**RCD Meeting Minutes**

*Meeting Called to order 5:39 PM*

***In Attendance:***

*Chance Rossi*

*Graham Meese*

*Kay Ogden (virtually)*

*Jen Rosear*

*Kristen Pfeiler*

*Aaron Wilcher*

*Ziani Paiz*

*Mikhala Bornstein*

Some question about whether we have quorum and can have a meeting. We decide it’s okay for Kay to be virtual. Maybe because we don’t have in-person Quorum we shouldn’t vote on anything.

***Approval of meeting minutes tabled***

1. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Kay: 18K in the account

Graham: signed an invoice and paid the website fee

Jen: Have you had a chance to connect with anyone in the auditor's office?

Kay: We’ve been emailing, but I’ve been gone for longer than I’d expected

Graham: will put in his to-dos to

Kay: had a great meeting with CART, conservation board, and others. Would be happy to have a meeting if helpful to show statewide support

Kristen: we’re experiencing the same issue with a lot of special districts. I bumped up the issue to Nate, etc. I'll connect you via email this week

Graham: What's the issue? Staffing?

Kristen: Special districts can receive all kinds of funding but the county can’t

Jen: To pass it through the county you have to have all the workers comp, payment, etc. in order

Graham: We’re working on it!

Kay: It does seem to be a common problem

Mikhala: we need a 1199 or W-9 for the range camp scholarship

Kay: Want me to ask him for that?

Mikhala: yes the form comes from the county

1. **POLICY UPDATES**

*Review policy changes in handbook,*

Graham: Did go through it, just sent a copy to Kay. Only had minor changes to recommend. It keeps referencing an executive director which I don’t think we’ll have for a while. Once we get a larger staff it might make sense. For now ?

Mikhala: Maybe it should instead reference “The board”

Kay: Agrees it should be “the board”

Graham: What length of probationary period should we have?

Mikhala: We talked about it at the last meeting. We can look at the minutes.

Kay: I’m not sure we can withhold sick leave during a probationary period

Graham/Chance: DWP does it

Kristen: It might be different for sick leave / public jobs

Graham: It says we offer healthcare and they have unlimited options from anthem. 1) It’s weird to narrow it down to one service provider 2) They're just going to choose the platinum (expensive) one

Jen: Is this through the county or the state?

Kristen: Its just the handbook. We used a template from CA RCD

Graham: Maybe we can say we cover X amount of dollars / month (ie. 1200 a month). At least for the state the burden falls on the employee to pay a difference as healthcare increases.

Mikhala: we could look at other templates

Jen: the special districts get 10 hours of legal help a year. We could get some questions together and take it to council

Graham: I think next steps for the document are to seek legal review of it

Mikhala: Is there a board member interested in going over the healthcare issues?

Kay: Why don't we just give it to legal, they would know what they’re doing and would get it done fast

Graham: Maybe me and Kay and Katie should look it over one more time. So maybe we carry this over one more time. Final recommendation for the board. Otherwise I thought it was very good. Liked the performance evaluation and templates.

*No public comment*

1. **IMRCD SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN**

Kristen: I have a brief presentation to give you an overview of what it is and how we can integrate it. Happy to give it when all board members are here or can film myself giving the presentation and send it out. There's a few projects I put the RCD on as potential collaborators that were in your wheelhouse or where there are agency gaps. I can show you where to access all that. Also an example of a project we’re trying to put together that could lead to RCD having a sustainable program that you could own for community fuel reduction efforts. Pilot project started by mammoth lakes fire department if its successful we could scale it and RCD could own it throughout the region. Could tie in with work with the lessees, education, equipment. It pulls quite a few projects together so wanted to bring it as an example of how RCD could start. We have not yet pitched it to decision makers.

Kristen gives an overview of the Ready Inyo site and the CWPP and storymap.

Graham: did the PODS thing ever take off?

Kristen: we incorporated it into these layers

Mikhala: Kay needs to leave the meeting. Does anyone know what to do, Brown Act wise?

She can stay but not too long

1. **CA JOBS FIRST CATALYST GRANT**

Aaron: Do you want to help us write a grant for CA Jobs first?

Kay: What's the deadline?

Aaron: More info on the grant. Sierra jobs first if you want to take a look out of it. It’s possible another organization might subsume the RCD. It seems clear this is something that potentially could have one staff person. **It opens October 15 and closes December 15**

Graham: One thing I'm worried about is if we get this money do we have the capacity to spend it?

