



Board Meeting Minutes

Location: MRCD Conference Room, 114 E. North St., Alturas, CA 96101
Teleconferencing 1100 County Rd 24, Cedarville, CA 96104
Location:
Date: July 21, 2026
Time: 6:00 pm

Attendance

Name	Title	Attendance	Participation
Erika Forrest	Chairman	Absent	
Jess Dancer	Vice Chair	Present	In Person
Stacey Hafen	Treasurer	Present	In Person
Pearce Flournoy	Secretary	Present	In Person
Shaelene Tims	Director	Absent	
Jason Diven	Director	Present	In Person
Tiffany Martinez	Director	Present	In Person
Staff Present		Guests Present	
Lani Cockrell		Simarjeet Singh	
Michelle Radtke		Laura Snell	
Mike Colbert		Ned Coe Remote	

Introduction

1. Vice Chair Jess Dancer called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.
 - a. A quorum was established.

Public Comment

2. None.

Reports

1. District Manager – Lani Cockrell
 - a. Lani reported that the District secured tentative approval from SNC for a Fuels Reduction Project at the Fort Bidwell Surprise Valley Electric Substation, funded through the Tribal connection and the District's ongoing work with FBICC. Work continues on the SNC Planning Grant, with details in the Project Report. Honey Lake Valley RCD received a grant to organize trainings on non-lethal control of wolves, and MRCD will partner along with the Farm Advisor's office and neighboring RCDs. CARCD was not selected for the HSP Block Grant from CDFA, so the District will not be doing Healthy Soils work this



round. Wildlife Coordinator Caroline Gengo is organizing the wildlife agencies. The District is working with HLVRCD on a landscape-scale sage steppe working lands grant opportunity that would fund two new Technical Assistance Providers if awarded, and with the CPA to compile financials for the 2023-2024 through 2025-2026 fiscal years. BLM increased funding for the District's cooperative work to \$64,000. The 90-day review of the Goose Lake fisheries has been published on the federal register, and the Goose Lake working group will be meeting soon. Invoicing is ongoing.

2. Project Report – Mike Colbert

- a. Mike Colbert presented the Grants and Projects Report; a written report was provided. On SNC Grant 1124 (Dry Creek), botanical and biological surveys are wrapping up with final reports pending; CDA will prepare the planning for the four project sites and the watershed restoration plan, and MRCD will prepare the required CEQA documents. Under the USFS RAC Grant, the District will request an extension to May 31, 2027 to support another year of Children's Forest. For CalSIP, the Notices of Exemption for the Pit River at Alturas and North Fork Pit River at Alturas sites were filed June 17 with no comments received; at the Bidwell Creek site, the Categorical Exclusion and a final job box location are pending. An equipment cost increase of approximately \$15,000 is expected to be covered by project contingency, and payment from the County on submitted invoices remains outstanding. The LMFCWCD Board approved MRCD to continue flow meter monitoring with a \$25,000 budget for FY 2027. GNA work continues through HLVRCD pending the District's own agreement. The Wildlife Connectivity Collaboration Group has been formed and is holding monthly meetings. In development, MRCD is preparing a concept proposal, due July 27, to the SNC Wildfire and Forest Resilience Grant Program for a planning grant covering three project areas totaling approximately 864 acres. The Fort Bidwell Electrical Substation Fuels Reduction Project is now shovel-ready with BIA's completed NEPA review, with an approximate \$140,000 budget and Lomakatsi proposed for the work; the Board acted on the related sole source procurement later in the meeting. The District is also a partner on an NFWF application to fund two regional Technical Assistance Providers. Among completed projects, SNC Grant 954 needs additional funding to complete removal of the rounds, and the final report for the CAL FIRE North Overland Roadside Shaded Fuels Reduction Project has been submitted.

3. Modoc Fire Safe Council - Michelle Radtke and Stacey Hafen

- a. Michelle reported that the Lake City Community Wildfire Protection Project was submitted to the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant on July 7 and is being submitted as a concept proposal to the SNC Wildfire and Forest Resilience Grant Program, due July 27. At the Defensible Space Workshop held July 9 at the Alturas Garden Club, CAL FIRE, OES, and MFSC staff presented on defensible space, emergency preparedness, and home hardening; at the Cal Pines Firewise Workshop held July 11 at the Deer Springs Fire Station, CAL FIRE and MFSC presented on defensible space, emergency preparedness, and the Firewise USA program. Stacey Hafen reported that a Defensible Space application was submitted to the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant and the California Fire Foundation in July.

