



# Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District

820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128  
Capitola, California 95010

sccrcd@sccrcd.org

Ph: (831) 464-2950  
Fx: (831) 475-3215

## 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 **6:36PM on February 9, 2005**, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, Capitola, California.

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Directors Present:           | Howard Liebenberg<br>Tom Lukens<br>Jim McKenna, President<br>John Ricker<br>Roberta Smith  |
| Directors Absent:            | Sheryl Bailey<br>Mike Manfre   |
| 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>Ruthie Schafer, Watershed Coordinator |
| NRCS Present:                | Kelli Camara, Soil Conservationist<br>Rich Casale, District Conservationist  |
| Others Present:              | Kathy Tier<br>Adam Wiskind, Moss Landing Marine Labs<br>Jim Reynolds, San Mateo RCD Board  |

### WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at **6:36PM** as there was then a quorum present. The Board welcomed Adam Wiskind from Moss Landing Marine Labs, Jim Reynolds from the San Mateo RCD and Kathy Tier, a concerned citizen.

### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Sharon reported that Michael Shaw sent a letter and information to the RCD regarding the fuel load reduction project at Quail Hollow Ranch. Mr. Shaw is concerned with the methodology and intent of removing the Acacia trees and then covering the site with black plastic which he states will kill the native seed bank in the soil. He has asked the RCD Board to respond. Karen explained that this project was designated by the Zayante Fire Chief as important for fire break protection. This project is unique because it uses non-chemical methods in sensitive habitat and at the same time provides fire protection for an at risk community. Karen further explained that a local biologist advised the RCD on appropriate methods of working in the Sand Hills environment. These recommendations were then given to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for approval. The Board then looked over the documents presented by Mr. Shaw and agreed to draft a letter of response. The Board felt that if Mr. Shaw wanted to pursue this issue, it should be his responsibility to directly address the agencies involved.

Karen passed around the LAFCO status report and newsletter updates. She also mentioned that the RCD has received the CCRC&D newsletter and agenda for the February 16 meeting in King City. Vasiliki will be unable to attend. Vasiliki noted that the RCD has received \$1,700 from CCRC&D to support projects. Karen reported that the money was used for two road demonstration projects in January as well as for printing costs.

### MINUTES

John Ricker moved to approve the January 12, 2005 minutes as presented. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

## BUDGET & FINANCE

### Expenditures

General Expenditures – The General Expenditures for January 2005 were circulated for review. Howard Liebenberg moved to approve them. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor. Tom Lukens moved to authorize payment to Sustainable Conservation for Permit Coordination II and IWRP Designs and Permits. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### Transfers

There were no Transfers.

### Audit

Sharon reminded the Board of Berger/Lewis Accountancy Corporation's (auditing firm) suggestion for the Board to form an Audit Committee. The Committee would randomly pull the receipt binder and check that receipts are in order. Sharon will create a form for the Committee. Jim McKenna and John Ricker agreed to sit on the Committee.

### CARCD Dues

Sharon reported that the CARCD dues are up for renewal. CARCD calculates dues based on two percent of the total budget; given that calculation, the RCD would owe \$4,000 (the maximum requested by CARCD). The Board agreed that the calculation should be based on the operating budget and not on pass-through funds. John Ricker moved to calculate the CARCD dues based on two percent of the operating budget. Tom Lukens seconded the motion. All were in favor.

## ACTION ITEMS

### Program Discussion Items

City of Capitola – Karen reported that John Barisone has revised the Land Use Covenants and Restrictions contract incorporating the Board's comments from the January 12, 2005 Board Meeting. Karen told the Board that she has had Lloyd Williams from the Santa Cruz Land Trust review the document. His suggestions were then incorporated into the contract now before the Board. Roberta has edited the document for grammar. Karen explained that the new version of the contract addresses the monetary concerns previously raised by the Board. If for some reason the Board must incur extraordinary costs associated with the monitoring of the parcel, the RCD can expect compensation. Howard expressed his concerns with the RCD being responsible for monitoring this parcel in perpetuity as well as his fear that the RCD may be held liable for the conditions of the parcel. Karen replied that these are issues the Board brought up at the January meeting. Karen explained that the revised document allows for the RCD to find a replacement in the event that it can no longer perform the duties of the contract and that it is the City that will be held liable and not the RCD. Roberta Smith moved to accept this version of the Covenant and Deed Restriction and if there are substantive changes the Board would like to see changes. Tom Lukens seconded the motion. Tom Lukens, Jim McKenna, John Ricker and Roberta Smith were in favor. Howard Liebenberg opposed. The motion carries.

Arana Gulch Urban Streams – Sharon reported that Bobbie has written a grant to the Department of Water Resources to provide implementation funding for the Blue Trail Gully Dam Removal Project in Arana Gulch. John Ricker moved to adopt Resolution 2005-01 to accept funds for this grant. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor.