Aaron: potentially considering trying it and if the money becomes available the time frame could line up. Period of performance does not start until at least april/may 2025. You might even still have 24 more months after that. You can have the money in coffers and not worry about it until 2026. I think the reason we've been hanging around is there's a local board that's making a decision of what to approve. We need good ideas.

Jen: Wasn't there something at a SBC meeting about setting aside money for capacity building? A lot of these ideas are not fully baked and we need a way to get them there

Aaron: This group might need an incubator rather than a specific scope

Kristen: We need to get a move on the federal tax stuff

Graham: We need to get that paperwork together. I think it sounds really promising and the timeline seems to make sense.

Kristen; and it would pair well with RFFO funding (not sure if I got that acronym right?)

Aaron: the favor I’d ask is for folks to read up on the grant and I’ll reach out to Elaine about this “incubator” idea

Graham: I’d propose we put both of these on the agenda for next meeting

1. **EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROGRAM**

Aaron: With Jarret not here I want to bring up there was some interest and excitement about doing an equipment lending program for fuels treatment that would include ranchlands and other property. Jarret got some quotes for equipment for a lending program. The number is (maybe) 219k outlined. There's interest around this.

Mikhala: the RCD ran into liabilities when they did it before

Kristen: The issue I ran into is the county did not want to host it, but calfire didn't want to host it because of liability. But a private entity (ie. SCE) may not have the same concerns

Aaron: Did I represent this idea correctly?

Chance: Yes, and you go back to how do we implement it? Training for people using it? If RCD owns the equipment is the liability of use on us or the person who uses it? We would have to write a waiver into it.

Jen: It seems like all you’d have to do is provide a certificate of insurance to the RCD

Kristen: So the general public couldnt use it.

Jen: Unless you had commercial liability

Kristen: The county has deep pockets so they would get sued a lot. Maybe not the case for RCDs.

Jen: Are there any other RCDs renting equipment?

Kriten: CARCD was looking into it.

Mikhala/Aaron: We found a few that do it.

Jen: Any commercial operator has to have commercial liability anyway

Graham: Some kind of waiver and insurance combination. But then it would just be the private homeowners left. In the document Kristen brought it looks like there’d be a crew trained by calfire that could maybe help private homeowners. It’d be great to have a crew for small areas of people without commercial insurance.

Kristen: In conversations with others, having equipment that's more meant for that crew and calfire to use. Homeowners may not be the target audience.

Jen: Yeah because a private homeowner would need to go through a contractor anyway

Graham: Used to work for a nonprofit that went to low income people in Ojai (oxymoron) and did fuels treatments with weed whips and saws

Kristen: That's what Mammoth Lake fire is interested in seeing. Which communities are in need of this versus affluent homeowners who can pay for it themselves.

Jen: There's an intertribal stewardship program through SNC and the Bishop tribe is starting to implement it. CHIPS is a part of this. Obviously tribal only.

Kristen: Can connect Aaron with that program

Graham: How would this discussion fit into this catalyst program?

Aaron: I’m not an official representative of the program. My initial answer is that this would fit into the aspects outlaid in the catalyst program. The issue that might be trickier is the economic imperative here. The job creation part of it.. Enabling development in the economy on a larger scale is something they want to see.

Jen: One thing we’ve been trying to impress upon the state is these “high row jobs”. There's not really employment like that here in any field besides the government.. We’re more interested in entrepreneurial opportunities. We have been hounding SBC to recognize that we’re not creating 50 jobs but its workforce development we’re implementing skills and opportunities. Tying it in with Cerro Coso and their natural resource programing, there's a place for this.

Aaron: Read through materials, thanks!

Aaron: I did tell Jarret that I’d follow up on this. I’d reach out to Tuolumne and Amador RCDs to see if they want to collaborate on food systems project

1. **BOARD MEMBER AND STAFF REPORTS**

Graham: One last review of the handbook. Specifically healthcare stuff

Jen: I’ll give the county council a heads up that we’ll be reaching out for advice. I will look into getting an EIN.

Kristen: we’re piecing together this Bishop Bagel project. DWP likes the concept and the next steps would be getting lessees together. Wondering if RCD would be willing to host it.

Aaron: documenting need during these meeting

Jen: timeline?

Chance: October’s pretty busy

Kristen/Jen: let’s shoot for November

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CCWA round valley roundup Sept 28

Benton Music festival and Hispanic Heritage Month festivals this Saturday (9/14)

*Next meeting is scheduled for* ***October 16th at 5:30 PM*** *in the county building.*

*Meeting to adjourn 6:52*