



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 **7:05, October 13 2004**, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, Capitola, California.

Directors Present:	Steve Butler, Vice President Howard Liebenberg Mike Manfre Jim McKenna, President Roberta Smith John Ricker
Directors Absent:	Tom Lukens
Associate Director Present:	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder Karen Christensen, Executive Director of Programs Sharon Corkrean, Executive Director
NRCS Staff Present:	Richard Casale, District Conservationist
Others Present:	Melanie Bojanowski, Community Action Board Tom North, Local Property Owner Lorenzo Rota, Friends of the Harbor Group

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at **7:05PM** with a quorum present. The Board welcomed to the meeting Lorenzo Rota of Friends of the Harbor and Melanie Bojanowski of Community Action Board's Natural Resources and Employment Program (NREP).

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Rota expressed gratitude on behalf of the Friends of the Harbor Group for the excellent AGWA Public Meeting held on September 16. He was impressed with the presentations given by Balance Hydrologics and others. Members of the Regional Water Quality Control Board were present at the meeting and also toured the watershed at a later date. Mr. Rota reported that core samples of the Upper Harbor have been taken and initial reports show that the samples are "muddier" than they have been in previous years, which means that the Harbor may be unable to dredge as much material out of the Upper Harbor as they have in the past. He also noted that the Mayor of Santa Cruz is now getting involved in the issue.

MINUTES

Howard Liebenberg moved to accept the September 8, 2004 minutes as presented. Steve Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Expenditures

General Expenditures – The General Expenditures for September 2004 were circulated for review. John Ricker moved to approve the General Expenditures for September 2004. Steve Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Transfers

There were no Transfers.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Director Appointments Update – Roberta and Jim met to review the applications that have been received by the RCD to fill the upcoming Board Member vacancies. They made recommendations to reinstate the three incumbents who wish to serve another term. They also made recommendations from the other applications, based on the applicants' experience and interests and their geographic area of the county. These recommendations will be sent to the County Board of Supervisors. Roberta further explained that all applicants were well qualified. Steve Butler explained that he would not be returning to the Board now due to personal obligations. The Board and staff thanked Steve for the 10 years of service he has given with the RCD. Thank you Steve for all your time and dedication!

Area V CARCD Meeting – Karen reported that the Agricultural Water Quality Advisory (AWQA) Committee will meet at the next Area V Meeting to discuss the Regional RCD Work Plan. Karen requested a Board representative be present at the meeting. John Ricker suggested sending a letter with the representative which states the intent of the Board, i.e., continue to collaborate on current projects, and that we are not interested in devoting more time and resources to this issue. The Board discussed the Regional Strategic Work Plan. Kathryn Tobisch volunteered to attend the meeting.

State Parks Program Update – Karen informed the Board that George Gray has proposed that State Parks, the RCD, and the Natural Resources Employment Program collaborate to use the existing contract the RCD has with State Parks for additional funding to augment salaries for the existing two positions and to employ NREP crews to conduct invasive weed control on State Parks land. Karen has reviewed the proposal and feels comfortable with the plan. Howard questioned whether the RCD conducts cost analysis of projects to see how much a practice costs per linear foot, acre, etc. Sharon assured Howard that staff works closely with NREP to track costs of projects. Karen also noted that staff has been working to update the cost-share rates for the Santa Cruz area for the NRCS cost-share practices. Melanie Bojanowski of the Community Action Board complimented the RCD, saying work with the Staff has been excellent. Melanie explained that due to the Community Action Board's 501-C3 status, they cannot contract directly with State Parks. Melanie further explained that the varying jobs with State Parks will allow the crews to develop valuable skills. Steve pointed out it is important to work with State Parks as they own considerable acreage within Santa Cruz County. The main goal for the partnership, he added, should continue to be project-based. The current proposal to collaborate with NREP will put projects directly on the ground and therefore is in line with the mission of the State Parks contract. Steve Butler moved to amend the current contract to accept staff's proposal for additional funding for the State Parks/RCD contract for project implementation and the NREP crew. Howard seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Roads 319 Cost-Share Program – Karen informed the Board that the 319 Roads Cost-Share Program will be expanded to include Soquel and Aptos in the coming year. Sharon requested the Board make a Resolution to accept the funds for this program. John Ricker moved approval of Resolution 2004-05. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. John Ricker, Mike Manfre, and Jim McKenna were in favor; Steve Butler abstained. Howard Liebenberg suggested that contractors for the workshops be paid at the time of service to avoid waiting three to four months for payment.

