

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TRANQUILLITY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
May 12, 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, May 12, 2025, at 3:02 P.M.

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

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the President Jerry Radinoff at 3:08 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 Jerry Radinoff, Steve Shehadey and Anthony Borges, Patrick Abercrombie and Matt Hurley

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Haze Executive Director, and via MS Teams Erwin Duenas, NRCS District Conservationist

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

Review and Approval of Agenda: Motion – SS and second by PA. Passed unanimously.

Review and Approval of draft Minutes from April 14, 2025 – Motion: SS and second by MH. Passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **General – Outreach and District Development effort**
 - I. **CARCD Water Committee:** The ED announced that he had been appointment to serve on this committee and requested to apply to their Land and Soils Committee as well.
 - II. **Solar Farms:** The Board and ED discussed the emergence of large-scale photovoltaic sites in the west side of Fresno County and whether there was any position to establish. The concept of agrivoltaics was brought up as well. The ED will continue to monitor these types of developments as best as possible.
 - III. **CA Agritourism Conference:** The ED shared his participation and some of the opportunities to support agritourism in the district and west side. He will update the website to make resources available to those that may be interested in this opportunity.
 - IV. **Fresno County Public Works & Planning and CA Conservation Corps – Dumping on Ag Lands clean-up:** Still waiting for County to provide letter to defer to TRCD.
 - V. **Fresno County Public Works & Planning – Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning:** Discussions with staff on TRCD participating in community outreach and engagement – as well as planning activities.
 - VI. **TAP – Technical Assistance Provider training with scholarships.** Jeevan Singh is still participating as classes are available with completion in August.

- VII. **UC Merced** – Partnership Opportunities, SEEN, F3 and other programs. The ED continues to perform outreach and met with representatives from the Central Valley Community Valley Community Foundation and others, in particular F3-Local staff. Will be attending BEAM Circular Event on May 22nd and ANR-VINE Connect Field Day at the West Side Research and Extension Center on June 26th.
- VIII. **Outreach to other RCD and Others s in Area 9:** ED is using the Local Working Group as a mechanism.
- IX. **CA Jobs First – SJ2:** No new developments to report. \$5M awarded with \$9M remaining. Will probably table until new developments occur.
- X. **Fresno COG** – ED continues to participate on the RTP (Regional Transportation Plan) Roundtable representing Ag in the development of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan – CCAP and Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) development.
- **Financial Reports – Proposed 2025/26 Budget:**
 - The draft budget was presented to the Board for discussion with the following amounts estimated.
 - Beginning Balance including Receivables – \$63,000
 - Fixed Costs – \$14,048
 - Discretionary Costs – \$6,260
 - Total – \$20,308
 - Gross Income - \$511,594
 - Expenses – \$470,498
 - Net Income - \$41,097
 - Ending Balance including Receivables – \$83,789

The Board requested that their review be continued at the next meeting in June.
- **2024/25 Year To Date Income and Expenses Report:**
 - Community West Bank Account Balance - \$74,038.21 including remainder of the SGC advance
 - Total Grants in progress - \$275,860
 - Accounts Receivables - \$17,597.77
 - Accounts Payable - \$26,091.13
 - AR versus AP Balance – (\$8,493.36)

TRCD’s Funded Programs Report and CWB Account Transactions from January 2024 to Current were provided.
- **Funding – Grant Development, Submission and/or Active**
 - I. **Sustainable Lands Initiative (SLI) Framework and Demonstration Sites:** The MOU went into effect last month, and there is funding for two Carbon Farm Plans to be developed by TRCD. Jeevan Singh will be leading that effort.
 - II. **Hana Environmental Teaming Agreement for Los Gatos Creek tamarisk/salt cedar impact:** TRCD is expected to execute the TA shortly. Maps and a Scope of Work has been developed. Will be collaborating to identify funding in which to pursue beyond the NRCS EQIP project in the whole watershed for the benefit of the ranchers.
 - III. **Mobile Irrigation Systems Testing** – Prop 4 monies include SWEEP and Healthy Soils – still tracking.
 - IV. **CARCD – California Water Resilience Initiative (CWRI) Private Sector Funding** – No Change. Pacific Institute hopes to have an agreement under CWRI in place with Netafim in the Fall timeframe. Will continue to keep in touch.
 - V. **NRCS – Conservation Cooperative Agreement** – Local Working Group (LWG) second meeting was conducted on April 23rd with a larger turnout. 3rd LWG is being scheduled.
 - VI. **Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program** – The community meeting was successfully held on May 6th in the town of Tranquillity. Again a Strategic Growth Council and CA Department of Conservation representatives participated.
- **SJV Natural Resources Hub** – Alexandria Miranda, CCI Regional Coordinator not available. ED continues to support the Hub and remains engaged in Strategic Plan development.

- **NRCS Update** – Erwin Duenas, District Conservationist for Fresno County reported that they have 112 EQIP applications and to-date have obligated 65% of the contracts. TRCD continues to assistance as best as possible during these challenging times. The EQIP project in Los Gatos Creek area is looking at 500 acres of tamarisk eradication.
- **District Carbon Management Plan** – As previously reported, this is being approached based upon working with the Carbon Cycle Institute, TAP training, and now with potential benefits coming from the Sustainable Lands Initiative (SLI) and their Carbon Farm Planning program that TRCD will begin to be involved with.

ADJOURNMENT: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:33 P.M. to the next Regular Meeting on June 9, 2025, 3:00 P.M., Boardroom of the Agency or as otherwise directed by the Board.