Yolo County Resource Conservation District
221 West Court Street, Suite 1
Woodland, CA 95695
phone: (530) 661-1688
www.yolorcd.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 **Time:** 5:05 PM
Location: 221 West Court Street, Suite 1, Woodland, CA 95695

Directors present: Eric Willson (Vice-President), Anya Perron-Burdick (Secretary Treasurer), Miranda Driver, Jake Campos, Dan Bonetti (Assoc. Director)
Directors Absent: Mark Cady (President)
Others Present: Sara Lipschutz (NRCS), RCD: Heather Nichols, Jeanette Wrysinski, Alli Perman, Conor Higgins (through Item 4), Kate Reza (via Zoom)

1. **Call Meeting to Order and Introductions.** Vice President Willson called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

2. **Approve Agenda and Business Meeting Minutes.** (Gov. Code 54954.2(B))
   ACTION: Approve tonight's agenda and minutes from the June 22nd regular business meeting; MOTION: Perron-Burdick, SECOND: Campos; AYES: Unanimous (Willson, Perron-Burdick, Driver, Campos).

3. **Public Comment.** There were no comments from the public.

4. **Special Presentation (90 minutes) – Local Working Group (LWG; see question list on agenda):** Ms. Lipschutz, Soil Conservationist with the USDA NRCS, provided a handout with the program-related questions for all to fill out (also available digitally). She began with a Power Point introduction to the purpose and responsibilities associated with conducting the LWG. Feedback is needed by September 1st but sooner is best. She reviewed the 2026 program and asked for input for 2027. She reviewed definitions of resource concerns, practices and funding priorities.

   Key points: a new Farm Bill is not yet in place but there have been operation extensions; sign-ups should begin around September; this is the first year of the Regenerative Pilot Program; there has been lots of interest in agricultural or wetland easements; there have been key changes to the Adjusted Gross Income qualification limitations.

   Feedback and discussion: **Q-1**: Local growers want tractor replacement cost-share. This would be preferred over some of the other cost-share since tractors are a very expensive necessity for farming.

   Q-2: Clarification was requested on payment rates. This depends on the practice used but ranges between 50% and 75%. Ms. Lipschutz listed some actual payment rates for different practices and discussion followed about appropriateness. Cover crops – cost share per acre is about right; whole orchard recycling – it covers some of the cost but the final steps add much more to the total cost because it is very hard and expensive to break down the wood chips that get put into the soil. To chip, the payment is about right, to incorporate, the cost is about double. Hedgerows – the $1.75/foot is not nearly enough.

   Q-3: What about priorities for rangeland practices? There is cost share for cross-fencing and livestock watering but what about damage to rangeland by wild pigs?

Q-4: There was no feedback on ranking criteria.

Q-5: There was no specific feedback on changes in outreach to growers.

On Qs 3, 4, 6, & 7 The main resource concerns are soil, water, air, plants, animals and energy. Ms. Lipschutz referred everyone to the checkbox section of the feedback form, reviewed the items, and provided time for all to check priorities. Additional feedback: Problems occur with water/drip cost-share when converting orchards because trees are removed, then the land is cropped, then new trees are put in, so there are several years without a harvest from trees as well as without an appropriate measure of water use.

Q-6: How about prioritizing areas with declining groundwater levels since groundwater is such a looming issue?

Q-7: No specific feedback on impaired water bodies other than areas with declining groundwater mentioned in Q-6.

Q-8: For more effective screening it would help to clarify, ahead of applications, just what kinds of projects – or combinations of projects – rank higher and how to align a project with existing priorities. Also, are there specific land use types associated with the various resource concerns, for example, Rangeland, pasture, forestry, dairy, cropland, urban forestry?

Q-9: No other feedback on additional areas was provided.

5. **Ratify/Approve Expenditures (List of Checks) and Wire Transfer of Funds:** ACTION: Ratify total expenditures of $11,622.44; pre-approve expenditures of $131,947.28 and a wire transfer of $143,566.18. MOTION: Perron-Burdick; SECOND: Driver; AYES: Unanimous (Willson, Perron-Burdick, Driver, Campos).

6. **Regular Reports:**
   a. Executive Director's Report. Ms. Nichols referred to her written report and highlighted the meeting of the Leadership Team (see the bullet points in her report). They have been invited back for a full proposal to the CDFA Healthy Soils grant program but not SWEEP, though SWEEP coverage may be possible through a proposal by the California Land Stewardship Institute and the Punjabi American Growers Group. Also of interest: two CCC interns will be staying on for this fiscal year. She provided highlights for the Habitat Restoration Program, Farm and Ranch Technical Assistance, Fire Resilience Program and Project Operations. Ms. Reza reported on multiple grant opportunities coming up, especially CAL-Fire. The Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) will be holding a barbeque on August 8th. Ms. Nichols will not be serving on the Climate Action Commission.
   b. Financial Report. Ms. Nichols reported for Ms. Talbott. She reviewed the cash balance, adjusted and actual cash balance, and Profit and Loss vs Actual – noting that there is still a lot not yet billed so the figures are not final. She explained reasons for the lower than expected net income, new billable rates and reasons for the goal for income of $100K/year.
   c. Board member reports and comments. There were no reports from the Board.
7. **New Business:**
   a. ACTION: Approve Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 for $3,623,947; MOTION: Perron-Burdick; SECOND: Driver; AYES: Unanimous (Willson, Perron-Burdick, Driver, Campos).
   b. ACTION: Approve Published Billable Rates for Fiscal Year 2026-2027; MOTION: Driver; SECOND:

Campos; AYES: Unanimous (Willson, Perron-Burdick, Driver, Campos).

8. **Confirm Next Meeting Date and Location:** The next meeting was confirmed for Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 5:05 at the Yolo County RCD Office, 221 West Court St. Ste. 1, Woodland, CA.

9. **Regular Meeting Adjourned.** Mr. Willson adjourned the meeting at 7:49 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Anya Perron-Burdick, Board Secretary, and Heather Nichols, Executive Director. Approved on August 20, 2026 by the Yolo County Resource Conservation District Board.

By: _____ Date 8/20/26 **Secretary, Anya Perron-Burdick**