



**DESERT MOUNTAIN**  
RESOURCE CONSERVATION  
& DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

***Desert Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Council***  
***29 October, 2009 Quarterly Meeting***  
***Mojave, CA***

***Minutes***

***CALL TO ORDER*** by Vice President Donna Thomas at 10:15 a.m.

***PLEDGE:*** Was led by Craig Petersen, Kern County/DMRC&D

***WELCOME-SPONSORS-REPRESENTATIVES-VISITORS*** Vice President Thomas welcomed the group and named the officers present. The group introduced themselves.

***ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:*** Additions to the agenda included: resolution to get a credit card for gasoline usage, create a nomination committee for the 2010 elections, rescind existing policies which conflict with the proposed new policies, NARC&DC dues, and nominations for NARC&DC awards. Moved to approve: Peterson/Corlett. Carried.

***ATTENDANCE:***

***Executive Council Members***

Donna Thomas – Vice-President, Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District  
Craig Peterson -- Treasurer, Kern County Supervisor Jon McQuiston  
Doug Thompson – Member at Large, Lone Pine Economic Development Corporation  
Leroy Corlett, Member at Large, Indian Wells Valley Water District

***Council Members:***

Karla Nelson, Tehachapi RCD  
Cathy Hart, SCE, AV Board of Trade

***Guests:***

Ed Duggan, Tehachapi RCD  
Bonita Steele, Kern Community College District  
Bill Deaver, Mojave Desert News  
Andre Biscaro, UCEE, UC Davis  
Cindy Montepagano, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Victorville  
Ilima Hawkins, NRCS  
William Foster, Student Intern, NRCS  
Jennifer Venola, Clerk, Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District

***Public Input***

Individuals may comment on agenda items or bring forward comments and ideas for potential projects that the council may consider at a future date. Individuals will be limited to a 5 minute presentation unless they have been included on the agenda.

Bonita Steele described the increase in Solar and Wind Energy education being offered in Kern County. Both Certification and Degree programs are available, with classroom and field experience. The programs are being developed with feedback from the industry.

***ADMINISTRATIVE:***

In the absence of a quorum, all business items are carried forward to the next regular meeting.

***REPORTS:***

PROJECT SUMMARY REPORT:

**Leroy Corlett reported on Indian Valley Wells Water District water issues.** The Water District will be encouraging the removal of grass as a ground cover through a rebate program. The Water District approved providing water to the Solar Millennium Project.

**Department of Conservation – Watershed Coordinator Grant:** Bob Robinson has been very active since reinstated in July. Plant sale, pinyon seed harvest, Kern IRWMP development, worked with the Yard and Garden Grant, etc. Current funding is \$35,000, which is expected to last 3 – 5 months. More money may be forthcoming if State bond sales are successful.

**USDA Rural Development – Natural Livestock Feasibility Study:** Current grant is now complete. Hosted a successful tour of an existing local beef operation and mobile slaughter unit. Will have a meeting to celebrate this success on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lone Pine. The CA RD director will attend. More information will be available on the website or from the RC&D Office.

**Kern County Air Pollution Control District – Rancho Seco & Dustbuster Handbooks:** The Handbooks are near completion. Drafts are out for final proofreading and revision. \$5,000 received from KCAPC District and passed through to AVRCD for expenses.

Rancho Seco Dust Control is ready for second phase, a berm running north-south along Neuralia Road to keep sand off the highway. Kern County will donate chips at a reduced delivery rate of \$60 per load. All awaits approval of California Fish and Game. Community meeting in August attended by residents. They are pleased with the project and are willing to assist with sand mitigation within the community. Honda has offered to take the lead on developing a grant proposal to deal with that. The sand meets L.A. County standards for beach sand but the county does not need additional sand this year.

**Sierra Nevada Alliance – Yard and Garden Grant:** Reactivated by SNA in July for \$5,000 until additional successful State bond sales occur. Bill Wilson hired in August. He and Bob Robinson are finalizing materials and hosting a booth at a local festival. Ready to begin doing assessments. Next due dates for report and invoice TBA.

**Southern California Edison – AVRCD Nursery Improvement Project:** The greenhouse is delivered and installed. It is 16 feet smaller than anticipated but the extra space was used to add an additional coldframe. Next steps involve vents and electrical wiring. The AVRCD Nursery hosted an open house in September and the grounds are looking exceptionally well.

