



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



MEETING MINUTES

*Tuesday, February 21, 2017 - 2:00 pm
Chowchilla Red Top Resource Conservation District
Chowchilla Library, Chowchilla*

I. Roll Call and Introductions

II. Flag Salute

Jack Fry, Norm V Kuhr, John Wolfshorndl, Jeannie Habben, Tim Coelho, Johnny Siliznoff, Christina Beckstead

III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda

- February 2017 Agenda
Norm K made a motion to approve the agenda with no changes; Jack F second the motion; all voted; motion is carried unanimously
- January 2017 Minutes
Norm K made a motion to approve the minutes from the January meetings; Jack F second the motion; all voted; motion is carried unanimously

III. Updates, Handout, and Public Comments

- The schedule is out for the 2017 town hall meetings Supervisor Wheeler will be hosting his next town hall meeting in Oakhurst on Thursday, March 9 in Raymond from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If interested.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy is offering Grant Writing classes given by Elissa Brown. Upcoming classes are in Mariposa on February 23 & 24 and in Clovis on March 9.
- Small Outreach grants are available from CARCD as a partnership with NRCS to provide opportunities for Ag Partners, non-profit organizations and RCDs for resource conservation projects to historically underserved producers.
- FEMA money is available for possible flood relief. Merced has gone after this funding and bridges have begun being removed to prevent flooding on 99.
- Christina B from the Madera Farm Bureau provided information on the valley water issues from the Farm Bureau perspective. She will continue to stay in contact with this group to continue their involvement in valley water issues.

IV. Correspondence & Mail

- Correspondence
The correspondence received a Bank Statement, the invoice for the Madera RWMG, and a proxy-vote. Jeannie H also shared the newsletter that is created and distributed

from the Riverside-Corona RCD to show the similarities of issues; they showed an article about the bark beetle and about Arundo donax in their waterways.

V. Financial Report

- Monthly Treasurer's Report
Jeannie H distributed the February Financial Report; the only change is the payment for the notetaker. Norm K made a motion to approve the Financial Report; Jack F second the motion; all voted; motion is carried unanimously.
- Invoices to be Paid – Notetaker
The notetaker payment is pre-approved. They will discuss the membership dues to the Madera RWMG in the future.

VI. New Business

- Application for Base Funding or DOC 2017 RCD Financial Assistance Program
The application is supposed to be out this month. Jeannie H had a conversation with Jenny D. from the DOC office in regards to the base funding that will soon be available. Jenny D stated that there will be a requirement of a 25% match to receive that funding, Federal funds could be used for the match; any state funds must to have a match – they tried to make an exception – but no dice! So, there is a 25% match, but half of that can be in-kind and the other half is cash. This goes for the small Tier 1 of say \$5,000 to \$10,000 and the larger Tier 2 and 3 also. The other bad news is this funding cannot be used for audits or insurance payments – like they have previously stated – so I explained to her this will be a hardship on the valley RCDs; they will still need to come up with the \$5k for an audit that they are requiring to complete their Tier 1 – she said that they are working on getting an auditor at a discount. I told her good luck because I called several in this area and no one will take on the liability of an audit for less.

VII. Old Business

- NRCS Report
Johnny S stated reported that the first batching cycle is closed. Comparisons from last year show that the last full year received nearly \$2M in funding applications and now in 2017 the first batching applications alone are totaling about \$2M. These were for a variety of requests such as tractors and water systems, etc.

Jeannie H reported that the NRCS is partnering with CARCD to provide small outreach grant opportunities for Ag Partners, non-profit organizations and RCD's for resource conservation projects to historically underserved producers. Quality projects are sought that will result in tangible, documented outcomes. These small grants are available to support educational activities, materials, workshops, field days, seminars, tours, demonstrations, brochures, fact sheets and other opportunities to expand conservation awareness and participation to all. Small grants available up to \$2,000. Applications are due by March 1, 2016.

- Website and Email
Final Update
The website was turned off on February 1, 2017. This RCD has two domain names waiting to be activated with a new website.

- **Board Recruitment**
The Round Table concept is very promising in Board Recruitment. Also, we are still waiting for the Madera RCD to get through their lawsuit to move on with a consolidation of the two RCDs.

- **Madera Region IRWMP/RWVG – Report**
 - February 13 – Madera
 - March 13 – OakhurstAll the RWVG meetings that were previously held at MID will now be held at the Madera County Government Building. (every third meeting)
The Mountain County Funding Area Coordinating Committee met February 8 in Nevada City to review the RFPs for the groups applying for the Applicant. After review, they chose the Sierra Institute. Also at this meeting the Coordinating Committee completed and approved the DAC Coordinating Committee Charter and voted in the Co-Chairs for the group. A representative for T-Stan will be the Chair and a representative for CABY will be the Co-Chair. One of the regions, out of the 10 in the Mountain Counties, sent in a letter to opt out of this funding area, American River Basin. The San Joaquin Valley group has not moved forward since the meeting in December. The only group who is known to have stepped forward for the Applicant position is Ara Azhderian from the San Luis & Delta – Mendota Water Authority.

VIII. Items for Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

- IX. Adjourn:** 3:34
Letter to MID, etc. (Jack's request)