## REPORTS

### Staff Reports

See attached December Staff Meeting Minutes for details on each grant. Ruthie Schafer gave a presentation on the Pajaro Program. Ruthie explained that she and Arianne Rettinger are the coordinators for the Pajaro Program. The money for this project comes from Proposition 13 funds and encompasses Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, Santa Clara County, and San Benito County. Ruthie explained that she and Arianne assist growers in completion of Farm Water Quality Plans and in the delivery of Farm Water Quality Planning Short Courses. In addition, Ruthie spends much time implementing cost-share management practices on farms. Ruthie has coordinated and implemented two hedgerow projects including 2,500 linear feet of hedgerow in multiple layers. She explained that there are several benefits from the hedgerow including windbreak, blocking agricultural drift, and habitat for beneficial insects. Last fall, Ruthie implemented a cover crop and seeded-row planting. She estimates that there was about 50 percent success due to concentrated flow during storm events when the plants were young. Ruthie draws from this experience when planning up-and-coming projects. Ruthie told the Board that the RCD will replace projects for the first year and the growers are responsible for maintenance of the sites. Ruthie returns frequently to monitor the projects and has developed strong relationships with the growers. The sites are regularly visited for photo monitoring. Ruthie reported that she speaks at the Water Quality Short Courses to inform growers that there is technical assistance available to them and she is receiving a growing

number of calls in response to these courses. Ruthie has collaborated on a small grant with the NRCS (1) to develop and put on a program that would facilitate farmer's exchange of information and (2) to translate brochures and materials into Spanish. Ruthie reported that up-and-coming projects include a very visible hedgerow at the Redmond House along Highway 1. Arianne is also working on a grant to facilitate the installation of the first vegetative wetland on the West Coast which will act as a tail-water recovery system for agriculture runoff. Ruthie is working on organizing the Stewardship for Small Acres Ranchette Series. The workshops began in Santa Clara. Last year they were expanded to include San Benito County and this year Ruthie will be doing the workshops in Santa Cruz County as well. The workshops are geared to landowners with 10 acres or less and serve to educate on watershed health and maintenance. The event is cosponsored with local water districts. Ruthie reported that the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the San Benito Water District have been excellent partners to work with in the past. The Taste of San Benito is another project Ruthie has organized in past years. This event consists of a harvest tour and culminates with wine tasting. Karen informed the Board that Ruthie will be leaving the RCD in May and will be greatly missed. The Board expressed their gratitude for all the great work Ruthie has done over the past year and a half.

Karen reported that she and Kelli are in the final stages of the Permit Coordination Project. Karen and Kelli will be meeting with the County later in the week to address the concerns of the RCD and the County.

### **Directors/Associate Director Reports**

Roberta Smith reported on a week long course sponsored by Cal Poly Swanton. The course was taught by David Rosgen, a highly regarded stream hydrologist. She noted that it was well attended and that Cal Poly was a good host.

John Ricker reported that he will be on the Steering Committee for the Integrated Water Management Plan. He will update the Board as the process moves along.

Howard reported that he attended and provided assistance to the Winter Survival Roads Workshop hosted by the RCD. They visited the Kings Creek culvert replacement project. He suggested that this was a good site to bring the County to explore the opportunity to use materials located on site.

Vasiliki Vassil reported that at the last CCRC&D meeting there was interest in having the RCD give a 10-15 minute presentation on the Roads Program at their May 18 meeting. Sharon will talk to Carey regarding a presentation. The Board suggested that the CCRC&D should invite people interested in developing a roads program.

### **NRCS Reports**

The NRCS activity report for December was circulated for review. Rich shared an email he received from a landowner which demonstrated the benefits of non-Farm Bill related site visits. Rich gave the landowner verbal advice for preventing erosion on his property and the advice worked through several significant rain events. Rich reported that Chuck Bell retired and a new State Conservationist will begin February 15. Before retiring Chuck Bell decided to fill the District Conservationist position at the Half Moon Bay office. This will free Rich to work entirely in the Santa Cruz office. Rich will be helping out in San Mateo during the transition. This may also free up a portion of Kelli's time as well. Rich reported that there will also be a temporary Soil Conservation Technician, who will be headquartered in Half Moon Bay, hired to assist Craig Ficenec. Rich updated the Board on the EQIP program. The deadline for applications was January 21 and there were thirteen applications received, six from San Mateo County and seven from Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz County will receive \$487,000 for the EQIP program which should fund all seven projects. Rich anticipates that some money will be sent back and explained that this will not affect the amount of money received in subsequent years. He reported that funding for the WHP program has been cut dramatically; the fourteen counties in the region may receive \$100,000. This will heavily impact cost-share match for projects. He added that there will be no money for salmon/steelhead projects. Rich along with Kelli and Nick Lasher will be meeting with the County Public Works Department to discuss how roads impact agricultural land, particularly in the Pajaro Valley. They will identify a sight for the County to conduct a demonstration project.

### **Calendar Dates**

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

February            16            CCRC&D Meeting, King City (RCD)

## **ADJOURN**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM. The next **Board Meeting will be at 6:30PM on March 9, 2005**, at the **Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128**.

James G. McKenna  
President, Board of Directors

(TC:JGM)