

**AMADOR**  
**RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
Mailing Address: 12200-B Airport Road, Jackson CA 95642

**DIRECTORS**  
Steve Cannon, Carole Marz, Dan Port, Emily Taylor, Kelsi Williams  
*Associate Directors*

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**DATE:** April 15, 2021 **TIME:** 3:00 PM **LOCATION:** Chichizola Store (Mother Lode Land Trust) 1324 Jackson Gate Road, Jackson, CA 95642

*Due to concerns about health & the need to maintain social distance, this meeting will allow for telephone attendance via conference call. If interested, please call (612)470-1917 & use PIN 294-465-236#. If you choose to attend via video conference, go to [meet.google.com/hyh-zwww-ngn](https://meet.google.com/hyh-zwww-ngn)*

**ROLL CALL**  
**AGENDA**

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Approval of agenda for this date; any and all off-agenda items must be approved by the Board of Directors  
Pursuant to Para 5495.2 of the government code.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS BY THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA CONSIDERATION OF  
"EMERGENCY OR "SUBSEQUENT NEED" ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA Cal. Gov't Code 54954.2(b)(2)

Item #	Time Allotted	Topic
1	3:05 – 3:15	Approval of itemized warrants.
2	3:15 – 3:20	Approval of minutes of past meetings
3	3:20 – 3:40	NRCS Report
4	3:40 – 4:15	District Manager Report – Amanda Watson Monarch Projects
5	4:15 – 4:30	Treasurer Report
6	4:30 – 4:50	Scholarships Forestry Challenge High School Scholarship – action on consideration of candidates
7	4:50- 4:55	Correspondence
8	4:55	Adjourn

## April 2021- ARCD Board Meeting

Starting Warrant 21-030

Warrant Number	Amount	Pay to	Project	Notes
21-030	\$ 3,432.52	CARCD	ARCD	March AW Staff Time
21-031	\$ 732.55	CARCD	SAWQA	March AW Staff Time
21-032	\$ 177.25	Balancing the Books	ARCD	Bookkeeping -April Work
21-033	\$ 1,331.09	The Regents of University of CA	ARCD-SARE	Scott Oneto's work 3/1/2021-3/31/2021
21-034	\$ 21,614.25	Timber Ridge Clearing	ARCD-Chipping	March 2021 Roadside Chipping
21-035	\$ 76.50	Ledger Dispatch	CHIP	Chipping Days- Advertisment
21-036	\$ 780.00	Molly Taylor	HSP	1/25/21-3/31/2021
21-037	\$ 68.73	City of Jackson	ARCD	Community Garden Water
21-038	\$ 50.00	Sweet Pea	ARCD	Community Garden Porta-Potty

### ARCD Income

Date	Amount	Check From	Project	Notes
3/24/2021	\$ 25,000.00	NACD	ARCD-NACD	TA 3 Staff Funding
3/16/2021	\$ 237.92	CARCD	ARCD-PACE	PACE Program Participation- Staff Time

NOTES

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# **AMADOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## **Minutes for Board Meeting of March 18<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Meeting was called to order by President Cannon at 3:00pm.

Present were: Directors: Cannon, Port, Marz, Williams, Taylor  
Amanda Watson, Bobette Parsons, Molly Taylor

A motion was made by Director Marz to approve the agenda as presented.

Seconded by Director Port

All in favor, motion carried.

No oral communications.

Item 1: 11 warrants were presented for payment approval by Director Port, Warrant # 21-019 - #21-029.

See Invoice Summary. A motion was made by Director Marz to approve the 9 warrants for payment, seconded by Director Taylor, motion carried, all in favor.

Item 2: February Minutes

A motion was made by Director Williams to approve the February 2021 Minutes as presented.

Seconded by Director Taylor

All in favor, motion carried.

Item 3: NRCS report submitted via email. See NRCS Report. Bobette Parsons discussed the NRCS report.

Item 4: AW presented the District Manager Report

The board discussed forming an informal Monarch Garden Ad Hoc Committee. Directors Taylor and Williams will serve on this committee.

Board discussed their support of researching a project for the CCI/CalFire Forest Health Grant. Watson will research projects and report back to the board.

Molly Taylor presented to the board regarding the Soils Health/Grazing workshop.

Item 5: Director Port verbally presented Treasurer Report

Director Port made a motion to authorize District Manger to sign warrants for up to \$5000, warrant summary must be presented to the board at each board meeting.

Director Marz seconded

All in favor, motioned carried.

Director Williams made the motion that two directors, president and treasurer, be authorized to sign warrants over \$5000 after approved by the board and only one signature is required.

