report**
  - a) **General – Outreach and District Development effort**
    - I. Fresno County Public Works & Planning and CA Conservation Corps – Dumping on Ag Lands clean-up: Contacted by Fresno County on possibly being the lead agency for three sites. Executive Director to investigate feasibility based upon resources and \$50K available per site from CalRecycle.
    - II. **TAP** – Technical Assistance Provider training with scholarships. Jeevan Singh and Mike Chatelle are both participating.
    - III. **UC Merced** – Partnership Opportunities, SEEN, F3 and other programs. No new developments to report. Effort to further engage is an on-going process.

- IV. **Outreach to other RCDs in Area 9** – Via LWG, GSA relationship building and TBWP Network. No new developments to report.
  - V. **CERF/CA Jobs First** – No new developments to report. \$5M awarded with \$9M remaining.
  - VI. **Fresno COG** – CCAP (Comprehensive Climate Action Plan) Steering Committee & Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Roundtable. Ag-Travel Plaza and Transit Hub Concept Proposal. The Executive Director is getting further engaged with the Roundtable, Sustainable Communities Strategies Committee, Regional Rail Transportation Feasibility Study and CCAP Steering Committee. Working towards establishing an Ag-Travel Plaza on Highway 180 across from Bar 20 Ranch. Intent is to utilize biomass and conversion technologies to produce electricity for supercharging stations, hydrogen and biodiesel fuels. Working with Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) to sponsor effort – including adding to the RTP projects list. Submission to Fresno COG is due by 1/31.
  - VII. **Fresno Business Council / SJV Manufacturing Alliance / New California Coalition** – No new developments to report.
- b) **Financial Reports** – 2024/25 Year To Date Income and Expenses Report:
- Community West Bank Account Balance - \$256.10
  - Total Grants in progress - \$382,068
  - Accounts Receivables - \$23,569
  - Accounts Payable - \$18,001.03
  - AR versus AP Balance - \$5,567.86
- TRCD's Funded Programs Report and CWB Account Transactions from January 2024 to Current were provided.
- c) **Funding – Grant Development, Submission and/or Active**
- I. **Proposition 4** – Following Implementation. An Online Seminar by CA Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) regarding the \$10 Billion in funding allocations has been scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - II. **Mobile Irrigation Systems Testing** – Prop 4 monies include SWEEP and Healthy Soils
  - III. **Sustainable Lands Initiative (SLI) framework** – This was developed by the Upper Salinas & Las Tablas RCD and cBRAIN. This has the potential to improve services. Will continue to keep Board apprised.
  - IV. **CARCD -- California Water Resilience Initiative (CWRI) Private Sector Funding** – No news. Will check in with Project Manager.
  - V. **CARCD/NRCS Block Grant** – Checking in with the Project Manager on using funds towards the potential of a small farming operations/urban gardening and habitat restoration on 14 acres working with MAGSA and a private landowner.
  - VI. **CARCD – ABC and CDFA RCPP Grants** – Unfortunately, these two proposals to provide technical assistance were not awarded.
  - VII. **NRCS – Conservation Cooperative Agreement** – Local Working Group (LWG) second meeting is targeted to occur in late February. Additional outreach is underway led by Morgan, our Intern.
  - VIII. **Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program** – Consulting support and potential 25% advance is available. Public outreach target is 3/25. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly progress report and invoice submitted approved. 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report and invoice being worked on for submission.
- d) **SJV Natural Resources Hub** – Alexandria Miranda, CCI Regional Coordinator not available. The Cotton Growers Tour conducted on 10/27 was very good and individuals who took the tour came as far away as London. Jerry outreached to two cotton brokers. One was interested.
- e) **NRCS Update** – Erwin gave an update on additional staffing being brought on board including an engineer. Mike Chatelle is on board and will be a liaison for Tranquillity RCD. Staff are 10 personnel. They are processing 355 new EQIP applications. However, they do not have any Rangeland Specialist or Forester.
- f) **District Carbon Management Plan** – This is being approached based upon working with the Carbon Cycle Institute, TAP training and the potential benefits coming from the Sustainable Lands Initiative as noted previously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:34 P.M. to the next Regular Meeting on February 10, 2025, 3:00 P.M., Boardroom of the Agency or as otherwise directed by the Board.