



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 **7:06PM** on the **18th Day of June 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
Mike Manfre
John Ricker
Roberta Smith

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

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at **7:06 PM**, as there was then a quorum present.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR/CALENDAR DATES

Communications from the floor

Karen Christensen received an email and article from Lisa Rudnick. Lisa would like the Board to consider hearing a presentation regarding the content. Lisa requested the Board receive the communication, schedule a twenty-minute presentation or have a committee from the Board convene to discuss the issues outlined in the e-mail. The Board discussed the article and decided that the topic as provided by the article is not relevant to the RCD mission. Tom Lukens moved to respond by reminding Lisa Rudnick that the RCD is a non-political body and that if she would want to refocus the presentation to reflect local issues, the Board would consider hearing the presentation. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Calendar Dates

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

June	19	Scientific Management of Fire Hazard in our Local Forests, GGBRA & SCMBBC, Presidio, SF 10:30AM-3:30PM (KC)
	25	SL Roads Workshop, Loch Lomond, 1-4PM (CC)
	26	Pajaro Advisory Committee, Permit Coordination, Pajaro City Council, 1-4PM (KC)
July	26	Davenport Geologic Society Meeting/Field Trip, Cement Plant Old Hospital, 10AM-4PM (RS)
	30-31	SCCRCD will be moving into new location (RCD)
	31	Coast Dairies Draft Management Plan for Review, 7:30PM (KC)

MINUTES

Minutes

Tom Lukens moved to approve the May 2003 Meeting Minutes. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Expenditures

General Expenditures – The General Expenditures for June 2003 were circulated for review. Steve Butler moved to approve the General Expenditures for June 2003. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

David & Lucile Packard Foundation Expenditures – There were no D&L Packard Foundation Expenditures at this time.

David & Lucile Packard Foundation Supplemental Expenditures – There were no D&L Packard Supplemental Expenditures at this time.

Transfers

General Budget Transfers – There were no General Budget Transfers at this time.

David & Lucile Packard Foundation – There were no D&L Packard Foundation Transfers at this time.

David & Lucile Packard Foundation Supplemental Budget Transfers – There were no D&L Packard Supplemental Budget Transfers at this time.

2003-2004 Draft Budget

The Draft Budget for 2003-2004 was distributed for review and approval. Sharon Corkrean proposed the Board make a motion to adopt the Draft Budget Plan pending inclusion of the fund balance and closing of fiscal year balance next month and with the amendments made by the Board. John Ricker moved to accept the motion. Steve Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Program Updates

Reports

Integrated Watershed Restoration Project – Karen reported good news regarding the IWRP grant. The Coastal Conservancy approved the \$4.5 million grant. The Board recognized the excellent work of Karen Christensen and others on their hard work and dedication to this project. Congratulations! Karen informed the Board that the Coastal Conservation agreed to have Kate Goodnight be the Project Manager. The Board recognizes that it is a huge commitment for the Coastal Conservancy to devote Kate to the project. Mike Manfre suggested that the SCCRCD Board meet with their Board of Directors. Karen will request their Board have a meeting locally, providing an opportunity for our Board to meet and greet theirs. Karen reported that the funding for this project begins immediately. The next step will be to decide whether to manage the bookkeeping in-house, or contract out. Sharon reassured the Board that regardless of which direction they decide to take, the books would be audited over the course of the contract. Jim McKenna suggested the SCCRCD respond to all the people who sent in letters of support for this project.

Soquel Enhancement Process – Karen reported that the Soquel Public Meeting to discuss the Assessment and Enhancement Plan became an opportunity for certain members of the public to express their criticism regarding the RCD's process during the development of the Plan.. Though the Department of Fish and Game did not require public review for the grant, the SCCRCD decided to address the public and allow an outlet for public comment. The document that went out for Public Review received two comments. The SCCRCD was not prepared for the intense conflicts they confronted at the Public Meeting. A group of concerned citizens felt as though their concerns were not met. John Ricker is working with the community to address these issues on the county level. The Board suggested that the goals of the Enhancement Plan be more clearly defined to avoid this issue in the future. The next step is to package the document in its entirety and distribute to all interested people and to track issues addressed by the community. Then the District will prepare responses to comments and conduct another Public Meeting.

NRCS

Reports

The NRCS monthly report was distributed for review (see attached). Rich Casale reported that the new NRCS Engineer began on Monday. Rixon Rafter (retired NRCS Engineer) will be helping with the transition. Rich has formally requested that Kelli Camara be promoted to a GS-11 Soil Conservationist. The EQIP ranking is complete; of the eight total projects funded, six are in Santa Cruz County and two are in San Mateo. Rich also informed the Board that NRCS has money available to reimburse the District for work done pertaining to Farm Bill Outreach and Education. The agreement must be approved and sent to Carter Christensen by June 26. Roberta Smith moved to allow the Executive Directors to investigate, negotiate, and execute as appropriate the NRCS Farm Bill Outreach and Education money. Tom Lukens seconded the motion. All were in favor.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Directors Reports

No Directors Reports were given at this time.

Personnel (Open Session)

Employee Evaluations

Sharon and Karen reported that proposals for salaries and benefits that are now before the Board of Directors are based upon the outcomes of the individual's performance over the past year and flexibility of the next year's budget.

Personnel (Closed Session)

Discussion followed.

Personnel (Open Session)

Tom moved to approve the proposals for salaries and benefits as submitted by staff, with amendments by the Board, to become effective July 1, 2003. Steve Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Associate Directors Reports

No Associate Director Reports were given at this time.

Staff Reports

No Staff Reports were given at this time.

ADJOURN

Adjournment

Tom Lukens moved to adjourn the Meeting at 10:12PM. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor. The next Board Meeting will be at 7:00PM on July 9, 2003, at the Resource Conservation District Office.

James G. McKenna
President, Board of Directors

(TC:JGM)