

Meeting Minutes
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
EAST MERCED RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Wednesday, February 15, 2006, 1:00 p.m.,
Conference Room, 2135 W. Wardrobe Ave., Merced, CA 95340
Call EMRCD for more information (209-723-6755)

Directors Present: Bob Bliss, Tim Johnson, Tony Azevedo, Bernard Wade

Directors Absent: Mele Anderson, Mike Pellincano

Others Present: Glenn Anderson,
Terry McLaughlin, Mariposa RCD
Karen Whipp, EMRCD
Cindy Lashbrook, EMRCD
Gwen Huff, EMRCD
Cathy Weber
Jennifer Foster

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Action</u>
President Tim Johnson called meeting to order at 1:05 pm	
1. INTRODUCTIONS None.	So Noted
2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Glenn Anderson did a brief report on Hilmar Cheese and the test well. There was brief discussion about updating the Merced County General Plan.	So Noted
3. CORRECTIONS AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA None.	
4. CONSENT AGENDA a. December 14, 2005 minutes b. January 18, 2006 minutes c. Treasury Report d. DOC and Prop 13 Updates Bob Bliss motion to approve. Bernie Wade seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.	
5. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ONLY a. Letters • None b. Meeting Notices and Reports ▪ CSDA Legislative Update – January 20 ▪ CSDA Legislative Update – January 27 ▪ Associated Press Release “Farmers Giving up on Farmland Protection ▪ Third Annual California Invasive Weeds Awareness Day at the Capital	

- CARCD Legislative Letters
 - CDSA Legislative Update – February 3
 - Editorial – Water Plan Falls Short on Storage Needs
- c. Newsletters (available to review at the meeting)
- Forestland Steward
 - Buffer Notes
 - Resources Update
 - CSDA News

For information only.

6. WRITTEN AND ORAL REPORTS

- a. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report, Jennifer Foster
- EQIP projects are the top priority this month. Ranking to be complete this week. NRCS will fund approximately 15 out of 135 projects.
 - Jennifer discussed how projects are ranked and that water quality is a top priority.
 - She said beginning this year, dairies are being ranked at a State-wide level. Many dairies need help with issues that are costly and therefore be better provided for at the State level.
 - This is the last year for funding any chipping (orchard prunings). The NRCS contracts are for five years and will end in 2010 when chipping will no longer be allowed.
- b. Watershed Coordinator--DOC Report, Gwen Huff and Cindy Lashbrook
- Gwen talked about the three concept proposals. To date, the EMRCD was asked to go forward with one proposal for approximately \$400,000. The proposal is due March 17. There was discussion about getting letters of support for the proposal.
 - Gwen talked about Sustainable Conservation permit coordination and that she is doing a lot of work on that.
 - Gwen discussed letters to DOC requesting budget changes
 - Gwen talked briefly about endangered species.
 - She said there will be a March MRS meeting and there may be an Exchequer Dam tour in June.
 - Cindy is doing a Water Forum on February 27 at the Farm Bureau. MID and the Water Coalition will be participating.
- c. Merced River Alliance--Prop 13 Report, Terry McLaughlin for Nancy McConnell
- Terry discussed Merced River Alliance collaboration.
 - Terry reviewed the responsibilities for managing the grant with the board.
 - The second newsletter was mailed out to approximately 450 potential stakeholders.
 - The Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan (PAEP) passed the first level of review.
 - Stillwater is working on the Biological Assessment Monitoring Project (BAMP). Some of the protocols were shifted on Stillwater to follow swamp protocols. The bird study is on schedule.
 - The education coordinators have been busy with promotion.
 - There was discussion about the use of a credit card. Tony Azevedo recommended the East Merced Resource Conservation District (EMRCD) Board of Directors applying for CAL-Card Program purchase card and recommended approval of the following protocols for using the purchase card:

- One purchase card would be located in Mariposa for use by the Upper Watershed partners, one card would be allowed for Gwen Huff, Cindy Lashbrook and Karen Whipp;
- Until further action by the Board, the purchase card is to be used for the Prop 13 grant and its approved budget;
- Before any purchase for the Prop 13 project is made by personnel, approval is made by the Program Manager, Nancy McConnell after she checks with Karen Whipp, Project Technician to assure Prop 13 funds are available.
- Seconded by Bob Bliss. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Terry is also working with the coordinator for the Mariposa Science Van and science equipment to develop watershed curriculum to use with the science van. The van needs \$700 worth of work to be operational. Terry is looking for someone to contribute the funds to purchase tires and a battery.
- Terry announced the next MRA River Fair for April 22.

7. CONTINUE WORK ON EMRCD 5-YEAR PLAN

The Board members reviewed and discussed the elements of the worksheet.

8. EPA III GRANT REPORT

This item was tabled for next month.

9. MERCED COUNTY LANDUSE PLANNING ACTIONS

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

10. FUTURE PLANNING

There was nothing new to discuss.

11. OLD BUSINESS

- a. There was nothing to report on the Endangered Species Poster at this time.
- b. There was no other old business.

12. NEXT MEETING: The next EMRCD is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2006, 1:00 pm in the USDA Office Conference Room, 2135 West Wardrobe Avenue, Merced, CA

13. ADJOURNMENT 4:10 pm

For more information, contact: East Merced Resource Conservation District, 2135 W. Wardrobe Ave., Suite C, Merced, CA 95340, Phone (209) 723-6755, Fax (209) 723-0880.

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