



PO BOX 1306
North Fork, CA 93643
www.crcd.org
coarsegoldrcd@gmail.com

Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2026

**Oakhurst Government Center
40232 Junction Drive
Oakhurst, CA 93644**

Or join is via TEAMS: https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2F%20%23%2F%2Fmeetup-join19%3Ameeting_MzYyMGM4MGItOWVhOC00ODM4LWE2ZGYtNzZjYTQwZDdjMzU5%40thread.v2&type=meetup-join19:meeting_MzYyMGM4MGItOWVhOC00ODM4LWE2ZGYtNzZjYTQwZDdjMzU5@thread.v2&deeplinkId=6d8b2aa6-44a5-4274-8760-0ed3933763c9&directDl=true&mSLaunch=true&enableMobilePage=true&suppressPrompt=true

Meeting ID: 275 160 691 942 Passcode: bF9Jm6Vj

To receive documents provided to those in attendance at the board meeting, please email coarsegoldrcd@gmail.com with your request no later than 3PM the day before the meeting. Items provided to directors prior to the meeting will be emailed with the agenda to all recipients requesting to be on the distribution list.

3:18 Call to order

- Introductions

Approval of the Agenda *Christy Makes a motion to approve agenda and Melissa Seconds. Motion carries.*

Public Comment: Please limit comments to 2 minutes No public comment.

3:20 Consent Agenda

- Approval of the Minutes January 9, 2026 *Christy approves and David Seconds. Motion Carries.*

- Approval of December 2025 and January 2026 Treasurer's Report/Financial Report *Christy makes a motion and then Melissa seconds. Motion carries.*

3:25 CRCRD Reports

• Executive Director Report – Whitney LeCat-

CALFIRE GRANT Received the fully signed and executed contract for our newest award. Total award is \$954,709.32 for work starting 1/30/26 to 2/15/2029. Kyle and I will be having a meeting with Mike Keyser next week to discuss starting the project, as Southern Region Grants has some new requirements for Mike's side of things. We've finished our contractual work with ATM and are awaiting the final invoices from them. Even with the last invoice, they've finished under budget, so we currently have Garrett McDaniel working on some d-space projects for us. The 5GG21142 grant ends 3/15, so I will be spending the next month beginning closeout procedures and final reporting. Mike Keyser sent us an email about more funding from CALFIRE becoming available, so we'll be looking into that opportunity in the next week or so. MADERA FIREWISE© COMMUNITIES: I will be submitting our next advance request for around

\$40,000 from the county within the next month or so. Kyle and I will be starting to schedule some FW community “touch base” style meetings with our current communities, as well as planning an event for our FW resident leaders to collaborate and share information amongst each other as well as letting us know how we can support them more, and what things they might be needing from CRCD.

NACD/RCPP: I have sent an email to Dennis and Sean now that Mira is retired to touch base but haven't heard anything back yet. I have been having some email correspondence with Emily Hatch, who is the NRCS archaeologist for our area. There might be some opportunities to get in with her and spend some of our TA funds and build a better partnership with NRCS.

Fork Fire Post Fire Rehab: Some potential project sites have been identified, and outreach has continued. Kyle and I have been in contact with Garret Mcdaniel on doing some work in the Fork Fire scar. Project developments and planning to come possibly late spring time.

WCB Pollinator Block Grant & Oak Woodlands Grant: No updates on the Oak Woodlands Grant Heather reached out to me last month to let me know that the CARCD/WCB were requiring them to pull some funds and do a budget revision for those RCD's that have spent less than 60% of the grant. I met with Heather mid January and she let me know this is affecting a lot of RCD's in the state and she was very sad to hear it. I put together a budget plan for the next year, and Kyle and I collaborated on a plan for a greenhouse project at Mountain Oaks community and sent it out to Heather for approval. She was very impressed with the budget, and is waiting on final approval but is confident we'll get it approved. She was originally thinking we would need to pull around \$60,000 from our grant, but with my budget, we'd only have to give about 30,000 back. We have been working with Kevin from Madera Chowchilla RCD and Hillside Elementary School to schedule some spring planting days, and have been in contact with our other current habitat sites for maintenance and education days as well.

CRCD has been asked to give another presentation at this year's CARCD conference, which is awesome!

CFCS Grant: Met with Jasmine from CFSC this week to go over where we are at on deliverables. We're right on track and it was a very easy meeting! She mentioned something about additional funding or extension, I'm not quite sure, but we're going to follow up with Tristan on this and find out more information. We had our first meeting with Joseph Wilder from MCSO to discuss the CWPP, and are going to be collaborating with him, YSRC&DC and other partners to come up with a plan on how we would update the CWPP. This will be ongoing for the next few months.

