



**Chowchilla Red Top  
Resource Conservation District  
Post Office Box 531  
Chowchilla, CA 93610**



*Tuesday, August 21, 2018 - 2:00 pm  
Chowchilla Red Top Resource Conservation District  
Chowchilla Library, Chowchilla*

**I. Roll Call and Introductions – 2:04**

- Flag Salute  
Board Members: Jack Fry, Norm V Kuhr, Sandra Faust, Tim Coelho  
Staff: Jeannie Habben  
Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff - NRCS  
Guests: Samantha Lopes – Farm Land Management Services, Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County Department of Water and Natural Resources

**II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda**

- August 2018 Agenda
- June 2018 Minutes (no July meeting)  
Norm K made the motion to accept the minutes and the agenda as presented; Sandy F second the motion; all voted and passed unanimously

**III. Updates, Handout, and Public Comments**

- Yosemite Peace Symposium – A Gathering of Peacemakers will be presented at the Tenaya Lodge on October 26-27, 2018. They will have 12 breakouts in three tracks: Peace and the Environment; Peace and Our Youth; Peace and Human Dignity. Jeannie H has been requested to present at one of the Peace and the Environment break-out sessions. She will be presenting on “Living in Harmony with the New California Landscape.” Steve Haze will also be speaking at one of the Environment break-out sessions.
- The California Association of RCDs 2018 Annual Conference registration is now open. The topic is “Celebrating Resilient Landscapes and Adaptive Communities” in San Diego, CA, November 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Kona Kai Resort. Last call for early bird tickets is on September 3.
- The San Joaquin Valley Regional / Area IX Fall meeting is on Friday, October 19 at the Hanford Ag and NRCS Multi-Purpose Room, 680 Campus Drive, Hanford. This meeting will be sponsored by Excelsior/Kings River RCD and will have the annual speak-off contest. The theme of the speak-off contest is “How can RCDs help landowners reduce the threat of fires?”
- CDFA is accepting applications for technical assistance grants for climate smart agriculture programs. CDFA will award grant funds starting at \$5k, with additional funding allocated based on the number of applicants served. Each organization can

receive up to \$60k. this program is to aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in agricultural operations.

- SB623 – in Sacramento today to discuss water flows for the farmers and Dairies in the Central Valley

#### **IV. Correspondence & Mail**

- Correspondence  
Reviewed the bank statement for July and August and balanced to the Treasurer Report. Received the Summary of Coverage for 2018-2019 from Golden State Risk Management and the NACD membership application/dues schedule. This group is not joining NACD until they are more financially solvent.

#### **V. Financial Report**

- Monthly Treasurer's Report  
Jeannie H distributed the August Financial Report. After discussion it was noted that there were no changes from last month (or June, since there was no July meeting). Norm K made the motion to accept the August Financial Report as presented; Sandy F second the motion; all voted and passed unanimously
- Invoices to be Paid  
The board voted to pay half of the project proposal to have their website built. A 50% deposit is due as a down payment to have Priceless Kreations build their website. (see contract discussion below) Tim C made the motion to accept the Website contract as presented and pay 50% of the fee to begin the process. Norm K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously. Jeannie H will send the check and contract to Priceless Kreations and will then begin working with Kristina Price the webmaster to build the new website.

#### **VI. New Business**

- Review DOC REV Grant
  - Grant Budget  
There are three more reporting cycles left for this grant. Jeannie H distributed the accounting to date to show what funding is available in what category. The next check from DOC should be received in September. This grant is on time and on budget except for the payment of the RCD Coordinator; this should be paid up by the end of the year with the assistance of the CVCF grant covering the LAFCO fee and some of the consolidation expenses.
  - Grant Tasks  
Jeannie H distributed the task list to show the board what areas are still required for the completion of the grant contract. The next tasks are the completion of the website and the resource library. The main tasks now due to be completed are the tasks connected to the consolidation process.
- Review Tier 1 Annual Requirements  
Sandy F completed her Ethics and Sexual Harassment Prevention training on-line; all board members are now in compliance for the next two years.

