



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 **6:45PM** on the **February 5, 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 Roberta Smith
Associate Directors Present:	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Karen Christensen, Executive Director of Programs Sharon Corkrean, Executive Director Tangi Chapman, Recorder
NRCS Staff Present:	Kelli Camara, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Others Present:	Daniel Becket, Corralitos Resident Darlene Din, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Patrick Dugan, Felton Resident Lisa Rudnick, Ben Lomond Resident

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at **6:45PM** with a quorum present. The Board welcomed Darlene Din and Lisa Rudnick to the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR/CALENDAR DATES

Communications from the floor

Lisa Rudnick expressed her concerns about the Permit Coordination Program that is currently before the Board. Ms. Rudnick provided the Board with handouts of printed materials supporting her concerns and offered to answer any questions the Board might have. Ms. Rudnick stated that the Permit Coordination Program is the culmination of efforts on behalf of Sustainable Conservation, an affiliate of the United Nations, the USDA, and other regulatory agencies to further the progress of Agenda 21. She is concerned that this program will put the RCD in a regulatory position. Tom Lukens responded by stating the program in no way puts the SCCRCD in a regulatory role. He highlighted that the Permit Coordination is a voluntary program that landowners can use as a tool for implementing practices on their property. Lisa maintained she was concerned that landowners adjacent to these projects might be adversely affected. Jim McKenna stated that the Board has been moving towards finding a solution to the permitting quagmire for years. Darlene Din, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, expressed support for the effort by the SCCRCD to move forward with the Permit Coordination Program in a non-regulatory manner.

Calendar Dates

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

February	12	CARCD Conservation Security Program, Indio, CA (RCD)
	17	CARCD Conservation Security Program, Sacramento, CA (RCD)
	19	Lagoons Water Quality Short Course (RCD)
	15-20	Annual International Erosion Control Workshop, Philadelphia (JM)
March	4	IWRP Lagoon Program, Santa Cruz Harbor, 4:00-5:00PM (RCD)
	6	Annual Sanctuary Currents Meeting: Water Quality in Monterey Bay, CSUMB, 9:00AM-4:00PM (JR)
	15-16	Farm Water Quality Short Course (NRCS)
	20-23	Field Tours: Farm Water Quality Short Course (NRCS)
	18	Regional Water Quality Control Board District 3 Meeting (SCCFB)

MINUTES

Minutes

Steve Butler moved to accept the Minutes of the January 14, 2004 Board Meeting as presented. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Daniel Becket and Patrick Dugan arrived around 7:10 pm

BUDGET & FINANCE

Expenditures

General Expenditures – 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.

David and Lucile Packard Supplemental Expenditures – The D&L Packard Supplemental Expenditures for January 2004 were circulated for review. John Ricker moved to approve the D&L Packard Supplemental Expenditures for January 2004. Steve Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Transfers

There were no Transfers.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Program Updates

Reports

Permit Coordination – Karen updated the Board on the Permit Coordination Program. At the request of the Board, Karen and Kelli Camara renegotiated the cooperater agreement with NOAA Fisheries. The agencies and staff discussed language that would meet the objectives of the agencies and be consistent with the RCD's mission. Karen outlined the new agreement stating that the agencies will be given a list of all projects at the beginning of the construction season. As of October 15, the SCCRCD will provide a one-page list of completed projects and those projects still needing revegetation work. It will be the responsibility of the agencies to reconcile the projects, making inquiries if they wish.

Then, Daniel Becket, a Corralitos landowner, questioned why Daniel Mountjoy of NRCS could sit on the Board of the Corralitos Community Planning Project while also being a federal employee. Karen explained that the agendized issue before the Board at this point of the meeting is a voluntary permitting process which will provide a tool to landowners to conduct enhancement projects on their land without engaging in the current permitting process which is time consuming and expensive. Darlene Din further explained that it is both common and important for people to volunteer their time for projects where they may be able to lend their expertise.

