

AMADOR
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Mailing Address: 12200-B Airport Road, Jackson CA 95642

DIRECTORS
Steve Cannon, Carole Marz, Dan Port, Emily Taylor, Kelsi Williams
Associate Directors

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DATE: March 18, 2021 **TIME:** 3:00 PM **LOCATION:** Chichizola Store (Mother Lode Land Trust) 1324 Jackson Gate Road, Jackson, CA 95642

Due to concerns about health & the need to maintain social distance, this meeting will allow for telephone attendance via conference call. If interested, please call (612)470-1917 & use PIN 294-465-236#. If you choose to attend via video conference, go to meet.google.com/hyh-zwww-ngn

ROLL CALL
AGENDA

Approval of agenda for this date; any and all off-agenda items must be approved by the Board of Directors
Pursuant to Para 5495.2 of the government code.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS BY THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA CONSIDERATION OF
“EMERGENCY OR “SUBSEQUENT NEED” ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA Cal. Gov’t Code 54954.2(b)(2)

Item #	Time Allotted	Topic
1	3:05 – 3:15	Approval of itemized warrants.
2	3:15 – 3:20	Approval of minutes of past meetings
3	3:20 – 3:40	NRCS Report
4	3:40 – 4:15	District Manager Report – Amanda Watson Regional Land Resilience Program
5	4:15 – 4:30	Treasurer Report Signatures on Warrants - action
6	4:30 – 4:35	Director vacancy – advertisement Oath of office for Emily Taylor
7	4:35 – 4:50	Scholarships Forestry Challenge High School Scholarship – action on renaming and consideration of candidates
8	4:50 – 4:55	Secretary position – possible action on appointment
8	4:55 – 5:00	.Correspondence
9	5:00	Adjourn

AMADOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes for Board Meeting of February 18, 2020

Meeting was called to order by President Cannon at 3:00pm.

Present were: Directors: Cannon, Port, Marz, Williams
District Manager Amanda Watson, Emily Taylor, Bobette Parsons

A motion was made by Director Williams to approve the agenda as presented.
Seconded by Director Port
All in favor, motion carried.

No oral communications.

Item 1: 9 warrants were presented for payment approval by Director Port, Warrant # 21-010 - #21-018.
See Invoice Summary. A motion was made by Director Marz to approve the 9 warrants for payment,
seconded by Director Williams, motion carried, all in favor.

Item 2: October/January Minutes
A motion was made by Director Williams to approve the October 2020/January 2021 Minutes as presented.
Seconded by Director Marz
All in favor, motion carried.

Item 3: NRCS report submitted via email. See NRCS Report.

Item 4: AW presented the District Manager Report
Board discussed the Mitchell Mine Fule Break Project.
Director Port made a motion to move forward with the interagency agreement for the MMFB maintenance
project.
Seconded by Director Marz
All in favor, motioned carried

Item 5: Director Port presented the Treasurer Report
Director Marz moved to approve Treasurer Report
Director Port seconded.
All in favor, motioned carried.

Item 6: Director Cannon is going to post a vacancy annocement.

Item 7: Director Port motioned to approve Salary Adjustment for Jill Damskey to be raised by 10%.
Director Williams seconded
Seconded by Director Marz.
All in favor, motioned carried.

Item 7: No correspondence

Item 8: Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

/AWatson/



**NRCS Report by Bobette Parsons, District Conservationist, Jackson LPO
March 2021 with Summaries for past 12 months**

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Administration on-going on 117 active conservation contracts (**38 in Amador County**) to treat 30,779 acres (**15,143 acres in Amador County**) through EQIP.
- Federal funding of 5.8 million dollars (**1.8 million in Amador county**) obligated for conservation activities in active EQIP contracts.
- Implementation of 242 conservation practices in FY20 on all land uses (**79 Amador county**) totaling \$1,298,384.00 (**\$357,704 Amador county**).
- Dollars paid for conservation practices in FY20 across three counties were 49% Range, 47% Forest and 4% Cropland.
- In Amador county during FY20 \$115,989 was used for Forestry practices through EQIP contracts, \$212,581 was used for Range practices and \$29,134 was used for cropland practices.
- 30 new conservation contracts obligated for EQIP including the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to address beetle kill.
- 2 Conservation Stewardship contracts in Amador county to incentivize high level grazing stewardship on **14,000 acres** obligating an additional **\$241,000.00** of federal funds.
- Note, every obligated federal dollar is nearly matched in Client spending for conservation on their land.
- Predominantly in Amador county, NRCS funded practices are designed to meet the following goals:
 - Improve the health of forests
 - Reduce wild-fire risk
 - Improve grazing management
 - Control weeds
 - Improve the efficiency of irrigation water use
 - Improve wildlife habitat including pollinators
 - Reduce erosion and sediment reaching streams
 - Improve the health of soils

Agricultural Land Easement Program (ALE)

- 5 ALE contracts obligated in Jackson LPO counties (**1 in Amador county**) to protect 2,772 rangeland acres in easement agreements, protecting vulnerable ag-land from development into perpetuity.

