



TRINITY COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**March 25, 2025, 4:00 PM**

**Board Members Present:** Kent Collard, Josh Brown, Mary Ellen Grigsby, Ren Winter, John Ritz

**Board Members Absent:** None

**District Staff:** Kelly Sheen, Kayla Meyer, Joan Caldwell, Marla Walters, Skylar Fisher, Aly DeNittis, Shay Callahan, Dylan Kirkley

**Other Agency Staff:** None

**Guests:** None

**1.0 Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM by Chairman Collard.

**2.0 Discuss/Take Action on Approval of Agenda**

MSC/Winter/Ritz to approve agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**3.0 Discuss and Approve Meeting Minutes**

3.1 Discuss and Approve Minutes of February 25, 2025 Regular Meeting

MSC/Grigsby/Ritz to approve minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Discuss and Approve Minutes of March 12, 2025 Special Meeting

MSC/Grigsby/Winter to approve minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**4.0 Financial Reports**

4.1 Discuss Updated January Monthly Financial Report

J. Caldwell discussed the updated January monthly financial report, noting a good start. Some quarterly invoices will include January to March totals. Two CAL FIRE projects will close in March.

4.2 Discuss February Monthly Financial Report

Discussion was held about the updated report, with Caldwell noting another \$5,000 in invoicing was completed on 3/24/25. Discussion ensued about the money market interest rate, currently at 3.441% at Tri-Counties. Caldwell stated she plans to look at other rates in the event we might want to move some funds to banks with higher interest.



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### 4.3 Discuss/Approve List of Warrants for February 2025

MSC/Brown/Winter to approve the Warrants in the amount of \$457,170.41.

The motion passed unanimously.

### 5.0 Botany Report by Aly DeNittis

Alyson DeNittis, Program Manager for the Botany team, gave a presentation. A question and answer period followed.

### 6.0 Projects Report

Good attendance was noted at the “Salmon Mardi Gras” and TRRP Open House. M. Grigsby asked to see the results of the Trinity River survey when available.

### 7.0 NRCS Report

C. Cole was not present but submitted this report:

“NRCS is continuing to plan projects. We’ve completed our ranking of EQIP projects and are awaiting project selection from the State office. I expect 6 of 6 projects to be funded, two with Farm Bill funding and 4 with Joint Chiefs (JC) funding. We’ve used up all of our allocated Joint Chiefs funding but can pull funding from a neighboring CA project. This opportunity is still available so folks can still apply for a couple more months and likely be funded as long as they are in our 2023 JC project footprint. The footprint is roughly the Northlake area to Weaverville with a separate area encompassing Mad River and the Hayfork area.

This is the final week for applying for our Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to be considered for 2025 funding. We have several interested folks and hopefully, some of them will make it through our gauntlet of forms and checklists. CSP is generally not as competitive in CA but will likely be more so this year.

It was mentioned last board meeting but to state again the lead Planner for the office accepted the Deferred Resignation so the Weaverville Office only has one NRCS employee, a 50% reduction in office staff.

In terms of overall NRCS CA, the state lost some employees through deferred retirement or resignation. Our office has lost Engineering support and so projects involving engineering, like roads, will be delayed. We have not been given any information on the status of IRA funds to partners like the RCD and as of now, those funds are still on hold. IRA funds that have been obligated for producers like our normal contracts are moving forward and payments are ongoing. We are also currently on a Travel hold so it’s difficult to get people to come to our office for help.

The biggest thing is the hold on IRA funds; which have essentially been supplementing the funding we were using to fund EQIP contracts. For the last couple of years, pretty much every forestry project that was put forward was selected for funding as long as folks had all their documentation. Last year our area (my office and other north state offices) had roughly 7 million in obligated contracts. This year as it stands now we have a total of \$200k available that will be competed for among those same offices. Basically, funding will become much more competitive and the likelihood of any of our projects being selected will diminish. This was going to occur post-IRA anyway but the timeline has been accelerated as it currently stands. We don’t know what the next farm bill will hold or when it will come out but hopefully, it will bring some good news.”