Tom Lukens verbalized his appreciation of the Board members who expressed concern for the previous language of the cooperater agreement. Tom Lukens moved to accept the language of the cooperater agreement as now presented to the Board. John Ricker seconded the motion. Jim McKenna called for discussion. Mike Manfre stated that he was supportive of the changes made, but he insisted that the document should clearly state that the RCD is a non-regulatory agency. Mike Manfre proposed an amendment to the original motion to the cooperater agreement to include the following language: No language in any part of this agreement will reflect an initiation by the RCD for regulatory action. Tom Lukens and John Ricker accepted the amendment to the motion. All were in favor. Howard Liebenberg expressed his concern that the back of the document did not have spaces for the landowner, operator, and contractor to sign, reflecting the front side of the document. He also questioned who the "Santa Cruz County Partners in Restoration" refers to in the footer on the second page. As a result, Jim McKenna proposed to amend the original motion to make the following changes: delete the footer on

the second page that says Santa Cruz County Partners in Restoration, and change the formatting on the back of the page to include property owner, operator, and contractor signatures as given on the front of the document. Tom Lukens and John Ricker accepted the amendment to the motion. The amended motion was then put to a vote. All were in favor.

John Ricker explained that he has been working in watershed management for 20 years and he disagrees with the theory that this project is the outcome of a "top down" approach as outlined by Ms. Rudnick. To the contrary, John shared his experience of having to convince "the Feds" every step of the way that this project is a good thing. John thanked Ms. Rudnick for the information and energy she has put towards this matter. Roberta Smith also expressed her appreciation for Ms. Rudnick's courage in bringing this information to the attention of the Board. Lisa requested she go on the record stating that she felt personally attacked by a member of the Board when presenting her concerns. Tom Lukens apologized for any remarks he made that may have offended Ms. Rudnick. Jim McKenna requested a vote on the current motion on the floor. All were in favor.

IWRP Design & Permitting; Lagoons – Karen reported that the first IWRP Design and Permitting TAC Meeting was held last month. The meeting went well and concentrated on researching the review process. Karen felt that they received honest answers to the cost of projects. The TAC group evaluated all the projects and decided on which projects they could agree to move forward. She reported that all the agencies were in attendance and that all agreed to collaborate together. Karen reported that there will be a Lagoons Public Meeting March 4, at the Harbor Meeting Room at 4:00PM. Darlene Din asked which lagoons will be included in the IWRP project. John Ricker reported that all lagoons will be considered for inclusion. However, the criteria for inclusion are that the lagoon be easy to manage and that there be another lagoon in the county with similar characteristics.

CARCD Update – Karen reported that CARCD will be meeting to discuss the Conservation Security Program on February 12 in Indio, California and February 17 in Sacramento, California. The attendees will discuss appropriations for rewarding farmers for conservation practices.

NRCS

Reports

The NRCS activity report was distributed for review (see attached). Kelli reported that due to the heavy rains experienced last month, the NRCS spent time addressing emergency practices with landowners. Kelli informed the Board that the deadline for EQIP applications has ended. Kelli will be giving a presentation at an upcoming Water Quality Short Course and has also been helping Carey wrap up the San Lorenzo Roads Cost Share Program.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Directors Reports

Steve Butler attended the San Lorenzo Roads Workshop held last month. Steve reported that there were approximately 60 people in attendance and that the two landowner speakers did an excellent job in presenting and in answering questions. Vincent Hurley, Attorney, also presented legal information to landowners.

Jim McKenna reported that he, John, and Karen met with the Grand Jury and answered questions regarding the SCCRCD.

Associate Directors Reports

Kathryn informed the Board that she is completing a Master Gardeners Program. As part of the program she and others will need to volunteer with an organization, and thus will be available to the SCCRCD for projects.

Staff Reports

No Staff Reports were given.

ADJOURN

Adjournment

Steve Butler moved to adjourn the Meeting at 8:30PM. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor. The next Board Meeting will be at 6:30PM on March 10, 2004, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, and Capitola.

James G. McKenna
President, Board of Directors

(TM: JGM)