FULL COUNCIL MEETING CALL TO ORDER 9:30 a.m.
Meeting called to order by President Tom Wheeler.

Pledge of Allegiance
Recite Mission Statement

Roll Call & Introductions – Tom Wheeler led roll call and introductions were made by all present. With 10 sponsor organizations present a quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Agenda – Tom Burdette made the motion to approve the agenda and Nathan Magsig (2nd), agenda approved.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes – Tom Burdette made the motion to approve the April 2019 minutes and Jack McGowan (2nd), minutes approved.
Executive Committee Report – Justine Reynolds gave the executive committee report. Staff were asked to circulate the final draft of the MCSA. Motion to approve the executive committee report by Nathan Magsig and Tom Burdette (2nd), report approved.

Treasurer’s Report - Jack McGowan directed David Konno to provide an update on the treasurer’s report. At July 1, 2019 we had a start balance of $169,340.63. Balance as of 7/25/19 is $25,837.42. Our grant obligated funds are $492,962.25 and our general fund dollars are currently $22,700.98. Nathan Magsig posed a question about audited financial statements. Tom Burdette and Jack McGowan discussed plans to change accountants and potential for a financial assessment ahead of YSRCDC’s annual meeting. Nathan Magsig (Motion) and Tom Burdette (2nd) Treasurer’s Report approved.

NRCS Update – Johnnie Siliznoff gave an update. NRCS is in its third batching period and does not know if there will be another one. The batching period of the RCPP program has closed and no changes are expected for 2020 but encouraged the submittal of applications for the program. Alex Hepler gave an update for Tulare County. Tulare had about nine range applications funded in batch 3. One being a 20 acre conservation stewardship program on the Tule River Indian reservation.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS 10:00 a.m.

Project and Program Update – Justine presented the current programs and projects with the group. See attached Programs and Projects Detailed Report for the updates given. Robert provided some information on outreach for the Eastern Madera Wildfire Reforestation Project. David provided an update on CASA and the surety bond for the Arbor Day Foundation grant, which is part of SNC880 project.

- North Fork Bioenergy Facility – Tom Burdette provided the update on the project. Madera County conditionally approved modification to the conditional use permit for 2MW. The Air Resource board will now need to review the application as well to make the change from 1MW to 2MW. There is a new supplier for plant equipment so it can now be certified. The PG&E bankruptcy is still affecting the project, although some additional funding has come through to allow some work to move forward.

- North Fork Log Deck – Justine gave the update. The log deck will be closing and we have come to an agreement with Valley Resource Management to pay off outstanding debts over the next three years, to clean up the log deck site and make repairs. Two air curtain burners have been provided by CalFire to aid in the clean-up process. How ownership, operation, and training will work, among other concerns, still needs to be determined. There was a discussion about the air curtain burners and interest from Sierra RCD and Nathan Magsig to get one of the burners to a Fresno County site.

Grant and Fundraising Update – Justine provided the update on the Grants and Fundraising (see projects and proposals attachment for the updates). Robert provide information on a donation/fundraising campaign to be executed in November-December 2019. Justine mentioned this campaign is part of a broader push to raise funds through donations.
Council Membership – Justine discussed that we will be sending out sponsor renewals soon and discussed the possibility of increasing council membership to 24-25 from current 21. This would require a by-law revision. Staff were asked to present a proposal at the next executive committee meeting on this matter.

Strategic Action Plan – Justine reviewed the action plan and highlighted areas that were being accomplished. Justine will compile metrics for the strategic action plan and present them at the annual meeting. Justine was asked to email the strategic action plan to those who were present at the meeting to ensure everyone had a copy.

NEW BUSINESS 10:30 a.m.

Sierra/Sequoia NF Forest Plan Revision Update – Sierra and Sequoia are revising their forest plans. Public comment meetings are scheduled for August 20 for Sequoia NF and August 21 for Sierra NF. Justine will develop a comment on behalf of the council. Staff will provide the link to the forest plan revision information website.