- Website – Sign Contract  
The board received the contract for Priceless Creations to build their website. This will include their website design, all pages, site ability to process web forms, a shared calendar, links, and blog/news feed capabilities. Tim C made the motion to accept the Website contract as presented. Norm K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously. Jack F signed the contract on behalf of the board, Jeannie H will send the check and contract to Priceless Creations and will then begin working with Kristina Price the webmaster to build the new website.
- Durable Collaboration – Madera RCD Consolidation
  - Resolution  
Jeannie H assisted the board in writing the Resolution to Consolidate with Madera RCD. The board discussed this and signed this to go to LAFCO with the application. The board then discussed what days would work best for them to meet with Madera RCD to discuss the application and the logistics for consolidating. Norm K made the motion to accept the Resolution #2018-1 as written and have Jack F sign the Resolution as presented; Sandy F second the motion; all voted and passed unanimously.

Jeannie H announced that she worked with staff from CARCD and applied for funding to cover the consolidation efforts for these two groups. CVCF (Central Valley Conservation Foundation) will give \$2,450 to pay for the LAFCO Fees and additional funds to cover man-hours that are required to cover this task. They also have funds in the grant to cover EDD fees if these are required.

## **VII. Old Business**

- NRCS Report  
NRCS is advertising competitive contribution agreement opportunities. They are making available \$260,000 for the next three years to do Outreach to four types of potential customers: 1) Asian Pacific Islander farmers; 2) Black farmers; 3) Women farmers; and 4) Veteran farmers. Applicants can apply to do outreach for one, two, three or all four groups. It is required that applicants plan work in at least two of the four NRCS California administrative areas. Applications are due Aug. 31. The NRCS Point of Contact is Christine Chavez.  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ca/newsroom/pnotice/?cid=nrcseprd1412220>

The Madera NRCS office processed over \$5million in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. They were one of the top five offices in California. There will be a new Point Blue employee placed in the Madera Office for the region; this is in addition to the Xerxes employee Kat that is already there and working with the people in the area. The Madera office still has a Planner position that needs to be filled. Also, in the region, there are still DC positions open in Fresno, Hanford, and Tulare.

The new funding cycle for NRCS will begin in October. The Madera NRCS office would like a letter from the RCD Board to express what the Natural Resource needs are in the Madera area. What would support conservation in Madera County and what are other resources needed in this area? This letter is requested in the Madera office by September 15. Some of the needs discussed at this meeting as possibilities for the letter are:

- Hedgerow development for species of concern – seed
  - Continued eradication of the Arundo donax in the waterways
  - Sustainable aquifer
  - Clear channels
  - How do you see groundwater recharge happening?
  - Habitat and wildlife restoration – rebuild the flood plains
- Board Recruitment  
This is currently being rolled into the consolidation effort until and unless someone wishes to join either the Chowchilla Red Top RCD or the Madera RCD. Samantha Lopes from the Farm Land Management Services may be interested. She also is a farmer and has ties with Triangle T and the Red Top area.
- Madera Region IRWMP/RWMG – Report
    - August 13 – Chowchilla, Town Hall
    - September 10 – Madera, Government Center  
Sierra Institute conducted three Disadvantage Community public meetings to cover District 5 of Madera County (Region). The first was Community Capacity; they interviewed and surveyed members from the community to their needs (needs assessment). The second was the Water and Waste Water needs assessment meeting to review all infrastructure and small water systems needs. The third meeting was with the Tribes, there were six tribes in attendance, to educate them about the IRWM process and form a Tribal Advisory Committee. Sierra Institute and Sierra Water Workgroup will then take all this information and the information from various telephone calls and surveys and create a report to be added as a DAC/DAC/DACTI section to the IRWM Plan update.

**VIII. Items for Next Meeting: September 18, 2018; 2:00pm  
300 King Avenue, Chowchilla, CA 93610**

**IX. Adjourn: 4:06**