

Meeting Minutes
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
EAST MERCED RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Wednesday, June 20, 2007, 12:00 p.m.,

Golden By Products, Inc., Conference Room 13000 Newport Road, Ballico, CA

Call EMRCD for more information (209-723-6755)

Directors Present: Karen Barstow, Cathy Weber, Glenn Anderson, Bernard Wade, Bob Bliss

Directors Absent: Tony Azevedo

Others Present: Karen Whipp, EMRCD personnel
Cindy Lashbrook, EMRCD personnel and associate director
Gwen Huff, EMRCD personnel
Jennifer Foster, NRCS
Kellie Jacobs, Merced County Public Works
Todd Troglin, Turlock Irrigation District
Parry Klassen, I CURES & East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (ESJWQC)
Jeff Palsgaard, Merced County Environmental Health
Tim Johnson, Landowner
Tom Johnson, Landowner
Mike Bettencourt, Landowner
Pat Ferrigno, Landowner
Lydia Miller, San Joaquin Raptor Rescue Center
Don Morelli, Landowner
Frank De Jung, Landowner
Jeff Chance, Landowner
Bill Hatch, Public
Jana Nairn, Landowner

Item #

Bernie Wade called meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Done.

2. LUNCHEON AND PRESENTATION ON MUSTANG CREEK WATERSHED

- Karen Barstow started the Power Point presentation with the history and current conditions of Mustang Creek.
- Kelly Jacobs spoke about the agreement between the County and the RCD to operate Mustang Creek. The County does some mowing along the creek, but not on private property.
- Todd Toglin, TID spoke about concerns about burning vegetation growth. TID's role is to operate the gate in the dam and to operate the pumps and then manage the flows.

- Jeff Palsgaard said that environmental health does regulate dairy discharge into Mustang Creek. Landowners expressed concerns about illegal dumping into the Creek by people living in town. The County Environmental Health is working to get cameras out to landowners to help catch those people who are doing illegal dumping.
- Perry Klassen, ESJWQC gave a Power Point presentation on watershed landuse and water quality testing. ESJWQC is a non-profit coalition. Landowners make up 60% of the coalition. The coalition has a monitoring program for water quality. They test for pesticides, nutrients, metals and E. coli.

3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

The Bettencourt family stated that there was no input allowed for the watershed management plan proposal. They oppose the proposal and if it is not funded will continue to oppose it. They feel the Stakeholders and the landowners on the river were ignored. Gwen Huff apologized for not contacting the landowners before the concept proposal was submitted.

4. **CORRECTIONS AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes of the May 23, 2007 EMRCD Board Meeting, with the following correction to the minutes item #9. Cathy is involved in the ~~riparian~~-open space/habitat focus group-
- Minutes of June 14, 2007 EMRCD Special Board Meeting
- Treasury Report
- DOC and Prop 13 Updates

Bob Bliss moved to approve the consent agenda.

Karen Barstow seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ONLY**

- Letters
 - None
- Meeting Notices and Reports
 - CSDA e-NEWS June 4, 2007
 - CSDA e-NEWS June 11, 2007
 - CSDA Board of Directors – Call for Nominations
- Newsletters (available to review at the meeting)
 - Noxious Times
 - CSDA October 1-4, 2007 Conference
 - UC Davis Sustainable Agriculture Farming Systems Project Field Day June 22, 2007
 - Forestland Steward
 - NRCS Trends in Conservation

For information only.

7. **WRITTEN AND ORAL REPORTS**

Natural Resources Conservation Service Report, Jennifer Foster

- Jennifer gave a report on the EQIP contracts. Next month Malia will give an update on dairies.
- Jennifer said that the Farm Bill is being rewritten.
- The NRCS will have a new engineer work for the summer.

- Jennifer said the Weed Management Area Board was submitting a grant and wanted to know if the EMRCD board was interested in administering the grant. This item will be addressed at the July EMRCD Board meeting.

Watershed Coordinator--DOC Report, Gwen Huff and Cindy Lashbrook

- Gwen talked about the submittal of the CalFed/DWR Proposal and the Merced River Fair
- Gwen talked about the Endangered Species presentations she gave and the letter of support for the 4H grant
- Cindy talked about the success of Merced River Fair.

Merced River Alliance--Prop 13 Report, Karen Whipp

- Karen gave the report for Nancy McConnell the Project Manager
- Fish, Bird and benthic macroinvertebrate monitorings are on schedule for both the lower and upper reaches of the River.
- A very successful River Fair was held on June 2 in conjunction with the Heartland Festival. About 300 people attended the fair. There were booths and displays presented. The learning station tours with passports for kids were effective way to increase participation. Activities at the children's nature craft were very popular.
- A community forum "The Effect of Urban Encroachment on Irrigation Districts and Water Resources" was held June 6. 21 people attended the forum.
- A water monitoring event in the lower watershed is scheduled for October 13.
- A tour of the upper watershed is tentatively scheduled for October
- Planning for the next newsletter has begun. It will be published in August
- Terry McLaughlin has completed place-based learning projects with Snelling School and Yosemite Valley School.
- Students at Yosemite Valley School prepared an issue of "A Kids' Guide to Yosemite" which highlighted the Merced River and Alliance projects.
- The monthly progress report and invoice were submitted on time
- The drafts of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and monitoring plan have been reviewed by our contract manager.
- Nancy is working with Maia Singer and Pam Buford, the State contract manager, to make minor changes in the monitoring procedures for this year.
- Nancy and Karen are reviewing hours expended to date to be sure enough hours remain to complete the grant tasks.

8. EMRCD PERSONNEL FUTURE ROLE IN MERCED RIVER STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Gwen talked about the EMRCD Board's role and cost of facilitating the MRS group. Gwen is requesting board direction. The EMRCD Board would like to propose options to the next stakeholders at the next Merced River Stakeholder meeting. Ms. Miller gave her input that the EMRCD should remain involved in the stakeholder group.

Karen Barstow moved to continue to facilitate the Merced River Stakeholder meetings as funding is available, if the stakeholders choose to accept the offer from the EMRCD Board.

Glenn Anderson seconded the vote.

MOTION CARRIED. BOB BLISS, NO.

9. CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN PROPOSAL

Gwen drafted a response to Pat Ferringo's letter. Gwen would like the board not send a response letter. Therefore, a letter will not be sent. A committee was formed, Glenn Anderson, Karen Barstow and Cathy Weber to develop and review a fact sheet to present to legislators and the press.

10. PRIORITY ACTION TOPIC FOR THE NEXT EMRCD AGENDA

The Priority Topic for next month will be to plan the annexation. Supervisor Kelsey has funds available to pay for the annexation and is ready to help the EMRCD.

12. NEXT MEETING: The next EMRCD is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 18, 2007, 1:00 pm** in the USDA Office Conference Room, 2135 West Wardrobe Avenue, Merced, CA

13. ADJOURNMENT 3:40 p.m.

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.