



Board of Directors

Glenn Anderson, President
Jon Kelsey, Vice-President
Vacant, Sec./Treasurer
Everett Vieira Jr.
Tim Johnson
Robert Bliss

Meeting Minutes
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
EAST MERCED RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Wednesday, March 16, 2005, 1:00 p.m.,
Conference Room, 2135 W. Wardrobe Ave., Merced, CA 95340
Call EMRCD for more information (209-722-4119 x3)

Directors Present: Glenn Anderson, Jon Kelsey, Tim Johnson Everett Vierra, Bob Bliss

Directors Absent: Glenn Anderson

Others Present: Bernard Wade
Karen Whipp, EMRCD
Cindy Lashbrook, EMRCD
Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo
Mele Anderson

Item #		Action
	President Jon Kelsey called meeting to order at 1:01 pm	
1.	INTRODUCTIONS None.	So Noted
2.	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS None.	So Noted
3.	CORRECTIONS AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA None.	
4.	ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT	

Claudia Eycaguirre, with the Defenders of Wildlife gave a 20-minute presentation on the possible changes being implemented in the Endangered Species Act. The group mostly works with larger endangered species. Claudia spoke about the corporate interests that are pressuring Congress to weaken and rewrite the Act, which will remove habitat protection. There are people working to circumvent strong scientific standards. Claudia asked the Board to sign up and join the campaign to not weaken the Act.

5. MINUTES February 16, 2005

The board acted to approve the minutes, with corrections.

Motion: Bob Bliss

Seconded: Tim Johnson

Approved unanimously.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ONLY

a. Letters

- None

b. Meeting Notices and Reports

- Farm Bill Forum Invitation
- San Joaquin Area RCD Spring Meeting
- Quarterly Report of the CARCD Executive Director
- NRCS Listening Session on the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm Bill Programs March 17, 2005, Fresno County Fairgrounds

c. Newsletters (available to review at the meeting)

- Forestry Notes
- Buffer Notes
- Adopt-A-Watershed
- Linkages
- USDA Small-Diameter Success Stories
- Wildland Waters
- Forestland Steward
- Water Conservation News
- NACD News and Views
- Sustainable Agriculture Farming Systems Projects

7. TREASURER'S REPORT, Karen Whipp SEE ATTACHED

The board moved to approve the treasurer's report.

Motion: Tim Johnson

Seconded: Bob Bliss

Approved unanimously.

8. ORAL REPORTS

a. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Malia Ortiz

- Malia gave an EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) report on applications. There were 127 applications
- Last year there were 101 funded projects.

b. Watershed Coordinator Report, Teri Murrison

- MRS meeting is March 21. The meeting will include the continuation of the Merced River Ranch Update Design Component and a briefing on monitoring Merced River Restoration Projects, and region-wide Salmon Population Trends.
- The contractors (Teri, Cindy, Gwen and Karen) are having weekly meetings to meet goals on all the grants.
- Cindy attended the Irrigated Lands Waiver Regional Meeting February 14. She coordinated with Parry Klassen about a 3/9 Grower update meeting and presented the water quality test kit program.

- Gwen Huff has been finalizing the contract for permit coordination with Sustainable Conservation. She has also attended training in December and January. She did a great deal of research for the program.
 - She met with Carolyn Renick from Sustainable Conservation to discuss the permit grant.
 - Karen gave an update on funds for the DOC II grant and the Sustainable Conservation grant. The DOC II reimbursement for \$20,181.83 approved and coming. \$51,812.11 has been spent, with \$286,544.89 to be expended by the end of the grant. In meeting this morning I will be faxing an invoice to Carolyn for an advance of \$10,000 and a reimbursement invoice.
- c. Merced River Alliance--Prop 13 Report, Teri Murrison
- Finalizing the negotiations for the Prop 13 grant budget
 - Cindy said discussed the planned May 22 fair
 - Karen has worked with Annee Ferranti, Grant Manager with SWRCB reviewing the budget numbers. Karen has also been reviewing and setting up the templates for the invoices and reports required by the SWRCB.

Tim Johnson moved to approve the:

1. Draft funding agreement between EMRCD and the SWRCB;
2. Draft job descriptions; and
3. Direct President to negotiate and sign the funding agreement with the State Water Resource Control Board and negotiate and sign contracts with the above listed independent contractors and Stillwater Sciences to perform the Prop 13 grant requirements.

Seconded by Bob Bliss. Motion carried unanimously.

9. TRANSFER OF EPA III FUNDS

Tim Johnson moved to transfer the remaining \$795.66 in the EPA III account into the General Fund account. Seconded by Bob Bliss. Motion carried unanimously.

10. EMRCD 5-YEAR PLAN WORKSHEET

Mele provided me with notes yesterday that I need to input into the worksheet. This item was tabled for the next meeting.

11. MERCED COUNTY LANDUSE PLANNING ACTIONS

There are no new landuse planning issues that are being reviewed at County Planning.

12. MERCED WATER SUPPLY PLAN

Bob Bliss moved to approve the EMRCD Board send a letter to Ted Selb, Chief Engineer, Merced Irrigation District inviting him to speak at the April EMRCD Board meeting and give an update on the Merced Water Supply Plan. Seconded by Tim Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

13. FUTURE PLANNING/BOARD ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES

- a. Plan visioning session to revise EMRCD Work Plan
 - Some.
- b. Annexation
 - Nothing new to discuss.

14. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Jon Kelsey said that Director appointments will happen at the March 22, Board of Supervisors meeting.
15. CLOSED SESSION
There was no closed session
16. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 20, 2005, 1:00 pm in the USDA office conference room, 2135 W. Wardrobe Ave., Merced, CA
17. ADJOURNMENT: 3:05 pm

For more information, contact: East Merced Resource Conservation District, 2135 W. Wardrobe Ave., Suite C, Merced, CA 95340, Phone (209) 722-4119, Ext. 3, Fax (209)725-2964.

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