Tranquillity
Resource Conservation District
Proudly Serving Our Communities Since 1956

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TRANQUILLITY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT July 13th, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was convened at 3:13 P.M at the District Office 275 So. Madera Avenue, Suite 301, Kerman and via Zoom access by the Chair Jerry Radinoff.

ROLL CALL: In attendance were Patrick Abercrombie, Anthony Borges, Matt Hurley, Jerry Radinoff, and Stephen Shehadey and a quorum was declared by the Chair Jerry Radinoff.

Also in attendance: Steve Haze, Executive Director. Via Zoom: Alexis Valadez, District Staff and Michael Miller

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: There was no declaration of a COI.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

The following were presented by the Executive Director for recommendation and/or informational to the Board for consideration/action.

1) **Review and Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed and Budget Review to be added under item 6.b was motioned by MH, seconded by SS, and passed unanimously.
2) **Review and Approval of Draft Minutes:** The minutes were reviewed and under B – Financial Report, the word "unambiguously" was corrected to "unanimously." M- MH, seconded AB, passed unanimously as amended.
3) **New Team Member:** The resume of Tatyana Bravo was provided to the Board. Tatyana has over 2 years' experience in irrigation testing and came from Northwest Kern RCD. She is assigned to the NRCS office and resides in Mendota.
4) **Loan from CARCD:** The loan application has been submitted and awaiting a decision.
5) **NRCS Update:** Erwin Duenas, Fresno County District Conservationist is currently on annual leave through the month of July.
6) **Executive Director's Report**
    a) **General – Operations, District Development and Outreach**
        I. **Website Activity –** There were 19,208 pageviews for June & average monthly: 11,251per month average for two years. This is after an anomaly of over 54,500 the prior month and seems to be back to its normal average.
        II. **CARCD – Water, Land & Soils** (Now combined), **and Policy Committees** – The ED is now the Chair for the combined WL&S Committee.
        III. **AWRCOS (Adaptive Water Resilience & Climate Operations in the Southwest) –** Patricia Hickey is now working directly with their coordinator.
        IV. **Fresno County Public Works & Planning – CalRecycle Dumping on Ag Lands clean-up** – The timing for this was not good and now looking at the next funding cycle in October.

V. **TRCD as a Technical Service Provider (TSP) and Team of TAPs (Technical Assistance Provider) –** We currently have three of our team under scholarships and are expecting that Tatyana will receive one as well. If everyone completes the certification process, Tranquillity will have a total of five TAPs.

VI. Partnership Opportunities – BEAM Circular, UC Merced, F3-Local/Innovate, Soil Health Institute, BovControl – Client Relationship Management – CRM Partnership: ED attended the launching of the F3i Supercomputing Center at CSU Fresno. Additionally, the ED, Jeevan and Patricia have been working closely with CSU Chico CRARS on the release of the Carbon Farm Planning tool.

VII. **Fresno COG –** The Sustainable Communities Strategy is out for public comment and there are no other activities to report currently.

b) **Financial Report –** 2025/26 Year To-Date and Updated Budget: The updated budget and standard financial reports were reviewed for informational purposes, and no actions were required by the Board.

c) **Funding –** Grant Development, Submission and/or Active:

I. **NRCS Emergency funding through 2027 –** The funding is just starting to be used.

II. **Prop 4: Healthy Soils and SWEEP funding opportunities –** Unfortunately, the concept proposals were not accepted. Patricia will be inquiring as to the background.

III. **SGC-TCC – Tour of Bar20 Ranch on June 29th** – This was an exceptionally good tour by Vice Chair Steve Shehadey and his staff focused on the operation and production of biofuels. About twenty individuals participated, which included three representatives from the Strategic Growth Council and their Deputy Director.

IV. **SGC-TCC Round 6 Funding –** SGC has encouraged TRCD to consider applying for Project Development and/or Implementation funds. We are looking at UC Merced as a potential partner.

V. **NACD-NRCS –** Technical Assistance Capacity Development Grant: We are still awaiting the outcome. The applications are to be reviewed at the state level. This would be between CARCD and NRCS's State Conservationist.

VI. **Los Gatos Creek Rangeland & Grazing –** We are continuing to work with Helix environmental consulting on submitting a proposal through CARCD and separately through other funding sources that may be available.

VII. **Mobile Irrigation Systems Testing –** With Tatyana coming on board we can now look at other options.

VIII. **NRCS – Conservation Cooperative Agreement –** Local Working Group (LWG) – The 5th meeting was held at Clovis Veterans Memorial on June 30th with a substantial number of attendees including the president of TRCD. The NRCS and TRCD staff did an excellent job of conducting the meeting under Erwin Duenas, the Fresno County District Conservationist. Primary focus was on resource challenges and opportunities.

d) **CARCD - SJV Region as replacement hub –** ED tracked down that the funds in the bank account were transferred over the State Controller Office. Still working on how to secure the fund.

e) **Carbon Management Program –** Four Carbon Farm Plans have been completed, and Tranquillity is working directly with CSU Chico's Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resiliency Systems on their new Carbon Farm Planning tool. With five potential TAPS as Carbon Farm Planners, everything is in place to provide this as an ongoing program.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS: There was discussion by Matt Hurley regarding MAGSA participating in a CV-SALTS program on addressing salinity issues within the San Joaquin Valley.

ADJOURNMENT:
The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:50 PM for the next Regular Meeting on August 10, 2026, 3:00 P.M.