**Department of the Navy – Mojave Tui Chub Management Program:** Our contractor continues to do bi-weekly water quality testing and technicians spent 3 days cutting cattails to improve fish habitat. Fish count took place in the first week of October. Annual report will be submitted by the end of October. Grant extended into 2010.

**High Desert RC&D – Native Grasses for Seed Collection Project:** No interested growers found to date within the Mojave Desert. There may be some potential growers near Needles as well as the Camp Cady site. Plan to continue to work with High Desert RC&D in NV to find some.

**California Emerging Technology Fund – Broadband Demand Aggregate Study:** Second revised budget and work plan is submitted per their request. CETH wants the project done in two phases.

**Southern California Edison – Wind Erosion Control Manual and Training:** Recently awarded a \$50,000 grant to develop an erosion control manual to assist wind solar developers in the Tehachapi area, and to conduct training. The focus will be for wind and water erosion on sloped areas. This is a partnership between the RC&D and TRCD. MOU is in development, and work should begin shortly. Ed Duggan added that TRCD sees the erosion control manual as applicable to roads, power line installations, housing and other kinds of development. They would like to see erosion control protocols built into the approval process for all projects. TRCD will probably ask EKCRCD for a meeting to discuss mutual applicability of these measures within their district area.

**Non-Profit Management for RC&D Councils Workshop:** Working on bringing an excellent workshop to California, which will be beneficial to all RC&D Councils and others who apply for federal dollars. The three-day seminar is planned for Southern California and another for Northern. May 2010 is the timeframe.

**PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:** Printed in the booklet. Deana is restricted for travel, so unable to attend: Summary: “Attended 4 meetings plus executive committee meetings; assisted with 3 written reports/grants; assisted with planning and executing 10-year anniversary program and native plant sales; assisted in development of 6 new policies for RC&D; one week doing field stream work with NRCS-Bishop; participated in 5 training sessions of 2 – 5 days each.

**WATERSHED CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:** Printed in booklet: Summary: Assisted Bill Wilson in developing and deploying materials for the Yard and Garden program; worked on SS and Kern IRWMPs; Worked on Kern River Preserve Hummingbird Festival; Kennedy Meadows Property Owners Assn. re watershed benefits vs. air quality; macro-invertebrate water quality activity, South Fork Kern River; Pinyon seed gather; Kern Rive Valley Pride cleanup, Fire Wise, Water Wise Native Plant Sale; OVCDC youth Native American Encampment, Kernville.

**NRCS REPORT:** Cindy Montepagano reported on the tree removal process occurring in the Lake Arrowhead area to remove fuels for fires. She noted they will be removing trees in a new area near Lake Silverwood and this work will be funded by the US Forest Service. She also noted they held their work group meeting for San Bernardino County.

Ilima Hawkins provided the report for NRCS Area 4. She shared that the 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill was passed by Congress and included funding for the RC&D program. She also shared that California NRCS will be receiving some large funding packages for specific conservation programs. She also talked about the Circle of Diamonds application and the importance of becoming a Circle of Diamonds member. NRCS has a workgroup at this time to determine what a meritorious council looks like and the Circle of Diamonds is a good way for Desert Mountain RC&D to document the credible things they are already doing. Information is found in the packet.

**CARC&D STATE CONFERENCE:** Donna Thomas reports that each council received a cooperative agreement with NRCS for \$7500 for the 2010 Fiscal Year. Donna attended the State RC&D Conference in Nevada City last week. She toured a 6-acre garden which is doing well with membership and direct sales of produce. Also a grass-fed local beef project, a small quantity chicken slaughter facility and a presentation on sustainable community farm development. It seems we are going back to the small family farm supplying local customers with fresh food.

**BYLAWS AND POLICIES REVIEW:** Since there was no quorum, Craig asked that all present review the materials in the booklet and comment via e-mail. Some things which were in bylaws have been moved to policy in the interests of flexibility. Encourage people to come to the next meeting so there will be a quorum and matters can be voted on. He also encouraged everyone to review the proposed new policies, which were in the packet and noted the council will need to rescind some of the older policies which these will replace.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Elections** at the next meeting (January 28, Ridgecrest). Nominating committee appointed: Cathy Hart, Karla Nelson, Leroy Corlett.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved /Corlett/Thompson at 1255 hours.

Jennifer Venola  
Clerk, Eastern Kern County  
Resource Conservation District