RCD Meeting Minutes 5/6/24

Jarret called the meeting into order at 6:01pm

Roll call – Graham Meese, Kay Ogden, Katie Doonan, and Jarret Phillips are present, Chance Rossi is absent

Report out on meeting with the County Treasurer-Tax Collector and the Auditor

Kay talked to Christie at the County, the RCD board needs to do a budget amendment and increase this year’s budget by a suggested $2,000. The current authorized budget has approximately $600 left. The RCD is over projected budgeted expenses due to funding the Last Chance Survival workshop. Need to do next year’s draft budget by the end of June and need to do a final budget by the end of August. If we do not submit a preliminary budget in June, they will move forward with last year’s approved budget. The RCD must provide a final budget to be legally compliant.

For staff the RCD will need to get State and Federal employment numbers which entails submitting organizational documents and policies, insurance and payroll. General liability insurance costs approximately $2,000 to $5,000, Workers comp is approximately $1 for every $100 of salary, and we need to get D&O insurance. RCD needs policies for staff, there are templates available.

The RCD cannot mix private and government funds, the RCD will need to be the subrecipient on grants as long as the County Treasury holds our funds. Christie and Alicia still wants to review grants prior to the RCD obtaining the money to ensure the ability for the County to accept them.

Jarret asked if the RCD could be a 501 C3. Kay does not think this is possible because it is a Special District but offered to check into it. Question arose if the RCD could have an affiliate nonprofit. What are the positives and negatives of money being housed with the County.

Discussed using the 10 hours of consultation with County Council before they expire on July 1.

Approve 4/17/24 meeting minutes

Minutes tabled for next meeting

Update on potential funding of part-time staff positions

Whitebark is lined up to receive money from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. This is approx. $50k for 2 years. It has not been approved yet. Money would be solely for RCD staff just passed through Whitebark. The RCD needs to have policies in place in order to hire. Could use legal council to go over policies once they are put together. Staff person also could do some work for the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group and be partially funded by them.

Could there be an HR “one stop shop” the RCD could hire? They would do workman comp, payroll, etc. Jarret and Kay will get estimates for this.

Reminder to do facilitation exercise

Kristen went over facilitation exercise and reminded board how to complete it and where to access it. Told board to think about what they’d like to see if they were writing a job description. Reminder to use the editing feature in google docs.

Range camp proposal, vote on whether or not to fund range camp student

Ziani explains range camp. She reached out to schools over Inyo and Mono counties as far South as Lone Pine and as far North as Coleville. Range camp is a week long and cost $250 to attend the one in Nevada. She is asking if the RCD will fund $350 in order to include a travel/fuels budget. Students who do well in range camp will be able to go to the national meeting.

Jarret entertains motion to approve to fund one student for range camp, Katie moves, Kay seconds, the motion carries.

If there is a student funded to go to range camp the RCD would like the student to present what they did there and write an article possibly.

Public Comments

Ideas to have a fundraiser, charge a “fee for service” – tumbleweed burn, etc

July meeting with CSDA

Is the website fee coming up

Jarret entertains motion to adjourn the meeting, Kay moves, Graham second. Motion carries. Meeting is adjourned at 6:55pm.