



**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE
 RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

The Regular Meeting of the Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Santa Cruz County Board of Directors was called to order at **6:32PM on February 10, 2021** at Zoom Meeting ID: 708-386-048.

Directors Present:	Robert Ketley Mike Manfre, Vice President Jim McKenna, President John Ricker
Directors Absent:	Kelley Bell Howard Liebenberg
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder Lisa Lurie, Executive Director
NRCS Staff Present:	Whit Haraguchi
Members of the Public:	Sarah Brandt

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Jim McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting. Sarah Brandt introduced herself to the Board, she is an anthropology and sustainability major at Oregon State University and is interested in volunteering for the RCD.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32PM, with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. Roll was called and connectivity confirmed; Kelley Bell absent; Robert Ketley present; Howard Liebenberg absent; Mike Manfre present; Jim McKenna present; John Ricker present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments made.

4. NRCS REPORT

Whit Haraguchi gave highlights to the NRCS Report. He mentioned that Carlos Suarez, the State Conservationist, will be conducting Congressional visits this month and will be meeting with Congressman Jimmy Panetta. Whit provided a report to Mr. Suarez explaining the Stormwater RCPP and Post-CZU fire recovery efforts, for his meeting with the Congressman. He also shared that Rich Casale is working on a Post-Fire Recovery Resource Guide for District Conservationists, and the subsequent training is scheduled for Spring.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

The Board reviewed the consent agenda items and then, John Ricker moved to approve the consent agenda items. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. Ayes include Robert Ketley, Mike Manfre, Jim McKenna, and John Ricker. There were none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1. Consider approval of an amendment to consultant services agreement with Jodi McGraw Consulting for the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

Lisa Lurie circulated a Memo to the Board detailing the RCIS program and the consultant services agreement with Jodi McGraw Consulting specifically. While the RCIS plan will continue to have a



species protection focus to meet program requirements of CDFW, the plan will also take an ecosystem approach focused on natural communities. This shift has subsequently led to a larger overall project and the RCD is in process with the Wildlife Conservation Board to augment the grant by \$124,000 to cover this broader approach. While the augmentation has not been formally approved, Lisa is confident that it will be approved at the Feb 25 meeting of the WCB Board of Directors and wanted to make sure that the RCD Board reviewed and approved increasing the contract with Jodi McGraw Consulting by an additional \$90,000; bringing the total contract to approximately \$290,000. She reminded the Board of the exemption from competitive bidding they passed on the original contract agreement due to the unique qualifications of the consultant and her proven local expertise. John Ricker moved approval of an amendment to the consultant services agreement with Jodi McGraw Consulting for an additional \$90,000 contingent on WCB approval of the augmentation. Robert Ketley moved to second the motion. Ayes include Robert Ketley, Mike Manfre, Jim McKenna and John Ricker. There were none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

6.2. Consider approval of a Cost of Living Adjustment and Effective Date

Lisa Lurie shared that the Bureau of Labor and Statistics has calculated a Consumer Price Index increase of 2.0% for the greater San Francisco Bay Area for 2020. The Board has been using this index to calculate the annual Cost of Living Adjustment for staff wages. Lisa shared the spreadsheet that Sharon created which calculates the various potential increase scenarios and the overall change that it would have on payroll for the year. Lisa noted that the annual budget passed Board has a rate of 4.5% built in and that the COLA is built into billable rates for all grants contracted since 2019; previous grants have a 3% COLA built into the rates. Tangi Chapman pointed out that the COLA is separate from the Merit Increases; Lisa said that she has been working to conduct staff reviews on a more consistent basis with a goal of reaching all staff over the course of the next year. The Board questioned if the CPI for the San Francisco Bay Area is an adequate measure of the cost of living for Santa Cruz County. It was discussed that for lack of a better measure it would be best to remain consistent with what has been used in the past to calculate the COLA. After discussion, Robert Ketley moved to increase staff wages by 2.0%, in line with the CPI, effective start of pay period four. John Ricker seconded the motion. Ayes include Robert Ketley, Mike Manfre, Jim McKenna, and John Ricker. There were none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Presentation on the Santa Cruz County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

Lisa Lurie gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Santa Cruz County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy.

7.2 Executive Director Report

Highlights from Lisa's Executive Director report included the renewal of the Permit Coordination Program. Lisa pointed out that though there was only one project that went through permit coordination last year, there will be many included this year. She also shared that the District is in process of contracting with County Parks again to provide conservation planning and project development, permitting assistance, project implementation oversight and outreach and education, in an ongoing, as needed basis.

7.3 Director/ Associate Directors Reports

There were no Directors Reports given.



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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8 **ADJOURN**

The next meeting of the RCD Board will be March 10, 2021 at 6:30PM via Zoom. **Robert Ketley moved to adjourn at 8:07PM. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. Ayes included Robert Ketley, Mike Manfre, Jim McKenna and John Ricker. The meeting was adjourned.**

(TC:JM)

DocuSigned by:

Jim McKenna

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