Director Taylor seconded

All in favor, motioned carried.

Item 6: Watson reported that Emily Taylor's appointment to the board was approved by the Board of Supervisors and her oath of office was submitted

Item 7: The board discussed the scholarship applications. The discussion was tables until the next board meeting.

Item 8: The secretary position was discussed, Director Cannon volunteered to serve as secretary until the position is filled.

Item 9: No correspondence

Item 10: Meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm.

**/AWatson/**

# **AMADOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## **Minutes for Special Meeting of 6 April 2021**

**Special meeting was called to order by Director Cannon at 3:00pm.**

**Present were: Directors Cannon, Marz, Port, Taylor & Williams  
District Manager Amanda Watson**

**A motion was made by Director Williams to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Director Marz. Motion passed unanimously.**

**No oral communications**

**No warrants submitted.**

**Healthy Soils workshop will be supported by funding from CDFA. Spencer Smith would be the presenter. His fee is \$2000/day and comes well recommended by Director Taylor. Workshop will take place over three days. Tim Curran would host on the Curran Ranch property and would help to promote the workshop among the ranching community. The SARE project would also be integrated into the workshop. The Healthy Soils project also includes an education component, so the workshop helps to meet that objective. There is \$48K left in the project budget. After the cost of the workshop, there will be approximately \$42K remaining for implementing remainder of the project to reach 75 people/landowners. May 22 is okay with Spencer Smith for one of the three days.**

**Closed session entered into at 3:30. Personnel issue discussed.**

**Info: RCPP tele-meeting on April 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. CARCD coordinates.**

**Next regular meeting on April 15 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.**

**/SC/**



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## USDA-NRCS Report by Bobette Parsons, District Conservationist, Jackson LPO April 2021

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Administration on-going on 117 active conservation contracts to treat 30,779 acres.
- Federal funding of 5.8 million dollars obligated for conservation activities in active contracts.
- 2 CSP renewal contracts on 14,000 acres of Rangeland obligated \$241,000.

### Program Deadlines

- June 9<sup>th</sup> last ranking deadline for FY21 EQIP projects competing for funding.
- June 30<sup>th</sup> ranking deadline for FY21 CSP

### Pollinator projects and Soil Health workshops

- Hedgerow planting completed in Fall on an Amador county ranch. Data to help evaluate benefits to pollinators, Partnership NRCS and Xerces Society. Anticipate field workshop later this year.

### Conservation Planning 2021

- On-going requests for assistance being received, with needed planning on Tree Mortality, General forestry, RCPP, Rangeland and Cropland acreages.
- Numerous requests for planning on Rangeland.
- Rangeland planning priority on applicants without adequate livestock water.
- Plans were developed for 5 new clients for FY21 EQIP funding on RCPP, forestry and range.
- June 9<sup>th</sup> is the last ranking deadline for FY21 EQIP projects competing for funding.

### Staff Updates

- NRCS Central Sierra Team Forester and NRCS Area 3 Forester advertised in March, positions likely filled within the next two months and will help with Jackson workload.
- Permanent NRCS Forester Position for Jackson will be advertised later this year. No date set yet.
- Office remains open for business through telework and rotational staff time in office. Office is closed to clients and visitors, but field work continues with social distancing.

Amador RCD  
District Manager Report  
Prepared for: March 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 Board Meeting

**Current Projects Updates:**

Three Meadows, NFWF Grant: Awaiting implementation this summer. Payment from PG&E in the mail. Working on implementation and volunteer coordination planning with Project Management Team.

Amador Rangeland Soil Health Research and Education Project, WesternSARE –Grazing/Productivity Workshop will be held on SARE site and will be used as the Spring Tailgate.

Community Chipping Program: 6 Community Chipping Days have been held, a total of 250 loads chipped, by a total of 144 clients. Approximately 95 acres were treated with 588 hours of match from the clients.

Patagonia Carbon Farm Plan: All three Carbon Farm Plans are completed.

Healthy Soil Program Technical Assistance Funding- Development of Grazing/Productivity Workshop, see attached summary and flier. Workshop May 21, with site visits on the 22-23.

Monarch Habitat Garden: Ad Hoc Committee met. Director Taylor is working with Master Gardeners to establish a partnership for design and maintenance. AW is working with Partners for Fish and Wildlife on application for funding. AW is going to apply for a plant kit from the Xerxes Society.

Mitchell Mine Fuel Break Maintenance/Demonstration: awaiting final agreement from CalFire.

NACD 2021: \$100,000 awarded to assist NRCS with Technical Assistance.

