



# **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 **6:35PM** on **April 21, 2004**, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128 Capitola, California.

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Directors Present:           | Jim McKenna, President<br>Steve Butler, Vice President<br>Tom Lukens<br>Mike Manfre<br>John Ricker<br>Roberta Smith   |
| Directors Absent:            | Howard Liebenberg   |
| Associate Directors Present: | Kathryn Tobisch<br>Vasiliki Vassil  |
| RCD Staff Present:           | Tangi Chapman, Recorder<br>Karen Christensen, Executive Director of Programs<br>Sharon Corkrean, Executive Director<br>Portia Halbert, Entry Level Ecologist<br>Dustin DiMauro, Experienced Labor |

#### **WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting opened at **6:35PM** with a quorum present. The Board welcomed Portia Halbert and Dustin DiMauro to the meeting.

#### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications from the floor.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

**State Parks** – There was no field trip for the State Parks presentation due to conflicts in scheduling. Portia Halbert introduced the Board to the projects she and Dustin have been working on over the past two to three years with State Parks. Projects have focused on habitat restoration, burning, invasive plant removal, endangered species management, and research. Together Portia and Dustin gave an excellent power point presentation highlighting their work. Portia explained that at Sunset State Beach they have been using fire as a management tool to remove the non-native beach grass *Ammophila arenaria*. They then return to the site and spot treat with herbicide. Portia noted that the work on the dunes is satisfying as the native flora takes over quickly in the absence of *Ammophila*. However, the sites will take constant maintenance to keep the non-natives out. Dustin and Portia detailed their work on prescribed burns at Big Basin and at Henry Cowell State Parks. Fire has been used to control fuel load at Big Basin since the mid 1980s. In Henry Cowell, the burns reduce fuel load and create pockets of open areas in the hope that the endangered Kangaroo Rat might one day return. Dustin and Portia outlined their work on removal of non-natives at Twin Lakes, Henry Cowell, Wilder Ranch and Nisene Marks State Parks. Among others, they have been removing French broom, vinca, eucalyptus, English ivy, and star thistle. Portia has worked in conjunction with Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) to construct exclosures for the Snowy Plover, a “special interest species.” Because the birds nest out in the open they are vulnerable to predators such as ravens, as well as, from humans and dogs which might trample the eggs. Portia has been working on a management plan for the endangered Marbled Murrelet. State Parks will be conducting Murrelet surveys, predator surveys, predator management, as well as, interpretive programs which will include campfire talks, and an improved garbage program. Finally, Portia discussed a research project she worked on that looked

at the affect campgrounds have on the health of trees. They used canopy density as an indicator of health and found no significant difference between trees in the campground and those in similar areas with no camping. After the presentation there was a brief question and answer session.

## MINUTES

John Ricker moved to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2004 Board meeting. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

## ACTION ITEMS

### Program Discussion Items

**Prevailing Wage** – Karen informed the Board about the "prevailing wage" issue. She noted that the prevailing wage discussion has been heating up in the press and with local community groups. The Department of Industrial Relations has issued a decision that all state-funded programs must pay prevailing wages to volunteers. Karen explained that this issue could halt the Roads Cost-Share Program if there is no legislative relief. Most of the road associations match their time with volunteer work; they do not have the money to match with prevailing wages. Karen has notified John Laird and Bruce McPherson's offices about the impact the prevailing wage requirements have on District programs. The RCD has signed on to the Bay Area Restoration Consortium which consists of other organizations facing the same problem. Vasiliki suggested informing the CCRC&D of this issue. Karen will send them a fact sheet.

**CARCD Contribution Amount** – Karen brought to the Board's attention the fees for CARCD which are now due. Sharon calculated the dues to \$1,000 given that this is 2% of the County augmented funds (which the RCD uses to operate). She suggested increasing that number up to \$1,200 as a gesture of intent. CARCD is requesting the RCD pay \$4,000 based on 2% of the RCD's total budget. Roberta Smith made a motion to increase the CARCD annual contribution to \$1,200. Tom Lukens seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Several Board members questioned the reasoning for increasing the number. Rather, they suggested that if the criterion for deciding dues is 2% of the operating budget, then we should be judicious and give them the exact amount. Steve Butler expressed his interest in having the CARCD budget breakdown that he brought back from the annual meeting he attended back in December in order to decide if increasing the amount is warranted. Roberta agreed with this request. Roberta made an amendment to the original motion, at the consent of Tom Lukens, to change the dues amount to \$1,000 and the Board will revisit the motion after reviewing the CARCD materials to decide if they should augment the dues with more money. All were in favor.

## BUDGET & FINANCE

### Expenditures

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

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

### Transfers

There were no Transfers.

## REPORTS

### Directors Reports

John Ricker reported that the Port District sent a letter to the City of Santa Cruz and the County of Santa Cruz requesting help with the dredging costs it incurs for keeping the harbor free of sediment. John noted that the County is supporting the efforts of the RCD, which has been supporting the efforts of AGWA in the upper watershed. John discussed the importance of the County's support for the RCD. Karen noted that the county support provides important match dollars for grants and for the operational expenses of the District. It has been a critical resource for the RCD programs. The Board discussed the importance of funding and Karen agreed to write up an overview of all of the programs.

Steve Butler questioned the nature of some of the State Park programs as presented by Portia and Dustin. Steve suggested looking into the agreement to determine if the lists of projects are in line with the agreement. He was

under the impression that the programs were to be project oriented and wonders if the research and wildlife projects qualify. Karen will look into the scope of the grant to make sure surveys are directed toward projects.

Roberta Smith reported that she is now on the Waddell Creek Association Board. She further informed the Board that the Scotts Creek Watershed Council is working on their website. They are slowly tying up the loose ends of the Watershed Assessment.

#### **Associate Directors Reports**

No Associate Directors Reports were given.

#### **NRCS Reports**

The NRCS activity report for April was circulated for review.

#### **Staff Meeting Minutes**

The staff meeting minutes for March were circulated for review.

#### **Calendar Dates**

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

**April 29, 2004** Central Coast Region Spring Meeting, Las Tablas Ranch (RCD)

### **ADJOURN**

#### **Adjournment**

John Ricker moved to adjourn the Meeting at 8:55PM. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor. The next **Board Meeting will be at 7:00PM on May 12, 2004**, at the **Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, Capitola.**

James G. McKenna  
President, Board of Directors

(TC: JGM)