4. NRCS - Bryon Hadwick

- a. Bryon Hadwick was unable to attend; his emailed report was presented by Lani Cockrell. The NRCS reorganization is under legislative review, with news expected soon.



NRCS is working to complete obligations by mid-August, with 22 applications selected for funding in California and Nevada totaling roughly \$4.5 million. Engineering and archeology continue to be a slow process.

5. Farm Advisor Office – Simarjeet Singh and Laura Snell
 - a. Simarjeet Singh reported on an in-person workshop on green pasture and the alfalfa project, including quality evaluation. A quarterly newsletter is planned, with work underway to get something on the ground in Big Valley in partnership with Shasta County staff, along with a working meeting similar to the Surprise Valley format. A CDFA joint application for weed management in alfalfa was accepted for a full proposal.
 - b. Laura Snell discussed the Goose Lake fisheries petition filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2025; the 90-day finding was issued in July 2026, and the 12-month review is expected to take three to five years, during which producers should submit comment letters. The loss of irrigated surface water in the basin is a concern. For California, the County would need to apply for support, with MRCD providing capacity, potentially through a U.S. Fish and Wildlife conservation planning capacity-building grant.
 - c. CDFW awarded approximately \$2 million in wolf management funding; Sierra Valley RCD and Honey Lake Valley RCD received funding for non-lethal deterrence, and a training partnership with Honey Lake Valley RCD and UC Davis would bring trainings to the Modoc and Lassen region.
 - d. The California Grazing Lands Coalition offers up to \$5,000 for a grazing workshop.
6. BLM – Kevin Kunkle
 - a. Kevin Kunkle was unable to attend; his emailed update was presented by Lani Cockrell. Honey Lake RCD funding remains in Washington, D.C., with approval possible in the next two weeks; the delay is affecting planned seasonal hiring through the District. The Biscar Fire has prompted a temporary closure order impacting access through the Tuledad Allotment; the fire is in Lassen County but affects Modoc County permittees, who are being kept updated. A draft Good Neighbor Authority agreement is expected for review the following week. The Bidwell Creek stream gauge Categorical Exclusion is complete, pending a final location for the job box.

Agenda

3. Approval of Agenda
 - a. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Secretary Flournoy; seconded by Director Diven. Motion carried.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. June 16, 2026, Board Meeting
 - i. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Treasurer Hafen; seconded by Director Diven. Motion carried.
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. A motion to approve the June 2026 Financial Report as presented for audit was made by Director Diven; seconded by Secretary Flournoy. Motion carried.
6. Old Business
 - a. Ethics Training and Form 700 Compliance
 - i. Reminder that board members need to complete AB 1234 ethics training and Form 700 filings.
7. New Business



- a. Resolution for SNC Modoc Resource Conservation District Wildfire Resilience Planning Project Grant Application
 - i. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Director Martinez; seconded by Director Diven. Motion carried.
 - b. Resolution for SNC Fort Bidwell Electric Substation Fuels Reduction Project
 - i. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Director Martinez; seconded by Director Diven. Motion carried.
 - c. Letter of Support for NFWF Regional Technical Assistance Partnership for Sagebrush Working Lands Conservation in NE California and NW Nevada
 - i. A motion to approve the letter of support was made by Director Martinez; seconded by Director Diven. Motion carried.
 - d. Motion to Approve Sole Source Procurement for the Fort Bidwell Electric Substation Fuels Reduction Project – Lomakatsi Restoration Project
 - i. A motion to approve the sole source procurement was made by Director Martinez; seconded by Treasurer Hafen. Motion carried.
 - e. Resolution Ordering an Election, Requesting County Elections to Conduct the Election, and Requesting Consolidation of the Election
 - i. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Director Diven; seconded by Director Martinez. Motion carried.
8. Director's Report
- a. Director's Hours

Name	Hours
Erika Forrest	
Jess Dancer	4
Stacey Hafen	6
Pearce Flournoy	4
Shaelene Tims	
Jason Diven	4
Tiffany Martinez	4

Items for the Next Meeting

9. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the MRCD Conference Room.

Adjournment

Closed Session: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Prepared by,
Michelle Radtke