

# Inyo-Mono Resource Conservation District Regular Meeting

**When:** Tuesday February 3rd, 2026 at 5:30pm

**Where:** County Building, 1360 N Main St Bishop CA, Room 207

**Contact:** (760) 872-6111, [katiedoonan17@gmail.com](mailto:katiedoonan17@gmail.com)

Attendance

Board Present: Graham Meese, Katie Doonan, Jarret Phillips, Chance Rossi, Steve Nelson  
(associate director) Absent: Kay Ogden

Public Attendance: Mikhala Bornstein, Kristen Pfeiler, Jen Roeser, Riley Phillips, Nina Brown,  
Laura Beardsley

5:45 meeting called to order

## Minutes

### [Inyo-Mono RCD Meeting Minutes](#)

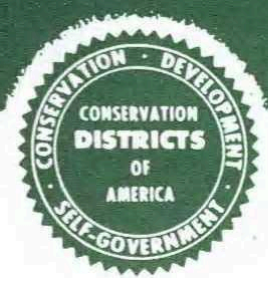
- Recommended Action: Approve the minutes from the regular IMRCD meeting on Sept. 2nd, 2025.

Katie moves, Chance seconds, motion carries to approve the September regular meeting minutes.

### [Treasurer's Report](#)

- Kay Ogden, IMRCD Board Treasurer

Kay is absent. Mikhala reported from December's budget report that IMRCD currently holds a balance of:



Interest \$415

General Operating expense budget \$5,340

Account Balance \$18,359

Remaining expense balance of \$5,529

Steve reported that financial audits from 2022 and 2023 were received in the mail; they will be filed in the NRCS office.

### Discussion of IMRCD Structure

- Recommended Action: Vote to decide structure and next steps

*Public Comment*

Graham presented two options for moving forward in IMRCD structuring; either create an MOU with Inyo County for administrative services, or operate independently of the county entirely. After initial consideration over County funding, the issue may be resolved and ready to move forward with administrative services under the County until the IMRCD has additional staffing and capacity.

Audits and financial services currently come through Inyo County, and board members noted that would be a benefit. Board members noted that while there may be alternative options in the future, moving forward with the county will provide a structure under which the RCD could hire employees and/or contractors.

Jarret entertains motion to create administrative services agreement with Inyo County

Katie motions, Graham seconds, and the motion carries to create an administrative services agreement with Inyo County

**Action:** Graham will touch base with Steve and John Vallejo to initiate MOU with Inyo County for administrative services.

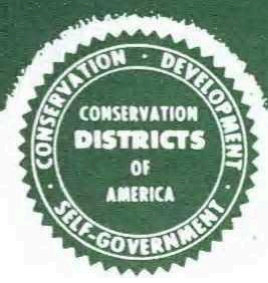
### Presentation of Strategic Plan

- Recommended Action: Hear presentation based on IMRCD structure

*Public Comment*

Graham presented the 2017 five-year long range plan, which outlines board responsibilities, formal documentation, and showed suggested edits as of 2023.

Board members discussed updates to happen within the next year, including updating the mission, future needs, and priorities. Policy documents are to be struck from this



document and housed outside of the long range plan. No action needed at this time until further clarification from administrative services agreement with Inyo County.

## IMRCD Staffing and Grant Opportunities

- Recommended Action: Hear reports on grant funding opportunities and staffing considerations.

### *Public Comment*

Steve presented an opportunity with Whitebark Institute to build capacity for IMRCD. Whitebark is willing to hire a contractor that the IMRCD identified, approved, and identified and directed the work of. The proposal is roughly 20 hours/week with grant deliverables due by the end of 2026, but this portion could support work for the RCD through spring of 2027. There would be \$75,000 available to direct, and the Board would need to be very clear on what the outcome would be - structure, strategic plan, and other administrative capacity outcomes.

Commitment from the board would be to 1) build the scope of work and 2) approve the scope of work for hiring. This would need to be completed by end of February to move forward with hiring in March.

Jarret entertains a motion to approve special committee oversight of a scope of work with Whitebark to hire a contractor for IMRCD capacity

Chance moves, Katie seconds, and the motion carries to approve the special committee to create a scope of work to submit to Whitebark for hiring of a contractor to support IMRCD capacity.

**Action:** Jarret, Graham, and Steve will act as special committee in creating a scope of work, which will be submitted to Whitebark by the end of February.

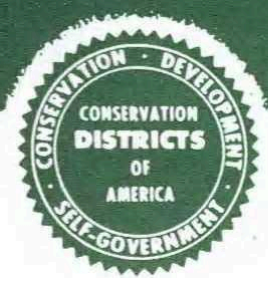
Steve reported that the Secretary of State sent the EIN letter, the Inyo County Financial team is willing to work with us and put together budgets for grants if needed, and that IMRCD is able to reactivate the account for federal award management.

## Wildfire Executive Order Projects in Owens Valley

- Recommended Action: Discussion of a potential role IMRCD could play in these projects

### *Public Comment*

Kristen reported that the Eastside Riparian Working Group has put in for 13 projects



from Lone Pine to Walker, with partners including Calfire, ESCOG, Southern California Edison. CEQA is streamlined through May.

Kristen is partnering with Whitebark to do the environmental planning for ESCOG's portion, and still sees a good value for the RCD to play a role in future projects, including sponsoring a project

Graham asked if the RCD's role is to help write grants to help hire a contractor to come do the work?

Kristen affirmed that the RCD is good at implementation of fuels reduction programs, especially with small acres right next to communities. It may be good opportunity to build a local workforce.

## Additional Board Member & Staff Reports

- Recommended Action: Allow report out from Board members on additional items for consideration or those in development.

*Public Comment*

Graham reported that there was an update to the Brown Act last year, and will schedule an update presentation with county counsel.

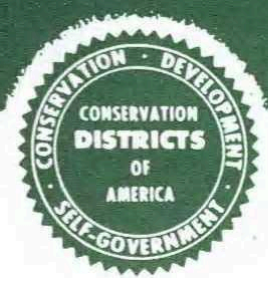
Katie reported that there may be an opportunity to partner with composting programs as an RCD initiative, and will report back if there are updates.

## Agenda Development

- Recommended Action: Confirm date and prepare agenda items for next regular IMRCD meeting.

The next regular meeting will be held on the first Tuesday of the month (3/3), pending board updates to action items.

Chance moves to adjourn the meeting at 7:16, Graham seconds, meeting is adjourned.



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