



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 **6:40PM on September 14, 2005**, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, Capitola, California.

Directors Present:	Sheryl Bailey Howard Liebenberg Tom Lukens Jim McKenna, President Roberta Smith
Directors Absent:	Mike Manfre, Vice President John Ricker
Associate Directors Present:	Ward Hastings Kathryn Tobisch Vasiliki Vassil
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder Karen Christensen, Executive Director of Programs Sharon Corkrean, Executive Director
NRCS Present:	Rich Casale, District Conservationist

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at **6:40**, with a quorum present.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications. Karen shared written communications with the Board. LAFCO has sent the RCD the Annual Analysis of Special Districts. The analysis noted that the RCD should continue to improve public outreach and access to District resources, consistent with the Grand Jury Report. Karen also shared a letter received by the CARCD regarding an effort the NACD is involved in to make changes to the Endangered Species Act so that restoration and enhancement projects would be less onerous. Karen indicated that she will be tracking this issue. This issue may come to a vote at the November 16-19 CARCD Annual Conference in San Diego. Those interested in attending the CARCD Annual Conference should contact Karen or Sharon. The RCD will need to send a representative from the Board.

MINUTES

Sheryl Bailey moved to approve the June 8, 2005 minutes as presented. Tom Lukens seconded the motion. All were in favor.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

There were no action items.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Expenditures

General Expenditures – The General Expenditures for June 2005 were circulated for review. Howard Liebenberg moved to approve them. Tom Lukens seconded the motion. All were in favor. The General Expenditures for July 2005 were circulated for review. Tom Lukens moved to approve them. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor. The General Expenditures for August 2005 were circulated for review. Howard Liebenberg moved to approve them. Tom Lukens seconded the motion. All were in favor.

CSDA – Sharon explained that the RCD will be joining the California Special District Association for a \$321 fee. Karen and Sharon will be gone from the office September 26-28 to attend the CSDA Conference in Long Beach.

The CSDA helps lobby for Special Districts in Sacramento. In addition they have programs for Liability Insurance and Retirement and Health Insurance at reduced rates. Tom Lukens suggested that if the District is going to provide health insurance and retirement benefits to staff, the RCD will need to write an additional 28 percent into grants. Sharon informed the Board that the General Liability Coverage increased from \$3,400 last year to \$8,000 this year. Coverage calculated is based on exposure; as the budget goes up so does the cost of coverage.

Transfers

There were no Transfers.

REPORTS

Staff Reports

Karen reported that the Pajaro Team has held its first Farmer to Farmer Exchange Workshop. There were 23 farmers in attendance to receive information regarding the use of fertilizers on strawberries and raspberries as well as on irrigation techniques. Leticia Hain is bilingual and conducted the workshop in Spanish. The feedback from the workshop has been extremely positive and Karen reported that there was a very positive response to the workshops. Karen reported that the Manure Management staff is currently reaching out to the Guadalupe RCD. Roberta Smith encouraged the Manure Management program to foster a relationship with this RCD as there is a large horse community in that District. Karen reminded the Board that Leticia is organizing the Taste of San Benito tour for October. The Board is invited to get together with the San Benito RCD Directors for this event. Karen informed the Board that staff participated in the Ocean Night on the Pacific Garden Mall. This was consistent with the Districts' outreach efforts. Karen also updated the Board on the Watershed Activity Guide. It is getting a lot of interest from teachers. There is an effort underway to develop a grant for a staff member to focus on outreach. The Education Guide was developed using the state standards and focuses on effective ways to teach science in the classroom. Karen reported that a committee has been formed to address the State Water Resources Control Board new policy of requiring GPS coordinates for projects. She described a situation where the SWRCB added this requirement into an existing contract with the Alameda RCD. When the Alameda RCD would not release the GPS coordinates, the state refused to give the money for the projects. The RCD of Monterey County has experienced a similar requirement with state funds. The Board discussed this issue and indicated that it is contrary to the mission of the District and encouraged Karen to continue to pursue this issue. The Board suggested other ways to report the data. Karen shared the revised and improved Roads Manual with the Board.

Directors/Associate Director Reports

Vasiliki questioned whether fruit growers in Santa Cruz County have experienced the same difficulty as the Central Valley in finding seasonal labor to pick their crops. Vasiliki was listening to a program on NPR which reported that the labor market has been depressed by 25 percent and that farmers have had to let fruit fall from the tree as there has been nobody to pick it. Tom said he has not had any such problems.

Howard Liebenberg reported that he helped on a workshop with Public Works in Kings Creek. They added 10 feet of culvert onto an existing culvert and installed multiple aprons and inlets.

The Board thanked Roberta Smith for hosting an excellent Blue Circle at Queseria Creek.

NRCS Reports

Rich circulated the July and August activity report for review. Rich could not attend the meeting as he was speaking at a workshop in Gilroy. Karen reported that applications for EQIP will be starting December 2. The NRCS will be focusing on awarding funding to projects that can actually be completed in a timely manner. The RCD will be hosting the Local Working Group and the Stewardship Committee meeting to set the resource priorities for the EQIP process.

Calendar Dates

October	19	Blue Circle: Riparian Corridors, Highlands Park, Ben Lomond, 3:00-6:30PM (RCD)
November	2	CARCD Area 5 Meeting Tour and Meeting, UC Co-op Ext, Wats., 10:00AM-2:00PM (RCD)

PERSONNEL

Closed Session

Karen circulated job descriptions for the Board's to review and comment. Action on this item will take place at a subsequent meeting.

ADJOURN

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM. The next **Board Meeting will be on** October 12, 2005 at 6:30PM at the Capitola Office 820 Bay Avenue Suite 128 in Capitola.

James G. McKenna
President, Board of Directors

(TC:JGM)