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 September 14th, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting convened at 3:03 P.M. 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, Matt Hurley, Jerry Radinoff, and Stephen Shehadey. Absent: Anthony Borges. A quorum was declared by the Chair Jerry Radinoff.

Also in attendance: Steve Haze, Executive Director; Erwin Duenas, District Conservationist for the NRCS; and member of the public named Michael Miller

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: There was no declaration of any conflict in general.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

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

Recommendation and/or Informational to the Board for consideration/action regarding the following:

1. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed and motioned to approve by SS, seconded by PA, and passed unanimously.
2. **Review and Approval of Draft Minutes:** The minutes were reviewed and a motion to approve by MH, seconded PA, passed unanimously.
3. **Presentation:** Nancy Wahl-Scheurich, Executive Director – CA Association of RCDs who earlier took a tour of the district and its operations and Maggie Philipsborn, Nevada County Cannabis Alliance gave a presentation and ran a short video on the potential for Tranquillity to either support responsible growers and/or engage in cleanups of illegal sites. The Board thanked them for showing what the options may be for the district and that they will discuss it at later sessions.
4. **Loan from CARCD:** The loan was to go before the CARCD Board on the 18th for official approval. Based upon the high probability of approval, an initial release of funds had already been provided on 9/1.
5. **Board Resolution – Strategic Growth Council TCC Round 6:** Resolution 2026-01 was presented authorizing up to $5 million be applied for a project development grant. The development would utilize an existing biogas-solar microgrid facility on Highway 180 and establish an EV Charging Station Transit Center for the benefit of the local communities. It was motioned by MH and seconded by PA. The vote in favor was three (MH, JR, and PA) with one abstention (SS).
6. **Soil Health Institute Cotton Producers Field Day October 8th:** This is coming along fine working with SHI and Farm of the Future to hold the event at the Coalinga College Campus in Firebaugh. This will include a tour of two cotton growing operations within the area.
7. **NRCS Update:** Erwin Duenas, Fresno County District Conservationist gave an update centered around Nancy's visit to their Field Office in Fresno and meeting the combined NRCS/TRCD combined staff. Erwin also touched upon a second Conservation Cooperative Agreement (CCA) being established on an interagency basis.

8. Executive Director's Report

a) General – Operations, District Development and Outreach

I. **Website Activity:** There were 27,235 pageviews for July & 18,375 in August with an average monthly of 12,076 per month over the last two years.

II. **CARCD – Water, Land & Soils and Policy Committees:** The two committees have been combined with scheduling of the next meeting scheduled for 9/25.

III. **CSU Fresno and Ag Biomass/Bioenergy Initiative focused on whole orchard recycling & "waste" management:** The reconditioning of the PowerPallet continues. There was a visit by the Consul General of Japan last month. The TCC Grant for Project Development, if funded, will be used for demonstration and training purposes.

IV. **Rural Farming Community-Based Programs with Rising Sun – Center for Opportunity and CSU Fresno:** Both of these are moving forward. We now have an Externship program (Intern) in place with Rising Sun. A meeting with their Board is scheduled for 9/24. CSU Fresno is progressing with several sessions being held. The ED is to meet with several faculty to further develop a "West Side" strategy on 10/16.

V. **Fresno County Public Works & Planning – CalRecycle Dumping on Ag Lands clean-up:** Will be working on application that is due on 10/7.

VI. **TRCD as a Technical Service Provider (TSP) and Team of TAPs (Technical Assistance Provider)**: All staff have or will be going through the program. Four currently are under scholarships and one is doing it independently. That will mean the district will have six TAPs on board with four trained by the NRCS as well.

VII. **Partnership Opportunities – BEAM Circular, UC Merced, F3-Local/Innovate, Soil Health Institute, BovControl – Client Relationship Management – CRM Partnership, F3i and CSU Chico CRARS:** Met with the Director of CSU Chico's CRARS program to further a potential partnership. Also, BovControl is part of our TCC Round 6 proposal along with CSU Fresno and Rising Sun.

VIII. **Fresno COG:** No new activities to report.

b) **Financial Report – 2026/27 Year To-Date:** 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. **SGC-TCC Round 6 Funding**: We are applying for Project Development funds with MAGSA as our Agency Co-Applicant – as well as CSU Fresno and Rising Sun. Proposal Due on 9/30.

II. **NACD-NRCS – Technical Assistance Capacity Development Grant:** We are still awaiting the outcome of CARCD. NACD and NRCS review. Indications are that there will be funding coming our way – with an unknown amount and a November start date.

III. **Los Gatos Creek Rangeland & Grazing:** As previously reported, 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.

IV. Mobile Irrigation Systems Testing – SWEEP (ABC): Keeping this as an option.

V. NRCS – Conservation Cooperative Agreement – Local Working Group (LWG): Still have not set a date for the sixth meeting.

d) **CARCD - SJV Region:** As previously reported, funding is with the State Controller Office and CARCD will have to act.

e) **Carbon Management Program**: As previously reported, we have a de facto district-wide program in place with our TAPs, working with CSU Chico, the Carbon Cycle Institute, and others.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 5:00 PM for the next Regular Meeting on Monday, October 12, 2026, 3:00 P.M.