CARCD Resolution – Karen reported that she and Rich Casale have drafted a Resolution to take to the CARCD Meeting which encourages NRCS to include horse facility best management practices in the EQIP Cost Share for California. After reviewing the proposed Resolution it was suggested to add another "whereas" that included the NRCS's new watershed-based approach to conservation and to include other livestock. Steve Butler moved to approve the Resolution with the suggested amendments to be delivered at the Introduction at the State CARCD Meeting. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS

Staff Reports

See attached September Staff Minutes for details on each grant. Karen reported that Daniel Mountjoy has issued a press release for a meeting with Congressman Sam Farr later this month in Salinas to discuss the Ag Water Quality Program and partnership efforts. Karen received a call that the BLM grant to fund wildland fire training has been awarded. Due to the San Diego fires of last year, new regulations require certain levels of wildland fire training certification in order to qualify for response. Funding from this grant will be used to train Scotts Valley, Ben Lomond, Felton, Zayante, Branciforte, and Boulder Creek Fire Departments. It was suggested that Aptos, Corralitos, and La Selva Fire Departments be included as well. Karen will look into the possibility of expanding the training. Karen shared the County of Santa Cruz's responses to the Grand Jury Report. Karen reported that she, Kelli Camara, and John Ricker met with the County of Santa Cruz to discuss agricultural concerns over

restoration enhancements. Karen, Darlene Din (Farm Bureau), Ken Hart (County of Santa Cruz) and the County Agricultural Commissioner have met to discuss how this might work. The County of Santa Cruz has suggested that if agriculture increases the riparian corridor, then the County of Santa Cruz will not increase the buffer zone. Darlene and the Agricultural Commissioner felt much better about the County's response on this issue.

Directors/Associate Director Reports

Steve reported on a Road to Trails workshop he attended with Carey Cooper and Jen Stern. They gave copies of the new roads brochure.

John Ricker reported on a meeting he attended with Kestrel Consulting. The Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan positions us to receive funding under Proposition 50. This would secure funding for the RCD, Soquel Creek Water District, Scotts Valley Water District, Watsonville Sloughs, County of Santa Cruz and others. He and Karen will be involved in documenting all that has been done within the watersheds, and then coming up with a comprehensive plan. John attended the AGWA tour with Bobbie Haver and the RWQCB. He noted that the RWQCB has formed a subcommittee to discuss a plan of action for Arana Gulch. The RWQCB suggested there would be no liability in listing Arana Gulch as an impaired waterway and would likely increase the chance of securing funding. John reported that the RWQCB is working to exercise its authority regarding the San Lorenzo TMDL plan. They wrote a letter to local agencies, including the RCD, to remind them of their responsibilities in fulfilling the obligations outlined in the plan. In addition, the letter suggested that if the voluntary program does not work, the RWQCB may be forced to become more regulatory. Karen pointed out the 319 Roads Cost Share program is one method by which the RWQCB is helping us fulfill this mission voluntarily. On a similar note, Karen pointed out that a year ago the County Fish and Game Commission awarded the RCD money to fund three fish passage projects. For different reasons, two projects have fallen through and one is in a holding pattern. We have gone back to the Fish and Game Commission to give an update and suggest two alternative projects. The Fish and Game Commission discussed sending out letters of compliance to all property owners with flash-board dams. The RCD is very concerned that this action may threaten the reputation and mission of the RCD working with cooperative landowners. Karen assured the Board that she will research this matter and talk to County staff to discuss this issue and establish the next course of action.

NRCS Reports

The NRCS activity report for August was circulated for review. Rich reported that Morpheus has taken a position as Program Assistant in the Livermore office. She will be missed. A similar position was created in Salinas to take over the workload previously accomplished by the FSA. Rich reported good news for the San Mateo and Santa Cruz NRCS field offices. Carter and others have been pushing to get a District Conservationist established in Half Moon Bay. There has been much pressure in Washington to see that this is done. This would mean that Kelli and Rich would be in the Santa Cruz office fulltime. Yahoo!

Calendar Dates

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

October	23	Winter Preparedness, Native Sons Hall, Watsonville, 9:00AM-1:00PM (NRCS)
	26	Central Coast Area RCD Meeting, Council Chambers, King City, 10:00AM-3:10PM (RCD)
November	9	Blue Circle, Human Influences on our Local Landscapes, Location TBD, 3:00PM (RCD)
	17-20	CARCD Area 5 Meeting, San Luis Obispo (RCD)

ADJOURN

Adjournment

Howard Liebenberg moved to adjourn the Meeting at 8:50PM. Steve Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor. The next **Board Meeting will be at 6:30PM on November 10, 2004, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128.**

James G. McKenna
President, Board of Directors

(TC:JGM)