MOTOR M2K/Two forests Veg Program – Justine provided an overview of the Moving Toward Resilience: Mokelumne to Kings program. This project is a landscape level analysis which will create a vegetation management NEPA document that will cover both the Sierra and the Stanislaus National Forest. The project is still in its scoping phase, and additional workshops are planned in August. Staff will send out the project brief to provide more background information.

Tulare/Fresno Project Workshop – Staff and council discussed Fresno and Tulare project workshop. Recommendation is two workshops to reintroduce Y/S RC&DC to the local organizations and work with them to identify how we can support projects and what types of projects they would like to put forward. Possible timeframe would be in November or early December. Staff will coordinate with council members within each of the counties to plan the workshop time and place, and identify organizations to participate/partner.

SPONSOR/PARTNER UPDATES 11:00 a.m.

Nathan Magsig, Fresno County Supervisor
● Fresno County continues to cut down dead trees.

Jack McGowan, Sierra Vista Scenic Byway
● The Byway association held a tour of the Scenic Byway and had about 25 attendees. The tour was guided by Erin Potter who presented historical background on sites along the byway.

Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County Board of Supervisors
● The Tulare County Board of Supervisors meeting will meet on July 30 and host a 10am workshop/tour prior to the board meeting.

Steve Haze, Sierra RCD
● About 20 district conservationists came to the Auberry Mill site on June 27 for a demonstration of the power pallet and biochar production units. Another site visit of the Auberry Mill site is happening on July 27 with Cal Fire from Sacramento. Sierra RCD is rolling out their fire safety
stewardship fuels reduction program, which is directed to private land owners in Eastern Fresno County. Sierra RCD has also been asked by the California Fire Safe Council to expand their district boundaries all the way to Highway 99. Sierra RCD was contacted by an organization in Australia to develop pelletizing materials to be used in energy production much like coal fired energy.

Jeannie Habben, Madera County WNR
- Jeannie is no longer with Madera/Chowchilla RCD. IRWM is rolling out their Prop One implementation funds and pre-applications are due Aug 16 for foothills projects. The Regional Water Management Group now has a newsletter. A draft of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan will be released on Aug 1 for its 90 day review.

Katie Parra, North Fork Rancheria
- The tribe just approved the crisis communication plan in collaboration with a group of students from the University of Loma Linda. The tribe is continuing its work with the elder defensible space program and about 30 homes are receiving assistance to clear brush and vegetation. There will be a cultural event coming soon to demonstrate traditional language and cultural practices. This event will be open to the tribal and local community. The Environmental Protection Department has received funding to construct a new office at the mill site.

Elissa Brown, Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Elissa is now a member of the partnerships and community support team. A $400,000 grant was given out to do a mill site redevelopment process, based on lessons learned from North Fork. Elissa mentioned a project to train Native American youth to do forestry projects, learn how to use a chainsaw and do prescribed burning. SNC has a Regional Forest and Fire Capacity block grant to plan and prioritize projects as well as capacity building. There is $1.9 million dollars available for our sub-region. The Forest Management Task Force’s Sierra and Eastside Prioritization group is conducting an offsite meeting on Aug 9th at the North Fork mill site.

Lynn Gorman, Sierra Foothill Conservancy
- Sierra Foothill Conservancy has whole, half or quarter steers processed and are available for purchase. They are good local grass fed beef.

Tom Burdette, North Fork Community Development Council
- Due to the tribe receiving funding and new construction, there will be more infrastructure at the mill site such as a sewer system.

Justine Reynolds, Project Manager
- Justine is interning with American Forests for the summer. American Forests is hosting the Aug 9th Sierra and Eastside Regional Prioritization offsite meeting at the mill site and will be working with Elissa on that event.

Tom Wheeler
The Madera County Board of Supervisors voted to hire a consultant to do a fuel reduction district. The county hired another consultant to look into an “ER district” for emergencies services in Eastern Madera County. There is also funding through the Air Board for electric replacements for cars, trucks and equipment such as chainsaws and mowers.

Adjourn at 12:30 p.m.