



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



**MEETING MINUTES**

*Tuesday, April 18, 2017 - 2:00 pm  
Chowchilla Red Top Resource Conservation District  
Chowchilla Library, Chowchilla*

**I. Roll Call and Introductions**

- Flag Salute  
Jack Fry, Norm V Kuhr, Sandra Faust, Jeannie Habben, Johnnie Siliznoff

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

- April 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
- March 2017 Minutes  
Norm K made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting; Jack F second the motion; all voted; motion is carried unanimously

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

- Sierra Water Workgroup is having their 2017 Summit on July 24 to July 25 in Kings Beach, CA. Sponsored by the State Bar of California, Environmental Law Section. This will be a 1 ½-day workshop focused on state-wide issues and tools around the theme "Legal and Legislative Strategies to Protecting our Headwaters."
- California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) will begin accepting applications for its competitive application process for 2017 wildfire prevention grants on April 3, 2017. The application deadline is May 12, 2017 at 5 p.m. PST. CFSC has approximately \$2 million available for 2017 wildfire prevention projects. Grant amounts cannot exceed \$200,000 per application. There is a dollar for dollar or 50% cost share/match, which means the federal funding can account for up to 50% of the project's cost. The remaining 50% must come from non-federal sources and can include cash and/or third-party in-kind. The maximum grant award is \$200,000 and the duration is 24 months.
- High and Dry: Meeting the Challenges of the World's Growing Dependence on Groundwater April 19, 2017 | 1pm ET - William M. Alley, former chief of the U.S. Geological Survey's Office of Groundwater, and Rosemarie Alley draw on examples from around the world in their new book, 'High and Dry: Meeting the Challenges of the World's Growing Dependence on Groundwater' to illustrate the essential role of groundwater in drinking water and food security and factors contributing to good groundwater governance.
- Groundwater Governance and Management in the U.S. - May 17, 2017 | 1 PM ET - Groundwater is of increasing importance to communities, businesses, agriculture, and

natural systems. Consequently, governance and management of this water source are of high interest. Due to the decentralized nature of groundwater management in the U.S., there is no single source of information about groundwater management challenges and approaches to address them. This webinar will present findings from multiple studies of groundwater governance and management in the U.S., including two national surveys and analysis of three innovative regional approaches to collaborative groundwater governance in the Sunbelt.

- Executive Order B-40-17: Gov. Jerry Brown signed an executive order Friday lifting California's drought emergency in all but four counties. That emergency had been in place since 2014; now, only Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Tuolumne counties remain under the emergency's much-diminished umbrella. "This drought emergency is over, but the next drought could be around the corner," Brown said in a statement. "Conservation must remain a way of life." Madera was not one of the excluded counties, but should still be mindful of water use.

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

- Correspondence  
We received the bank statement and the US Government Census form to complete.

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

- Monthly Treasurer's Report  
Jeannie H distributed the April Report; the only payment due is for the notetaker/contract Admin. Norm K made a motion to approve the Financial Report; Sandra F second the motion; all voted; motion is carried unanimously.
- Invoices to be Paid – Notetaker  
They will discuss the membership dues to the Madera RWMG in the future as well as the membership dues for CARCD when funds are available.  
Norm K made a motion to approve the invoices/bills for payment; Jack F second the motion; all voted; motion is carried unanimously

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

- Application for REV Funding  
Jeannie H submitted the application for the grant for the REV funding on March 28. The budget had to be resubmitted in a new format for the contract department of DOC on April 16 and was approved and completed via emails on April 17. DOC has approved the grant for \$45,800 and is working on contracts. DOC is hoping to have the grant agreement ready for signature by April 20 with it signed and back into the DOC office by April 26. The grant term for all the funding and projects will be May 1, 2017 to February 2019.
- Tier One Completion  
All Tier One requirements were sent to DOC with the grant application on March 28. DOC stated that all requirements were met except for the audit, and that was met for grant purposes with the audit contract agreement that was sent in. Once the audit is complete, so are all Tier one requirements for 2017. Out of the 98 RCDs in the state, 45 filed for REV funding, which means they meet Tier one requirements. 10 additional RCDs filed for Bootstrap funding, so they will be working to meet their Tier 1 requirements this year with the assistance of the funding.

- Annual Audit – Lori Ringeisen  
Lori Ringeisen, CPA sent the terms of engagement contract to the Chowchilla Red Top RCD on March 23, 2017 to promise to complete the audit of financial statements of the government activities, including the related notes to the financial statements for the last five years. This will meet the Tier 1 requirements for the RCD. This audit will begin after the tax season is complete; possibly in May or June.
- Meeting Date – Possible Change for May  
Jeannie H is requesting a change of date for the May meeting. She has a prior commitment on that date, out of town, that cannot be missed or broken. If her services are required to hold the meeting than the meeting date needs to be moved. After discussion, May 23 (the following Tuesday) looks like the best fit for a meeting change. Norm K made a motion to approve the date change to May 23; Sandy F second the motion; all voted; motion is carried unanimously

## **VII. Old Business**

- NRCS Report  
The Madera NRCS field office is in the middle of getting contracts completed for the second batching period and they are now looking for applications for the third batching cycle; applications for the third cycle are due by May 26. For the second round, the largest contracts were for forestry due to the dead trees in Eastern Madera County. The second largest contracts were in the uncontrolled Tier Engine contracts.

The NRCS Madera field office have lost two staff members since Jenny Johnson has left (to Auburn): Nicky Smith has gone to the Fresno office to be an Area Resource Conservationist and Cheryl Feit has moved to a state position as a State Natural Resources Inventory position. There is a current big need for an archeologist in the Region, especially for the Forest projects, because with anything over 20 acres there is a need for an archeological study for the cultural resources. The Madera Office will be holding a desk for a Xerxes employee to be used in this Region.

- Website  
This will be addressed when funding is received from DOC. This will remain on the agenda until completed.
- Board Recruitment  
Jeannie H announced that she is now working for the CARCD office representing the San Joaquin Valley Region, aka Area IX. She will be assisting all 20 RCDs with Tier 1 requirements as well as possible consolidation. This process will include marketing of the RCDs in the region as well as recruitment of new board members.
- Madera Region IRWMP/RWVG – Report
  - April 10 – Chowchilla, City Hall
  - May 8 – Madera, Government Building – Fourth Floor  
The Mountain County funding area Coordinating Committee met in Sacramento. Roles and responsibilities of the Coordinating Committee, the Applicant, and each region within the funding area was discussed. The next meeting of the DAC Coordinating Committee is Monday, June 5. Sierra Institute is now the grant applicant for this funding area. The Mountain/foothill area is underrepresented on the RWVG and needs an actual member to be heading up the DAC funding. This

board discussed the need to look for another Valley region to step forward and get the Valley funding area together to move forward; there is a lack of coordination and leadership in this funding area. A RFP when finalized will be both sent out via direct solicit and ebidboard.com. the deadline will be June 1 for proposal submittals for the IRWM Plan Update. The RWMG will be added as a page to the new County Water and Natural Resources website and that the Water and Natural Resource Director will be responsible for updating the website monthly with the minutes, agenda, and any other new materials submitted for the webpage.

**VIII. Items for Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 23, 2017**

- CARCD Annual Conference – November 15 to 18 in Sacramento
- Moving forward on grant scope of work

**IX. Adjourn: 3:21 pm**