**Funding Opportunities:**

- Home Hardening Education Grant: Mariposa is submitting a grant application for a joint grant between ACT Partnership and Mariposa, see letter of support attached.
- Community Chipping Grant: CCI/CalFire Fire Prevention Grant (\$400,000) or CAFSC grants available (\$200,000). Plan to submit to both of these upcoming grant cycles. Project will build off of the current project, will focus on roadside chipping, strategically placed green waste bins, and education.
- Grazing for Fuels Prevention and Forest Health: newly developed project that would be good for the CCI/CalFire Forest Health grant cycle either Spring 2021 or a possible Fall 2021 cycle. Treat 800s in the Jackson Creek Watershed with 3 consecutive years of grazing and other treatments (Mastication/Rx burning). See project description, attached.
- Carbon Hub Funding: meeting with CCI and Hubs to develop a proposal.
- US Fish and Wildlife Partners Program: \$25,000 grant for installing habitat on private land. Working to edit project to include Community Garden site.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy will be having funds coming available for forest health and fire protection projects in March and July of this year.

**SAWQA:**

Outreach Summary submitted, still working on reporting.



# ARCD Grazing Workshop Overview

**Location:** Circle Ranch, Ione

**Date:** May 22nd 9am-3pm

**Capacity:** 40

**Ticket price:** \$25/person

**Length:** 3-day

**Speaker Bio:** Spencer Smith is owner and operator of the Jefferson Center for Holistic Management. He is an accredited Savory Field Professional. He travels throughout Northern California and Nevada (and as needed to other regions) conducting Holistic Management workshops, courses, events and consultations. With a bachelor's degree in agribusiness from CSU, Chico and experience managing cow-calf and yearling herds in Northern California and Nevada, Spencer brings years of ranch management experience to the business. He manages Springs Ranch in Fort Bidwell, California. Formerly he managed the cattle on the DS Ranch in Sierra Valley, Calif. as well as about 600,000 acres of grazing allotment north of Reno, Nevada.

**Day 1 Workshop Summary:** Spencer will lead participants in a day-long workshop examining the ways in which grazing management can be used as a tool for increasing productivity, profitability, and ecosystem health. Topics that will be covered in the workshop include:

- Intro to Holistic Management
- Soil health basics
- Funding opportunities
- Drought preparedness
- Results from Western SARE compost spreading + seeding on rangeland

Following the workshop, participants interested in seeing holistic management in different contexts may follow along for two additional days of site visits at ranches in the region.



**Day 2 & 3 Site Visits:** The following two days will allow participants to go more in-depth within their context and highlight unique aspects of the operations. All participants will be welcome to attend any of the site visits.

March 23rd, morning - Ace Hereford Ranch, Alpine County

March 23rd, afternoon - Woolystar Ranch, Alpine County

March 24th, morning - Circle Ranch or Winterport (TBD)

March 24th, afternoon - Oak Canyon Ranch, Calaveras County

On Organization Letterhead

April 13, 2021

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Grants Management Unit  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Grant Manager:

**RE: 20-FP-MMU-0002**

**Regional Home Hardening Public Education Program**

(Your organization name here) fully supports the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District application for a Regional Home Hardening Public Education program. This project is one of the recommendations of Mariposa County's newly updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan and will go a long way toward raising public awareness about the need to harden their homes against wildfire.

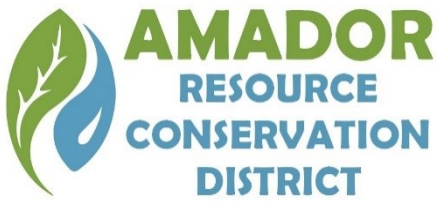
State, federal and local agencies have been working hard to reduce fuels and improve the health and resilience of our forests. Residents have removed thousands of hazard trees and reduced tons of fuels within their defensible space, but the last piece of the puzzle is retrofitting homes within the wildland urban interface to be withstand ember-driven fire. Retrofitting can be a complicated and potentially expensive process, and residents will appreciate clear information about how to achieve it. This program would be well received and provide additional incentive for homeowners to take on hardening projects and activities.

This application, submitted by Mariposa County RCD but representing a collaboration among Amador, Tuolumne, and Calaveras county RCDs, and building upon the program created by the Tahoe RCD using CAL FIRE grant funding, will provide consistent, factual information informing residents about steps they can take to decrease the likelihood of losing their home to wildfire.

This project will increase public awareness and public safety, and provide additional protection against devastating loss during wildfires. Please fund the Regional Home Hardening Education program.

