

Inyo-Mono Resource Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2024

Board Members: Jarret Phillips, Chance Rossi, Katie Doonan, Graham Meese (virtual), and Kay Ogden- quorum present.

Public Attendance: Kristen Pfeiler, Aaron Wilcher

Meeting called to order at 5:37 by Jarret Phillips.

Agenda Items:

Public Comment

Kristen Pfeiler: Wendy and Whitebark Institute are pulling together a Wildfire Resilience meeting on Nov. 15 from 9-noon at the county building and the IMRCD board is invited to attend. The meeting will cover successes from the past few years, money coming from the state to bolster wildfire mitigation, and future roadmapping of the alliance and what to focus on. There will be discussion on IMRCD being a critical player and would appreciate a representative at the meeting. The meeting will be hybrid, and invites will go out later this week from Whitebark. Fire safe councils will also be invited, as well as Inyo, Mono, Alpine counties

For IMRCD preparation, topics of discussion include where we are at with partnering with agencies, expected timeline, and how the RCD could be utilized by people. Participants will hear from people on the gaps and needs

Aaron should be able to make it and may be able to relay information- agenda will be put together early next week and might be a good introduction to the community.

IMRCD Meeting Minutes

June 10th, 2024

July 30th, 2024

September 10th, 2024

Motion entertained to approve the listed meeting minutes. Chance moves, Kay seconds, motion carries and minutes are approved.

Treasurer's Report

Kay reported only one expenditure for the previous month. She noted the meeting with the county has not happened yet but is working with Graham to convene. Kay will call and clarify the EIN number and follow up to clarify needs for funding stature. The payment for range camp will go out, and Kay will send Jarret a W9 to fill out.

IMRCD Policy Updates

The employee handbook changes are pending further review. Graham has reviewed and suggested mentions of an executive director should be transitioned to the IMRCD board.

Payment procedures and insurance will follow county guidelines.

Further action is tabled pending changes for review.

IMRCD Support for Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Kristen gave a presentation (attached via website) on the wildfire protection plan. The plan is designed as an all-lands approach and assesses risks for wildfire, prioritize fuels reductions and reducing structure ignition. The goal is to protect people and infrastructure. It is a 500+ page plan and GIS data will live on the county website. Most importantly, there is a list of community profiles, what some recommendations are to reduce risks and what projects might look like. County wide mitigation recommendations are broad, recommendations to collaboratively focus on. Kristen is working to prioritize based on value and feasibility, presentation can live on the website, needs assessment with common issues

RCD can play a part in the landscapes portion. Kristen pulled out projects the RCD may be well suited for based on alignment between our goals and community needs. This indicates what could be focused on for the next five years and everyone is included in supporting that plan and partnerships. There is a grant opportunity opening for community wildfire and having an action plan is helpful to show priorities and highest risks. RCD may be a strong partner for LADWP.

[Ready Inyo CWPP website](#)

The IMRCD can support the CWPP by signing a letter of support. Letter of support to be considered at the next regular meeting.

Kristen noted that the IMRCD could be influential in this process by getting the lessees input on the needs- ranchers have to tell landholders what they want. Plan to convene a meeting for stakeholders and lessees.

Noted to set a portion of the meeting aside in November to strategize what we want to see with lessee meeting, get engagement and feedback that would be useful for a potential January meeting.

IMRCD Staffing and Grant Opportunities

Jarret and Aaron have initiated the grant ideation process. IMRCD still waiting on the EIN issue for hiring before being able to accept SNC funding.

Aaron: CA Jobs First Initiative- multiple phases, strategic plan available on [their website](#) and the RCD would be well suited for a number of the activities. The RFP is open for workforce development right now and local governing council is making decisions.

Jarret and Aaron met to talk about equipment lending possibilities. There are still formal issues and still a need for a greater foundation to stand on. The RFP was just finalized last week, and it is due Dec. 15th. One idea is an organizational incubator/staff placeholder under the banner of Eastern Sierra Council of Governments. The basic idea would be a staff person to get people to the tipping point where we have a platform to hire and work across a few groups.

Interest was noted in convening capacity building ideas like those from ESCOG, ESLT, and other projects and continuing the discussion on CA Jobs First Initiative opportunities.

Additional Board Member and Staff Reports

Kay: The Executive Director of CARCD, Nancy, has offered to help with support. The Forty Acres Fire Safe Council received CalFire funding and is within initial stages on handwork on the mastication component- doing a green dumpster day for fuels removal.

Motion entertained to adjourn the meeting. Katie moves, Chance seconds and motion carries- meeting adjourned at 7:05.