Inyo-Mono RCD Meeting Minutes 1/14/25

Meeting called to order at 5:32pm by Jarret Phillips.

Role call. In attendance: Kay Ogden, Graham Meese, Chance Rossi, Jarret Phillips. Absent: Katie Doonan

Other attendees: Kristen Pfeiler, Rick Kattelmann, Jen Roeser, Mikhala Bornstein

Inyo-Mon RCD Meeting Minutes: Vote to approve Nov 19th meeting minutes, Kay abstains, Graham so moved, 2nd by Chance Rossi

Treasurer’s Report: Kay has been sick, there is no report.

IMRCD Policy Updates: Katie delegated this to Graham. All that is remaining is there are some references to an executive director (about 7 times). Unsure if there needs to be different wording i.e. executive director or board. The board decided they want county council and legal to review the handbook and it is ready. Jen will find out the protocol for getting assistance from the county council. The most updated policy is on the IMRCD website currently. Graham will email the handbook to Jen. Jarret entertains motion to send the handbook to legal for review, so moved Graham, 2nd by Chance.

Jen talks about how there is a conversation at the county to include the RCD in an umbrella natural resources entity that provides capacity/staffing/capability to process grants. They are hoping to receive funding through the catalyst California jobs first funding. There is a discussion of what Aaron Wilcher has put grants in for already. Funding announcements should take place in February or early March. Idea is that this position would live in “friends of the ESCOG”. There is thinking that an agreement between the RCD and this position could take place.

Fire danger locally was brought up. There are a lot of roadblocks for projects, all organizations are having the same problems. Unsure on how to get through these roadblocks and if things will get better after the LA fires. CDFW restoration could get past potential roadblocks as it provides CEQA clearance, permits, etc. It is called “cutting the green tape”.

IMRCD Staffing and Grant Opportunities: Kirsten is applying for a community wildfire defense grant for a chipper program. This would plug into compost and bio-energy initiatives. The grant is due at the end of February and Kristen will bring it to the February IMRCD board meeting. She can see the whole program being run by the RCD in the future. A wildfire prevention grant for equipment should open soon. Rick comments that money from SNC is still available for RCD. Kay mentions she will reach out to the county about this.

IMRCD Support for the CWPP: Kirsten is working with Whitebark on the Bishop bagel project. Steve Nelson met with DWP leasees and has been gathering input. Project is dependent on how ESCOG is distributing money leftover from the Mammoth donut project.

Additional board member and staff reports: There is a regional RCD meeting on Feb 24th in Pinon Hills CA. No board members are able to attend. Need to ask other RCD how they are structured. The Inyo-Mono RCD could explore options to not be nested in the county.

Agenda Development: Need to add to the February agenda an item to approve CSDA membership fees. Next RCD Meeting is set for Feb 25th at 5:30pm at the county building.

Jarret entertains motion to adjourn meeting at 6:38pm. Kay so moved, Graham seconds. Meeting is adjourned.