Thank you,

Name  
Title



12200 B Airport Road,  
Jackson CA 95642  
[www.AmadorRCD.org](http://www.AmadorRCD.org)

## Project Summary

Project Name: Amador Community Chipping Project

Entity: Amador Resource Conservation District (ARCD)

Grant Number: XXXX

Funding Entity: CalFire Fire Prevention Grant or CAFSC

**Project Timeframe:** Depend on funding source, 2-5 years

### **Project Description:**

Continuation of the current Community Chipping Grant. This project will encourage homeowners who qualify to complete their defensible space work by offering chipping of material that would otherwise remain in piles or be burned contributing to pollution in the area.

The ARCD will hire a contractor to provide chipping services to landowners. Contractor will chip existing homeowner created piles that are within easy/safe access for contractors chipper and truck. Homeowners will be given an application with instructions and a hold harmless agreement by the ARCD. Piles will be all facing the same way where possible and material to be chipped shall be no larger than 6 inches in diameter. Chipping redistributes forest vegetation that is cut by mechanical or hand thinning. The chips may be scattered throughout the project area at a depth no greater than 3 inches.

Community Chipping Days: Assign communities a timeframe in which the contractor will be in the area. All chipping for this community must take place within this time frame. Landowner's will sign up for a spot within the chipping time frame. Encourage neighborhoods to form Fire Wise Communities.

There will also be Batch Application Based Chipping: Application will continuously be accepted though out the county. Chipping days will be scheduled based on getting enough applications from the same area.

**Green Waste Bins:** Bins will be located at strategic locations throughout the county, emptied and replaced throughout the grant.

Elderly or Disabled Assistance: Work with community groups to provide volunteer labor for elderly or disabled people to prepare slash for chipping.

Fee: Small flat fee per property. Suggested \$20/ property could be more. Waived for low-income applicants.

**Project Area/Project Scope:** Amador County residents in the Wildland Urban Interface.

**Budget:** Depended on funding source. \$200,000-\$400,000

# CALFire Forest Health Grant Summary

## Scope of Work

- The South and Middle Fork Jackson Creek Watershed located to the west of El Dorado National Forest suffers from an abundance of fuel load, this project would **reduce fuel load on 1,000 acres**
- Reductions of these fuels would protect homes, oak-chaparral ecosystems, and wildlife from unnaturally high severity wildfire
- The Amador RCD (ARCD) works with private landowners and public agencies to implement landscape-scale projects and would be project lead
- This project will include outreach and education to local underserved communities to further build awareness of land management techniques that reduce risk of high severity wildfire and encourage private landowners to manage fuel load on their properties
- Fuel load reduction activities will result in a wide range of co-benefits including increasing the carbon storage capacity of forest soils, build plant community diversity and resilience, and create habitat for native wildlife
- ARCD will work with established partners such as the Amador Fire Safe Council and NRCS to implement project activities

## Work Plan

- Implement fuel load reduction through prescribed grazing on 800 acres each year for three years
- Implement prescribed fire and/or mechanical treatments on an additional 200 acres
- Host an educational workshops each year of project duration to encourage private land management for fuel load reduction

## Budget

Budget Item	Expense
Contractor Services	\$2,500,000
Environmental Compliance	\$50,000
Outreach + Education	\$30,000
GIS Services	\$10,000
Monitoring	\$50,000
Indirect	\$300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,940,000</b>

### Long Term Forest Management Goals

- This project will provide long-term benefits in the form of avoided high-severity wildfire that destroy ecosystems and displace wildlife
- Increases in soil carbon as a result of this project's activities will store atmospheric carbon and increase soil water holding capacity, thereby improving the landscape's resilience to climate change
- This project will provide support and seek additional funding for landowners for continued maintenance of fuel load

### Net GHG Benefit

### Priority Landscapes

- Reduce Wildfire Risk to Forest Ecosystem Services: This project is located in a moderate-severity (level 3) fire zone but will provide a fuel break to adjacent high-severity fire zone
- Reduce Wildfire Risk to Communities: This project will take place in a medium and high-severity (level 3 &4) fire zone for communities

### Co-Benefits

- Reduce risk of wildfire
- Increase soil carbon sequestration & water holding capacity
- Increase habitat for native flora and fauna
- Create job opportunities in populations historically marginalized from forestry
- Reduce air pollution
- Reduce invasive species population
- Provide education opportunities
- Improve scenic resources
- Provide agricultural benefits and food for local communities

### Jobs

- This project will create jobs in the local community and provide long-term workforce development

### Disadvantaged/Low Income Community Benefit

- This project will take place between two CARB designated low-income communities and decrease their risk of high-severity wildfire

### Readiness & Legal Requirements

- CEQA will need to be completed
- Proper insurance held for contract services
- Private Land Access Contracts