



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 **6:38PM** on the **14th day of January 2004**, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128 Capitola, California.

Directors Present:	Jim McKenna, President Steve Butler, Vice President Howard Liebenberg Tom Lukens Mike Manfre John Ricker
Directors Absent:	Roberta Smith
Associate Directors Present:	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder Karen Christensen, Executive Director of Programs Sharon Corkrean, Executive Director Jen Stern, Watershed Coordinator
NRCS Staff Present:	Kelli Camara, NRCS Soil Conservationist Richard Casale, NRCS District Conservationist

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at **6:38PM** with a quorum present.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR/CALENDAR DATES

Communications from the floor

Steve Butler asked whether the Board and/or Staff had responded to Lisa Rudnick's questions from the previous meeting. Karen reported that a letter had been drafted and Jim McKenna is reviewing and will send it promptly.

Calendar Dates

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

January	21	Farms and Fish, Asilomar, Monterey (RCD)
	21	Roads Workshop, Highlands Park, Felton, 6:30PM (RCD)
	24	Roads Field Tour, Felton (RCD)
February	5	Blue Circle, Simpkins Family Swim Center, Santa Cruz, 2:45PM (RCD)
	5	SCCRCD Board Meeting, Capitola, 6:45PM (RCD)
	11/12	Lagoon Workshop Public Meeting, location, time (RCD)
March	4	IWRP Lagoon Program, Santa Cruz Harbor, 4:00-5:00PM (RCD)

MINUTES

Minutes

Steve Butler moved to accept the Minutes of the November 12, 2003 Board Meeting as written. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Expenditures

General Expenditures – The General Expenditures for November 2003 were circulated for review. John Ricker moved to approve the General Expenditures for November 2003. Steve Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor. The General Expenditures for December 2003 were circulated for review. John Ricker moved to approve the General Expenditures for December 2003. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor. The General Expenditures for January 2004 were circulated for review. Steve Butler moved to approve the General Expenditures for January 2004. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Transfers

No Transfers were discussed.

Audit 2002-2003

Sharon informed the Board that SCCRCD is due for a two year audit. The audit will cover the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002 and June 30, 2003. The auditing firm has indicated that as the volume of income to the RCD has increased so will the cost of the audit. The audit will be conducted by Berger-Lewis Accountancy Corporation and cost \$7,500. John Ricker moved to proceed with the audit. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor.

WATERSHED COORDINATOR PRESENTATION

Jen Stern gave a presentation on the projects she has been working on for the San Lorenzo and the Soquel Watersheds. She has been working on two brochures for the watersheds with topics including: (1) Large Woody Debris and (2) Water Conservation Stream Flow. Jen has a workshop and tour planned for the Lower San Lorenzo & Lagoons in February as well as a Large Woody Debris workshop in March at the Soquel Demonstration Forest. Jen is coordinating five projects within the San Lorenzo Watershed, developing a private roads database and helping with interpretive signs in the San Lorenzo Watershed.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Program Updates

Reports

Permit Coordination – Karen updated the Board on current events surrounding the Permit Coordination process. Karen and Kelli have been working on the cooperators agreement language with NOAA Fisheries, US Fish & Wildlife, and the Army Corps of Engineers. NOAA Fisheries is concerned about notification if a cooperator has not met the conditions set forth in the program. US Fish & Wildlife and the Army Corps of Engineers are expected to have similar concerns. Using other Permit Coordination projects as guidelines, Kelli and Karen have been requesting that the agencies get a list of all cooperators who have entered into contract at the beginning of the construction season. Then, at the end of the season, the agencies would get an annual report listing those cooperators with whom the RCD/NRCS were still in contract. It would be up to the agencies to evaluate who is not currently participating in the program. Under current agency agreements, if a cooperator is no longer participating, the RCD/NRCS would work to resolve the issue. If this did not work, the RCD/NRCS would send a letter to the cooperator indicating they were no longer a participant under the terms of the program. The question discussed was how to inform the permitting agencies when a cooperator is no longer a participant in the program. There was a lengthy discussion involving somewhat differing points of view regarding the process of reporting and how to keep all parties informed. John Ricker moved to accept the wording of current negotiations as a last resort after Kelli and Karen reopen the issue with the permitting agencies and work towards addressing the issues outlined by the Board. Tom Lukens seconded the motion. John Ricker, Jim McKenna and Tom Lukens voted aye. Mike Manfre, Steve Butler, and Howard Liebenberg voted nay. The motion failed for lack of majority. The Board instructed Kelli and Karen to reopen discussions with the agencies and to come up with language meeting the objectives of all the agencies involved.

Soquel Creek Watershed – Jim McKenna expressed his gratitude to John Ricker and to all staff who contributed to the successful Public Meeting held on December 17. All those who attended the meeting felt that the community was more comfortable that the RCD had worked to address issues of concern. The Board agreed that the lessons learned through this process need to be applied to all future endeavors.

San Lorenzo Watershed Roads Cost Share – Karen highlighted the work Carey has been doing for the Roads program. Carey wrote a great press release for the roads workshops. The Sentinel did a nice write-up of the Roads Project, which has been generating interest for the upcoming workshop (see calendar). Karen informed the Board that Carey has been approached by a Scotts Valley area Road Association interested in applying for the next round of funding for the Roads Cost Share. Given that the City of Scotts Valley is not within the RCD Boundary, Carey is seeking council from the Board as to whether they would be eligible for funding. After much discussion the Board decided that they are not eligible for funding, though they may attend the workshops and receive materials. It was suggested that a letter be drafted to the City of Scotts Valley indicating that the SCCRCD has been approached by members of their community to fund road improvements and that, given the current circumstances, the SCCRCD is unable to help. However, if the City of Scotts Valley annexes to the RCD, future funding may be available to members of the community.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Reports

The NRCS activity report was distributed for review (see attached). Rich Casale reported that the new EQIP funding is expected to increase this year. He lamented that though there will be more money coming in, there is/are no new support staff available to handle the increase in work load. Rich encouraged the Board to contact Carter Christenson to push for a District Conservationist solely for Santa Cruz County.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Directors Reports

Steve Butler attended the CARCD Annual Conference in Tahoe. He reported that the minimum dues would increase this year, and that CARCD has provided the annual report to support the need for this increase. Steve shared some of the materials that were distributed at the Conference.

Associate Directors Reports

No Associate Director Reports were given.

Staff Reports

No Staff Reports were given.

ADJOURN

Adjournment

Mike Manfre moved to adjourn the Meeting at 9:30PM. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor. The next Board Meeting will be at **6:45PM** on **February 5, 2004**, at the **Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, and Capitola.**

James G. McKenna
President, Board of Directors

(TM:JGM)