



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 **7:08PM** on **September 8, 2004**, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, Capitola, California.

Directors Present:	Steve Butler, Vice President Howard Liebenberg Jim McKenna, President Roberta Smith
Directors Absent:	Tom Lukens Mike Manfre John Ricker
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder Karen Christensen, Executive Director of Programs
NRCS Staff Present:	Richard Casale
Others Present:	Lorenzo Rota, Friends of the Harbor

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at **7:08PM** with a quorum present. The Board welcomed to the meeting Lorenzo Rota of Friends of the Harbor.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Rota thanked the RCD for the opportunity to be involved in the September 16 Arana Gulch Community Meeting. Mr. Rota reported that the Friends of the Harbor Group is working hard to understand the complexity of the sediment problem within the Santa Cruz Harbor. They hope to have some of their questions regarding sediment basins answered at the upcoming meeting. FOHG, AGWA and RCD staff met with the Community Foundation to discuss options for financing sediment reduction projects in the Arana Gulch Watershed. Karen suggested the group also contact the Regional Water Quality Control Board to understand the benefits and drawbacks of listing Arana Gulch as an Impaired Waterway.

MINUTES

Steve Butler moved to accept the August 11, 2004 minutes as presented. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Expenditures

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

Transfers

There were no Transfers.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

CARCD Conference – Karen brought to the Board's attention the upcoming CARCD conference to be held in San Luis Obispo November 17-20, 2004. Roberta moved to approve Steve Butler as the SCCRCD voting delegate for the CARCD Conference. Howard seconded the motion. All were in favor. Karen proposed a motion be made for the RCD to pay mileage expenses for two vehicles, lodging for two Staff rooms and one Board Member room, and

conference dues for Staff, the voting delegate, and the alternate delegate. Roberta moved the motion. Howard seconded the motion. All were in favor. Karen pointed out that all CARCD Board nominations need to be made by October 1, 2004 and all resolutions be submitted by October 15, 2004. Rich Casale suggested that the RCD draft CARCD Resolutions regarding exotic species removal and including horse facilities in the EQIP cost-share program. Karen will draft the language of the Resolutions and present them for Board approval at the October 13 Board Meeting.

NRCS Local Stewardship and Workgroup Meeting– Rich informed the Board that the Local Working Group will be meeting mid October to discuss the direction and focus of funding for the WHP, EQUIP, Conservation Security Program and the Farm Bill. The RCD has the ability to hold a Local Stewardship Meeting to solicit input from concerned organizations and the public. It was decided that Morpheus Anima would send out emails to all Stewardship participants requesting input regarding new practices, program evaluations, cost-share limits, local resource concerns and criteria for setting projects. Karen and Rich will then meet to consolidate the responses and bring an overview of findings to the next Board Meeting and then to the Local Working Group.

REPORTS

Staff Reports

Karen reported that Jen Stern has been working with the Wildlands Restoration Team (WRT) and Friends of Soquel Creek (FOSC) to organize the removal of *Arundo donax* along Soquel Creek. They have cut and removed plants and covered the stumps with black plastic to eradicate the invasive weed. The effort drew over twenty volunteers from WRT, FOSC and the community. Karen reported that Carey Cooper has been working to secure permits for an Acacia removal project at Quail Hollow Ranch. She noted that a Map of the Fire District boundaries with roads overlay has been developed by the County of Santa Cruz GIS Services.

Directors/Associate Director Reports

Steve reported a successful CARCD Forest and Fuels meeting in Santa Cruz. The group toured the Soquel Demonstration Forest and visited the property that was purchased by Forest Legacy funds. This property will allow better public access to the Soquel Demonstration Forest. The group also toured a property in Felton, and a Fuels Project in the San Lorenzo Valley. Steve noted that in comparison to other areas of the state where fire prevention is more of a priority, our fire programs are still in their infancy. Karen noted that projects such as the Living with Fire Guide have been well received.

Roberta reported that at the last Scotts Creek Watershed Council meeting they discussed the recent 5 acre fire on Last Chance Road and the need to coordinate local landowners with CDF regarding physical features not located on any map. CDF Fire crews were having a difficult time locating where they were on the map due to lack of road signs, as well as where to find water and fuel for their engines. Karen pointed out that this would be a great task for a Fire Prevention Officer to handle. Steve noted that the Trinity County RCD had a meeting with local landowners and distributed maps for everyone to mark where there were gates, roads, water and other pertinent features in case of a fire emergency.

NRCS Reports

The NRCS activity report for August was circulated for review. Rich highlighted three work applications funded, Arana Gulch culvert removal and bridge replacement, horse facility in Larkin Valley, and Soquel Creek ford removal and bridge replacement. Rich pointed out that he and Craig Fricenec gave a talk on sediment basins in Monterey County in both Spanish and English. Craig also gave a furrow arrangement talk in Spanish as well. Rich thanked Steve Butler and the RCD staff for help with the State Leadership Tour. He reported that the event was a success. Donations of food, flowers and drinks made for a successful barbeque after the meeting. Rich reported that the gabion baskets under the covered bridge in Felton are rusting and posing a potential hazard that may need to be addressed soon. Rich reported that the Conservation Security Program is starting this year. San Mateo and Santa Cruz were not selected to begin this year. However, each year an additional eighth of the state will be included into the program. This program will reward growers for conservation practices they are already doing.

Calendar Dates

September	16	AGWA Public Meeting (RCD)
	22	Train the Trainers (NRCS)
	24	Gully Control Workshop, Native Sons Hall, Watsonville, 9:00AM-3:00PM (NRCS)
October	23	Winter Preparedness, Native Sons Hall, Watsonville, 9:00AM-1:00PM (NRCS)

ADJOURN

Adjournment

Roberta Smith moved to adjourn the Meeting at 9:00PM. Steve Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The next **Board Meeting will be at 7:00PM on October 13, 2004**, at the **Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128.**

James G. McKenna
President, Board of Directors

(TC:JGM)