



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 January 12, 2005**, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, Capitola, California.

Directors Present:	Tom Lukens Jim McKenna, President John Ricker Roberta Smith
Directors Absent:	Sheryl Bailey Howard Liebenberg Mike Manfre
Associate Directors Present:	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder Karen Christensen, Executive Director of Programs Sharon Corkrean, Executive Director
Others Present:	John Barisone, City of Capitola Attorney Steve Jessberg, City of Capitola Lloyd Williams, Santa Cruz Land Trust Laura Perry, Santa Cruz Land Trust

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at **6:35PM** as there was then a quorum present. The Board welcomed John Barisone and Steve Jessberg from the City of Capitola. Lloyd Williams and Laura Perry joined the meeting at 6:50.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Karen reported that there are two LAFCO appointment vacancies. She circulated the information the RCD received from LAFCO. Sharon informed the Board that due to prior work obligations Sheryl Bailey was unable to attend tonight's meeting and the February meeting. She assured the Board that Sheryl will be here at the March meeting and that all information from the meetings will be forwarded to her.

MINUTES

John Ricker suggested adding comments from the Board to Kathryn Tobisch's Associate Director Report and not mentioned in the October minutes indicating the Board's intent regarding the Regional Work Plan. John Ricker moved to accept the October 13, 2004 minutes with the addition. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Expenditures

General Expenditures – The General Expenditures for December 2004 were circulated for review. John Ricker moved to approve them. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Transfers

There were no Transfers.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Election of Officers – John Ricker nominated Jim McKenna for President. Roberta seconded the nomination. All were in favor. John Ricker nominated Mike Manfre for Vice President, pursuant to Mike's concurrence. Roberta Smith seconded the nomination. All were in favor.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate – Sharon explained that staff is currently reimbursed for mileage at a rate lower than that used by the County Auditor and an adjustment to that rate is appropriate. John Ricker moved to pay mileage at a rate in accordance with the amount authorized by the County Auditor. Tom Lukens seconded the motion. All were in favor.

City of Capitola – Karen explained that there are two parcels across from Nob Hill on Soquel Creek that the City of Capitola (the City) owns and is currently negotiating the conditions for conserving the sites in perpetuity. Karen further explained that the City has approached the RCD to hold a Conservation Easement on the two parcels in question since they can not grant an easement to themselves. John Barisone clarified that the City is not asking for the RCD to hold a Conservation Easement for the property, but rather for the RCD to monitor a Deed Restriction which limits the future uses of the property to habitat protection. Lloyd Williams explained that this situation is much less of a liability to the RCD. Roberta expressed her concern with any language that would give the perception that the RCD is stepping into a regulatory role. John Barisone explained that the role of the RCD would be to monitor the property annually to establish that the City is managing the property as outlined in the City's Land Use Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions and then draft a report of findings. The report would be on the RCD Board of Directors' Agenda once a year. The Board would receive any public comments and attach those comments with the report to then be submitted to the City of Capitola. The Board discussed the proposed agreement and voiced several concerns which were then addressed and incorporated into the document. The Board was concerned about the process to terminate the agreement in the future, the potential costs to the RCD, any potential regulatory association and exposure to liability. John Ricker moved to approve in concept the Deed Restriction with the City of Capitola to monitor and report on the City's Land Use Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions provided our concerns are addressed in the document. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Board expressed their gratitude to the Santa Cruz Land Trust and to the City of Capitola for taking time to explain the process. It was requested that the Santa Cruz Land Trust might give a presentation in the future regarding Conservation Easements.

PERS Retirement and Medical Benefit Program – Karen and Sharon are looking into formalizing staff benefits. At present qualifying staff are given a monthly stipend to supplement medical and retirement programs. Karen has been looking into the PERS program which provides a large medical pool to choose from. Roberta Smith made a motion to approve staff time for researching information on employee benefits. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor. Karen further explained that in order for PERS to do an analysis of benefits for their program it would cost the District \$700. Tom Lukens move d to dedicate \$700 to apply for the PERS analysis. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS

Staff Reports

See attached December Staff Meeting Minutes for details on each grant. The Pajaro Newsletter and the Roads Newsletter were distributed. Sharon reported that she and the auditor spent an hour and a half going over the finances. Due to the accounting fraud of recent years, the auditor conducted an interview with Sharon regarding the book keeping. The auditor suggested that the Board get involved by establishing a Finance Committee of the Board. Sharon requested the Board form an audit committee at the next meeting of the Board. The committee will conduct monthly or quarterly random checks of the books. Great Job Sharon for another excellent audit.

Directors/Associate Director Reports

Roberta Smith reported on the water problem in Davenport. During high rainfall the treatment plant cannot handle all the sediment in the water and cannot operate. Consequently, they must truck in water during these times. This process is costly. Roberta is involved with the Davenport community and is working to let the community know that during these times and for three days after, water must be conserved.

NRCS Reports

The NRCS activity report for December was circulated for review.

Calendar Dates

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

January	26	Winter Survival, Zayante Fire Station, 6:30-9:00PM (RCD)
	29	Road Drainage Improvement, 9:00AM-12:00PM (RCD)
February	4	Chuck Bell, State Conservationist for NRCS is retiring

ADJOURN

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM. The next **Board Meeting will be at 6:30PM on February 9, 2005,** at the **Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128.**

James G. McKenna
President, Board of Directors

(TC:JGM)