



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 **6:40PM** on the **12th Day of February 2003**, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 107, Capitola, California.

Directors Present: Jim McKenna, President
Steve Butler, Vice President
Howard Liebenberg
Tom Lukens
Roberta Smith

Directors Absent: Mike Manfre
John Ricker

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

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at **6:40 PM**, as there was then a quorum present. The Board welcomed Tom Lukens to his new position on the RCD Board of Directors.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR/CALENDAR DATES

Communications from the floor

Karen passed around newsletters and brochures of interest to the Board. Included were the completed "Best Management Practices for Horse Owners" brochure, the NACD Newsletter, and the Trust for Public Lands Newsletter. Sharon shared a letter from Jim Reposa that requested the support of the SCCRCD Board for his nomination to the vacant seat on the LAFCO Board. The Board decided to wait and see if other requests for support come in before sending a letter of support. Sharon also reported that the Resource Conservation & Development Sponsor's Council Quarterly Meeting will be held in King City on Wednesday, February 19. Associate Director Vasiliki Vassili will attend if her schedule allows.

Calendar Dates

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

February	19	RC&D Sponsor's Council Quarterly Meeting, King City (SC)
	21	Pajaro Council Meeting, where??, time?? (KC)
	24-28	International Erosion Control Association Symposium, Las Vegas, Nevada (JM)
	27	Bioregional Council on Oaks & Sudden Oak Death, UC Arboretum, 1:00PM (KC)
	28	RCD Information Exchange, Hollister RCD Office, 5:00PM (DM)
March	3	On-Farm Emergency Workshop, UC Cooperative Extension, time (NRCS)
	15	Sanctuary Currents, CSUMB Seaside, 9:00AM-4:30PM, (KC)
April	8-10	Practical Streambank Restoration, USDA Service Center, Santa Monica (KC)
	24-25	Agriculture Expo, Watsonville (KC)
	30	Blue Circle, Topic and Location TBD (RCD)

MINUTES

Minutes

Howard Liebenberg moved to approve the January 2003 Meeting Minutes. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Expenditures

General Expenditures – The General Expenditures for January 2003 were distributed for review and approval. Roberta Smith made a motion to pay the registration fee of \$240 for Jim McKenna to attend the IECA Conference in Nevada. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor. Roberta Smith then moved to approve the General Expenditures for January 2003. Tom Lukens 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. Howard Liebenberg moved to approve the David & Lucile Packard Foundation Expenditures for January 2003. Tom Lukens seconded the motion. All were in favor (see attached).

David & Lucile Packard Foundation Supplemental Expenditures – No expenditures for January 2003 were discussed at this time.

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 – Sharon informed the Board that the San Lorenzo Roads Cost-Share grant has been approved. Sharon distributed a Resolution of Support for the project. The Resolution includes a start date of March 1 with Karen Christensen and Sharon Corkrean acting on behalf of the Board. Steve Butler made a motion to approve the Resolution of Support for the San Lorenzo Roads Cost-Share Grant. Tom Lukens seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Annual Work Plan – Sharon passed out the Annual Work Plan for review. The Board was pleased with the changes made and discussed further changes. Sharon will incorporate the comments into the next draft. Steve Butler moved to approve the Draft Annual Work Plan with the incorporated changes. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Croy Fire Update – Karen, acting on the concerns of the Board, put together a grant proposal in collaboration with CDF, local fire districts and the City of Santa Cruz Water Department. One of the goals was to receive funding for the removal of the slash piles left after the Croy Fire. Unfortunately, the removal of the piles poses many jurisdictional hurdles and there is no obvious agency that wants to take on the project. The Board agreed that it would take a focused person and or agency to coordinate the project. Several suggested that the Fire Brigade would be the most obvious. Karen suggested that the Loma Prieta RCD would need to take an active role in this project. The Board recommended a letter be drafted to the Loma Prieta RCD informing them of the potential project.

Permit Coordination – Karen updated the Board on the Permit Coordination process. She reported that when trying to schedule an agency tour to look at projects, the landowner refused when they were informed that the County would be visiting their property. Karen pointed to the Elkhorn Slough Project as an example. NRCS holds the permits for all the projects. Daniel Mountjoy is pursuing whether NRCS and RCD can hold the permits given so many projects on the horizon and the potential liability involved. Karen asked the Board if they were still in support of devoting time and energy to the process. All who commented were in support of finding a workable plan for permitting conservation/restoration enhancement projects. Jim McKenna expressed frustration that though we are learning valuable management practices for mitigating streambank problems, no one can implement the techniques due to the permitting process. Ward Hastings added that it is not until there is an emergency that the County will step in and expedite giving permits to work on streambank failures.

Technical Staff – Karen posed the question of whether the SCCRCD should hire a civil engineer, or would a technical conservation planner be sufficient. Karen informed the Board that NRCS has offered to have Carey Cooper attend a Conservation Planner training week. The Board agreed that hiring a civil engineer would appear to be "overkill." A conservation planner can look at many projects and then prioritize them. An engineer could then be contracted as needed to draw up plans. The Board also suggested exploring the concept of conservation teams given the wide array of environmental issues in the County.

CSUMB – Karen reported that SCCRCD has a new intern, Joe Fisher, who will be working on developing a website. This website should be up and running in May.

NRCS

Reports

The NRCS monthly report was distributed for review (see attached). Karen informed the Board that NRCS has a new intern, Ruthie Schaefer.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Directors Reports

Steve Butler attended the CARCD Forest and Fuels Committee Meeting in Paradise. Steve reported that a brochure outlining Yuba County's permit streamlining process was circulated for discussion. The group also toured a number of community sponsored fuel reduction projects.

Roberta Smith reported that the Trust for Public Lands (the organization managing the Coast Dairies Property) has hired a consulting company to research whether or not the goals of the organization are being met. TPL is working on possible solutions for keeping an agriculture component on the Coast Dairies property despite water rights issues, but is not strongly positive. Roberta informed the Board that TPL would be presenting their case at an advisory group meeting in March.

Associate Director Reports

There were no Associate Directors reports at this time.

Staff Reports

No Staff Reports were given at this time.

ADJOURN

Adjournment

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

James G. McKenna
President, Board of Directors

(TC:JGM)