



Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The regular Meeting of the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (SCCRCD) Board of Directors was called to order at **6:35PM** on the **8th Day of January 2003**, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 107, Capitola, California.

Directors Present: Steve Butler, Vice President
Howard Liebenberg, Director
Mike Manfre, Director
John Ricker, Director
Roberta Smith, Director

Others Present: Tangi Chapman, Recorder
Karen Christensen, Executive Director of Programs, SCCRCD
Sharon Corkrean, Executive Director, SCCRCD
Kathryn Tobisch, Associate Director
Vasiliki Vassili, Former Director

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at **6:35 PM**, as there was then a quorum present.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR/CALENDAR DATES

Communications from the floor

Sharon reported that accomplishments of the SCCRCD were recognized at the Area 5 CARCD meeting with an Outstanding Regional District Award. Sharon passed around various newsletters and brochures of interest to the Board. Included among them was a call for nominations to LAFCO, a resource book of successful RCDs, and a new Director/Staff contact list.

Calendar Dates

For more information, contact the person or office listed in parenthesis.

January	13	PWA Roads Assessment (KC)
	15	Soquel TAC , Capitola Community Room, 11:30AM-2:00PM (KC)
	15	Soquel PAG , Capitola Community Room, 4:00-6:00PM (KC)
February	12	Nutrient Management Workshop , UC Cooperative Ext. Monterey, 8:00AM-12:00PM (KC)

MINUTES

Minutes

Howard Liebenberg moved to approve the October 2002 Meeting Minutes as amended. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Expenditures

General Expenditures – The General Expenditures for November and December 2002 and January 2003 were distributed for review and approval. Mike Manfre moved to approve the General Expenditures for November and December 2002 and January 2003. Steve Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor (see attached).

David & Lucile Packard Foundation Expenditures – The David & Lucile Packard Foundation Expenditures for January 2003 were distributed for review and approval. John Ricker moved to approve the David & Lucile Packard Expenditures for January 2003. Steve Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor (see attached). It was then

moved by John Ricker and seconded by Steve Butler to move the \$196.46 expenditure from 4105 in the General Fund to 4105 of the David & Lucile Packard Foundation Fund. All were in favor.

David & Lucile Packard Foundation Supplemental Expenditures – The David & Lucile Packard Foundation Supplemental Expenditures for November and December 2002 were distributed for review and approval. John Ricker made a motion to approve the David & Lucile Packard Supplemental Expenditures for November and December 2002. Steve Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor (see attached).

Transfers

General Budget Transfers – No transfers were made at this time.

David & Lucile Packard Foundation Budget Transfers – No transfers were made at this time.

David & Lucile Packard Foundation Supplemental Budget Transfers – No transfers were made at this time.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Program Updates

Reports

Staff Updates -- Karen referred to the minutes of the December Staff Meeting for detailed updates.

Permit Coordination -- Karen reported that she has been working with the Coastal Conservancy and Sustainable Conservation to develop a permit coordination process similar to that of the program in the Elkhorn Slough. They are working on possible incentives the county can provide for working within the parameters of the permitting process. The group will be working on forming a Partners in Restoration project for which the Board will be asked to sign a resolution of support.

Coast Dairies Water Rights -- Karen reported that the Board of Supervisors approved the County of Santa Cruz taking a lead role in applying for a water rights application for the Coast Dairies Property. The Trust for Public Land (TPL), who owns and presently manages the property, needs to apply for a water rights permit in order to continue farming on the property. While National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish & Game support agriculture in the area, they have problems with the water use. The farmers in the area will need water permits to continue drawing water. TPL wants to transfer ownership and management to another agency, possibly BLM and/or State Parks. Since no water rights were ever established in the past, they will need to be acquired in order to permit agriculture and other uses on the property. Karen will participate with the working group that will be considering possible solutions to the water rights issue. They will be looking into the viability of possible off-stream water storage and or on-stream storage in smaller creeks. NRCS and RCD will provide cost-share information for possible EQIP funds. Mike Manfre asked whether agriculture actually is viable in the North Coast area given the water constraints. He cautioned that, though a water solution may be found, we need to balance that with the cost of implementing the solution. A discussion followed and the general consensus was that though the SCCRCD supports agriculture and hopes that it will remain in the area, it must make economical sense as well. Karen will report to the Board.

Local Working Group -- Karen informed the Board that a list of cost-share practices with associated costs from the Local Working Group (representatives from NRCS, RCD, UC Cooperative Extension) has been packaged and sent to the NRCS State Office. The purpose of the Local Working Group is to provide advice to NRCS concerning the implementation of EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program). This list sets local priorities for EQIP and other grant funds as well as approves cost-share ratios. Karen assured the Board that NRCS is taking a hard look at the viability of projects prior to requesting funding. Rich and others have expressed frustration in that although there is money for projects, there are not available NRCS staff for some of the work and unfortunately they cannot hire third party vendors so projects are not completed. The Board encouraged NRCS and the RCD to be ready for the incoming funds. It was suggested that the SCCRCD write a letter to Congressman Sam Farr outlining obstacles to implementing projects and detail possible solutions, including the use of third party vendors. The Board also encouraged Karen to tell other RCDs to communicate the same to their Congressman. With a united front, the necessary changes may come sooner.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Roberta Smith requested that the Board formally designate Vasiliki Vassili as an Associate Director. Frank Remde expressed interest in remaining on as an Associate Director as well. As part of the requisites of the Associate Director, Frank Remde will represent the SCCRCD as the CCRC&D member and Vasiliki Vassili will be the alternate. Roberta Smith requested that they fill out the formal application.

NRCS

Reports

Rich Casale was on vacation and unavailable to distribute the monthly report.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Directors Reports

Steve Butler attended the quarterly CARCD Forest and Fuel Committee Meeting where a talk was given on AB1983, the California Fuel Reduction Act. The Act would support programs to encourage landowners to implement fire safety techniques. Though the bill made it through the Assembly Committee, the bill has never resurfaced in the Appropriations Committee. Steve attended workshops on conservation tillage, conservation credits, and the trading of credits. Steve also reported on the CARCD Annual Meeting. Steve reported that a group of Districts boycotted the election to show their distaste for the direction that CARCD has taken. In the end, CARCD forced a quorum and held their elections. Roberta Smith explained some of the background history of CARCD. Steve Butler encouraged the Board to postpone any action in order to see how the new CARCD President, Nadine Scott, handles the issues raised by the boycotting RCDs. It was suggested that a letter be drafted to CARCD requesting them to address the issues raised by the disgruntled RCDs.

Howard Liebenberg requested a follow-up discussion with Mike Gagarin of the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection concerning the estimated 200 burn piles left at the site of the Croy Fire. He suggests that if left unburned, these piles will create a tangled mess and a potential fire hazard. Karen will write a 'Thank You' letter to Mike Gagarin for the Croy Fire Tour he lead for the Board back in November and will include in this letter a request to have the piles treated.

Staff Reports

Sharon informed the Board that it is time to revise the Annual Work Plan. She encouraged the Board to look at the plan and be ready to discuss changes at the February Board Meeting.

ADJOURN

Adjournment

Steve Butler moved to adjourn at **8:45PM**. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor. The next Board Meeting will be at **6:30PM** on **February 12, 2003**, at the **Resource Conservation District Office**.

James G. McKenna
President, Board of Directors

(TC:JGM)