CWDG Grant: Waiting on contract approval from the county which will happen at the March board meeting hopefully, then we can hold our first meeting and start planning how we want to utilize this grant. We definitely want to use it to update the BeFirewise campaign, as well as the BeFirewise Kids program.

• Program Report – Kyle Gaede-

We are strengthening neighborhood-wide participation to ensure more homes meet Firewise by conducting defensible space work in the Indian Springs community, and once that phase is complete, our team will transition to Cascadel Woods to continue reducing wildfire risk through vegetation management and home-hardening support. We will be working inside 2 other Firewise communities doing roadside hazard fuel reduction work following our defensible space work.

We have four upcoming community meetings scheduled, each with the potential to develop into a newly recognized Firewise community. We have a community work day scheduled this Spring for the Long Hollow Firewise Community. We will be increasing community education through our upcoming FamCo grand opening. I am pursuing grants and funding opportunities to support collaboration with Ron Goode and his tribal lead fire crew.

WCB Pollinator Block Grant & Oak Woodlands Grant: I will be establishing a seasonal planting and maintenance schedule to keep the gardens thriving year-round. • We are developing a senior project in partnership with Yosemite High School giving students hands-on experience in maintaining a pollinator-friendly habitat. We have initiated conversations with the U.S. Forest Service and the Cascadel Woods community to explore potential locations for new pollinator gardens, should they choose to participate. This will help us to improve connectivity between

habitat patches to support pollinator movement. We will be working with Madera Chowchilla RCD and Hillside Elementary School to work on their pollinator garden. We will be applying for the Xerces Society's 2026 free pollinator habitat kit program to expand native plant availability and support new habitat installations across the community.

3:45 **Partner Reports** – Please limit reports to 5 minutes

- NCRS- *not present*
- CALFIRE - *not present*
- Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council –

Biology refresher coming soon. Forest service agreement for goat mt.

Prescribed burn association steering committee. Joanna clines is helping with a Learn and Burn. March 14th. Sierra Springs burning an invasive plant species as not to spread.

Goat grazing community. Tasks for CRCDC will help organize a public event with the goats.

Fencing, invasive blackberries, and talk about browsers to take care of ladder fuel. \$3,000 for CRCDC to help with this event.

CSNC- no to the conference equipment, but yes to a large-scale printer.

Pilot Probation Crew- Use the trailer for the composting toilet. County probation in March. EMFSC wants to put an agreement together to use the trailer.

Upcoming from the pilot. 6 Month program for Forestry Students who work with partners for at risk youth-program.

Firewise Community Leaders in a Group- They did it by zoom, but do it with FAMCO. (Fire Adapted Madera County-(is our shared office.) What do we need for residents?

Fire Night at Brewery- Upcoming- Reinvigorate it- Maybe April. Do it at the Hitching Post. CRCDC can talk about Firewise.

- Yosemite Sequoia RC & DC – *not present*
- Madera Dept. of Water Resources – *not present*
- Madera County- *not present*
- North Fork Rancheria – *not present*

4:00 **Old Business**

- Metamorphic Consulting Workshop -

Metamorphic consulting workshop- February 27th. 9:30-1:30 time slot. Will give an hour on the phone for the folks who can't come in.

4:10 **New Business**

- AI Notetakers for Board meetings

AI notetakers for Board meetings have not been effective or accurate. Use the secretary for notes. Will send it to Whitney to edit misspellings. Whitney and Kyle will send reports for the secretary to insert.

Job Description and new hire-

Lyndall-Do we really need to put into the description for Fuel Reduction techniques? We can train the candidate in that realm. We can place it under preferred skills. Change wording to participate in burn piles. Let's add proficiency in ARC GIS and GPS a little lower down on the requirements. Aim a little higher in a state some college preferred. Wage is \$20-\$25 based on

experiments. Tuesday through Saturday job duty days.

4:18 Workshops/Events/Presentations:

- Smithsonian Presentation in Mariposa -

Mariposa- Christy and Lyndall went to a presentation from the Smithsonian and they are heavy on the arts, but do look at environmental projects at local rural groups. They are offering expertise with community members wanting to take the next step, but no funding is available. Lyndall reached out. On May 12th (Tuesday) they are coming back to Mariposa.

4:28 Adjourn

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
February 13th, 2026

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