

THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH, 2025 – 7:00 P.M. IN PERSON OR TELECONFERENCE

Our Mission: *Identify conservation and watershed enhancement needs and offer assistance to landowners and resource managers to meet those needs through technical, financial and educational leadership.*

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Establish Quorum – Board Members Present: Barry Brown, Caroline Luiz, Jeff Maddox, Peter Garaventa; Staff Present: Tamara Braden, Evan Senf; Others Present: Jim Patterson.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call and Introductions – New Board Member, Barry Brown, was introduced to the Board and Staff.
- Agenda Adjustments & Approval - None
- Open Forum – None

2. OPEN SESSION BUSINESS: (DISCUSSION AND ACTION)

- Review and approve Minutes from meeting on 4/11/24 and 1/8/25, and 2/13/25 – These minutes will be presented at future meeting.

B. Financial Report & Payment of Bills –District Bookkeeper

- Financial Report
- Monthly Reconciliation of the Mechanics Bank Account – Mechanic’s Bank Reconciliation to be presented at April 2025 meeting.
- Warrants for Approval
- Journal Voucher for Approval

Tamara Braden gave a comprehensive financial report. She noted that the District is still struggling to make outstanding payroll tax payments and she has submitted requests for abatement on the penalties and interest for Q4, 2023, Q1 2024, Q2 2024, Q3 2024 and Q4 2024. She will update the Board as soon as she hears back from the IRS. Peter Garaventa motioned to approve the Warrants, Journal Voucher, and Mechanic’s Bank reconciliation, contingent upon funds being available to pay. Motion seconded by Jeff Maddox. Vote: 4-0-0-1

C. Revisit discussion / approval of Siskiyou RCD Long-Term Plan for 2025-2029 – Board requested additional time to review Long-Term Plan. This topic will be revisited at next meeting.

D. Discussion / action regarding contract with North Coast RCDs for fire suppression grant funding – A block grant has been awarded to the Humboldt County RCD of approximately \$6 million, to be divided among area Districts. The Siskiyou RCD is looking to be granted approximately \$428,000 to be spent over 5 years developing a plan and building capacity for fire suppression and resilience in the area. The grant allows 1 year to develop a plan and allows for the purchase of equipment necessary to implement the project objectives. The initial idea is to assist low income and elderly community members in fuels reduction and fire preparedness, but this must be approved prior to implementation. Peter Garaventa motioned to approve the MOU with the Humboldt County RCD for the North Coast Wildfire Resiliency Planning and Implementation Project, seconded by Jeff Maddox. Vote: 4-0-0-1

E. Discuss / approve sponsorship of table at Annual Farm Bureau Dinner for \$250.00 – Caroline Luiz requested that the District approve a \$250 sponsorship for a table at the Annual Farm Bureau Dinner on March 29, 2025. Christina Giertz will work with Caroline Luiz to purchase gift merchandise and set up the table. Evan Senf will issue counter checks for expenses for table accessories. Peter Garaventa motioned to approve the sponsorship of a table at the Annual Farm Bureau Dinner, seconded by Barry Brown. Vote: 4-0-0-1

3. NEW BUSINESS - None

4. OLD BUSINESS UPDATES:

- Update on search for Auditor – Tamara Braden has not been able to secure an auditor to date but will continue to reach out and report back at next meeting.
- Update on selection of staff member to fill role of Lead Field Tech on Department of Conservation Grant, RCD Job # 44-12 – Evan Senf informed the Board that he felt that Christina Giertz is the best option for fulfilling the role of Lead Field Tech on all projects, including RCD Job # 44-12. Jeff Maddox motioned to approve the promotion of Christina Giertz to Lead Field Tech, seconded by Barry Brown. Vote: 4-0-0-1

5. REPORTS:

8:10 pm

- Agencies – Jim Patterson, NRCS, reported that the funding freeze on agreements has been lifted and anyone with obligated contracts will be paid. Grants and agreements under the Inflation Reduction Act are still on hold, impacting funds that the Water Trust received from NFWF to assist with water projects in the Scott Valley. So far, there has been no staff loss at his office. However, they did receive notice that their building lease is being terminated. It appears that the NRCS office will have to move by June 2025. All departments are required to submit reduction plans. Nobody seems to know what to expect from the new Administration, but Jim was hopeful that they would know more by April or May. He said he should hear back soon about which projects will be funded for 2025. He is concerned about the impact on forestry projects with the potential loss of IRA funding.
- Scott River Watershed Council - None
- Scott River Water Trust - None
- Projects – Staff - None
- Administration – District Manager – Tamara Braden is in the process of developing training for Board Members.
- Directors – Peter Garaventa would like to reach out to Joanna Maloney to conduct an exit interview. He would also like to reach out to Rod Dowse to discuss the possibility of merging the Siskiyou RCD with the Shasta Valley RCD. Tamara Braden reminded the Board that the District is a public agency and this would likely be something that would need to go before the voters of the District.

6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: April 10th, 2025

- Payroll Tax update
- Long-term Plan
- Hiring of Field Tech for summer season
- Peter Garaventa to report back after exit interview with Joanna Maloney

7. ADJOURN – Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Tamara Braden, District Bookkeeper

No Corrections ____ Corrected by Insertions _____

Approved _____ Date _____

Caroline Luiz, Board Chairman

Minutes are subject to change/correction when submitted for approval by the Board of Directors at the next regular meeting, and do not become official until all appropriate signatures are affixed.

PUBLIC RECORDS

All materials related to an open session item that are distributed to the Board of Directors and which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, are available for public inspection through the District website: <https://www.siskiyoucd.com/meetings>. Public records may also be requested by directly contacting the District Manager at sisqrcd@sisqtel.net (recommended contact method) or 530-467-3975.