Free Technical Assistance including Conservation planning

- On-going requests for NRCS assistance being received for conservation plans on Rangeland, Forestland and Cropland acreages. Presently we have 80 requests for plans with most clients hopeful to receive USDA technical and financial assistance.
- Conservation guidance provided to ag-producers, general public and forest land-owners without fee. Calls received by the Jackson LPO are more than 100 each year.
- Web soil survey guidance provided to the public to assess land capabilities and limitations.
- Erosion control prescriptions and guidance for plan/seed selection provided to general public routinely.
- Highly erodible land evaluations made for USDA clients disturbing soil in developing agriculture. Conservation compliance including an erosion control plan is required for USDA programs.
- A revegetation restoration plan was developed by NRCS for an Amador county mine requesting technical assistance
- Reforestation guidance provided to numerous forest land-owners in Amador county along with information on dead tree and slash removal options.
- NRCS technical support to other agencies and groups to demonstrate conservation practices including hedgerow pollinator planting project in Amador county with the Xerces society and Compost application for improved soil health and weed control with the ARCD and UCCE.

Amador RCD
District Manager Report
Prepared for: February 18th 2021 Board Meeting

Current Projects Updates:

Three Meadows, NFWF Grant: Awaiting implementation this summer.

Amador Rangeland Soil Health Research and Education Project, WesternSARE –Will plan spring video/tailgate with UCCE.

Community Chipping Program: 2 of 6 Community Chipping Days have been held. A total of 39 applications for the roadside chipping services have been submitted.

Patagonia Carbon Farm Plan: PT Ranch and Fegulia Ranch CFPs are complete. Molly and Garrett are working with Cary to complete his CFP.

Healthy Soil Program Technical Assistance Funding- Molly and Garrett are working with Cary on his planning and implementation. A total of 4 landowners were funded.

Working on outreach for this program.

Monarch Habitat Garden: Planning workdays, need to set up an Ad Hoc Committee.

Funding Opportunities:

- Mitchell Mine Fuel Break Maintenance/Demonstration: CalFire Interagency Agreement opportunity. \$230,000 to work with AFSC to implement maintenance on fuel break as well as implement an education/demonstration project with different types of herbicide application. Project Summary Attached.
- Carbon Hub Funding: meeting with CCI and Hubs to develop a proposal over the next 4 months.
- NACD 2021: Request submitted \$100,000 to continue to support to NRCS office.
- US Fish and Wildlife Partners Program: \$25,000 grant for installing habitat on private land. Draft Project Summary attached.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy will be having funds coming available for forest health and fire protection projects in March and July of this year.
- Land Resilience Partnership Program: This is a program that I've been working with ACT and Mariposa RCD to adapt from the Tuolumne Program as a possible regional project. See Project Summary Attached

SAWQA:

Newsletter, check box mailing, late invoices sent. Over 75% reporting is complete and over 90% invoicing received.

Check Sign Policy of with RCDs

3.15.2021

Yolo RCD: County banking and traditional bank account. ED signs everything \$5000 and under. The Board President or VP has to sign anything over that. Board approve/ratify a list of checks and a wire transfer from the county account.

Mariposa RCD: County as bank. Require 1 signature on the warrant request. It can be either the president, VP or Treasurer. The checks are approved at the monthly meeting, usually after they been sent. At each meeting review a list of checks cut and checks received.

“We really wouldn’t be able to function if we needed two signatures to request a check. Too slow! Each warrant includes the basis of the expense, eg. a receipt, an invoice with corresponding contract or grant contract, etc. I don’t think anyone could get a check cut that wasn’t backed up with documentation and listed for full Board review at the next regular meeting.”

Sonoma RCD: If all checks are below \$5k, ED or office manager can sign. If the check run includes one above \$5k, then at least one signer needs to be a Director.

“During COVID, we’ve been consistently having 2 staff sign to limit Directors needing to have in-person contact (most of ours are older or have health conditions that put them at risk).”

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains: Require 2 signatures on our checks (don’t bank through the county), can be 2 Directors or a Director and the Executive Officer.

Napa RCD: The Board President (or Vice President if they are unavailable) sign the check batch form after Board approval, and this form is submitted to our County along with meeting minutes. It’s the County’s form. County still requires wet signatures.

“We don’t have this defined in policy other than a policy around how purchases of different sizes must happen (multiple quotes, approval). Our financial procedures are a bit outdated, and I aim to tackle this soon with the help of a consulting CPA, because we need to clearly delineate all of these procedures in one handbook. I’m glad you’re kicking off this conversation, because I’m learning what I need to do!”

Solano RCD: Two Directors sign each check.