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### **8.0 Discuss/Take Action on Proposed Organizational Chart Revision**

K. Sheen discussed the proposed changes to the Organizational Chart, with S. Callahan giving background and input. Briefly, it is felt that the changes will allow for areas of growth and recognize areas of increased responsibility. Discussion followed, R. Winter noting that the verbiage of future recruitment of “Conservation Techs” might be changed to “Fuels and/or Forestry Techs.”

MSC: Grigsby/Ritz to approve the Organizational Chart Revision.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **9.0 Discuss/Take Action on Pay Scale Revision**

Discussion was held about the proposed revisions, R. Winter noting that the Forester pay rate may not be competitive. K. Sheen explained that the incumbent is not yet licensed and that it will be revisited at a later date.

MSC: Winter/Brown to adopt the Pay Scale Revision effective 3/25/25.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **10.0 Discuss/Take Action on Annual Operating Plan**

K. Meyer presented the Plan and discussion ensued.

MSC: Winter/Brown to approve the Annual Operating Plan.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **11.0 Discuss/Take Action on Project-Specific Analysis and Addendum to the CALVTP program EIR for the WRTC’s Hyampom Valley Project – CEQA Lead Agency MOU**

K. Sheen introduced Program Manager Dylan Kirkley, who described the project. Maps were reviewed and discussion ensued.

MSC: Grigsby/Ritz to adopt Staff recommendation of the Project-Specific Analysis and Addendum to the CALVTP program EIR for the WRTC’s Hyampom Valley Project – CEQA Lead Agency MOU.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **12.0 Trinity Collaborative Report**

K. Sheen reported the following:



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- The Rec Committee met and discussed Stuart's Fork, a turn lane into the Minersville Boat Ramp, and the Minersville Boat Ramp project. They are trying to reach 60% design approval on the boat ramp. Parking remains a problematic issue.
- The FS provided data that almost 6,000 permits were issued last year for the Alps.
- The BLM may not be opening all campgrounds; Steiner Flat especially needs work.
- The Collaborative group also met and a subcommittee on Fuels has re-drafted the original "White Paper," a document giving guidance for land management in Trinity County.
- Wildfire cameras continue to be installed; some are problematic as they need fiscal sponsorship.
- The BLM reported on firings, re-hirings, and funding.

### **13.0 Board Reports/Correspondence**

None.

### **14.0 Assistant Manager's Report**

K. Meyer reported:

- Policy reviews will take place at the next meeting, as there have been extensive title changes.
- The JEDI committee has been changed to "Community Engagement and Collaboration."
- We had a loss of funding from TRRP for year 5 in the amount of \$110,000. This will greatly impact the work of the Education and Outreach department.
- The Trinity County Office of Education will assist with Summer Camp funding and the WRTC will provide two counselors.

### **15.0 District Manager's Report**

K. Sheen reported:

- Regarding RAC funding, Title II funds remain in abeyance but Title III funds will be available. Even if Title II funds were available, there is no membership on the RAC board to take any action. This is due to the present complicated quorum and membership system.
- Sheen and Caldwell will likely put out an RFP for a new auditor this year.
- Some previously "frozen" federal funding has been released. We are still waiting to hear on NACD.
- There has been some conjecture about taxing non-profits. Sheen will continue to watch this.
- Sheen and Meyer, along with some community members, met with Heidi McHugh, who is a staffer for Chris Rogers. They had a productive meeting.

### **16.0 Closed Session: Government Code §54957(b): District Manager's Mid-Year Evaluation**

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:53 PM.



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The Board came out of Closed Session at 7:14 PM. No report.

**17.0 Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM

**Approved and adopted this 22nd day of April 2025. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the Minutes of the Meeting of March 25, 2025, were duly adopted by the following vote of the Board of Directors.**

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**(Secretary Signature)**