



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 **6:32PM February 7, 2007**, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, Capitola, California.

Directors Present:	Howard Liebenberg Tom Lukens Jim McKenna, President John Ricker Roberta Smith
Directors Absent:	Sheryl Bailey Mike Manfre, Vice President
RCD Staff Present:	Zoe Carlson, Program Specialist Tangi Chapman, Recorder Karen Christensen, Executive Director Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance Lea Haratani, Communication Specialist Ezra Neale, Program Specialist Arianne Rettinger, Pajaro Program Manager Jen Stern, Restoration Ecologist Angela Stuart, Program Specialist
NRCS Staff Present:	Kelli Camara Rich Casale

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:32PM with a quorum present. Introductions were made by Staff and the Board of Directors. Karen welcomed Kelli Camara back from her maternity leave. Karen proposed and the Board agreed to move the Minutes and Expenditure approvals to after the Action Items.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The RCD and NRCS presented Sharon with a gift and flowers to celebrate her 25 years with the District. Rich gave his memories of Sharon's early years as a Regional Occupation Training Certificate intern from Soquel High School. The Board expressed their gratitude to Sharon for all her hard work through the years. Sharon thanked the Board and Staff for the acknowledgement and for the experiences she has had. Karen circulated written communications for the Board; these included a Call for Nominations for LAFCO Commissioner and the agenda for the February 21 CARC&D meeting to be held in King City along with the minutes from their November 15, 2006 meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

NRCS/RCD collaborations – Kelli Camara, Jen Stern, Arianne Rettinger, Angela Stuart and Ezra Neale presented information on project collaborations within each of the programs. Kelli began the discussion by explaining that the RCD and NRCS estimated that they could implement approximately four or five projects through the Permit Coordination (PC) program per year. At the beginning of last year 26 projects were considered and prioritized for the PC program and seven were implemented over the construction season. Kelli surmised that the success of this program can be attributed to the NRCS and RCD's ability to work together effectively. Jen then reported on projects she worked on in conjunction with the NRCS; these included the Tucker Ford Fish Passage Implementation Project and four habitat restoration projects along Soquel Creek. Angela shared her projects with the NRCS; these included 10 sites within Santa Cruz County with projects

including technical assistance with redirecting runoff, building manure bunkers to compost manure, and reducing the quantity of livestock on the land depending on the carrying capacity of the soil. In addition, the manure program held several workshops to educate livestock owners on best management practices for their lands. The success of this program has been visible in the testimonials of landowners at the November project tour and the fact that Rich receives between one and two horse-related calls from landowners a week for technical assistance. Arianne reported on an 11 acre native grassland restoration project that the Pajaro Program has been collaborating on with the NRCS. Currently, there are goats grazing the site to reduce the thatch and thus enable the native seed bank to flourish. The site is also home to the endangered Santa Cruz tar plant that the goats do not graze. Arianne proceeded to report on a number of projects conducted with farmers that included the installation of hedgerows, cover cropping, ditch planting and subsurface drainage enhancements. Ezra highlighted the technical assistance from the NRCS related to the Deer Creek Road Association project where outloping and culverts were installed to reduce soil erosion. Three other road projects were conducted with Road Associations to reduce erosion throughout the County. Kelli then summed up the collaborations of 2006, these included over 20 acres of habitat restoration, over 12 miles of stream habitat improvements, and water quality improvements, not to mention the diverse smaller technical assistance counseling provided by NRCS to landowners. Staff discussed the availability of Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) funding for projects under the Farm Bill Program. Karen expressed her concern with the elimination of this program given WHIPs importance in helping to fund so many great projects. She will look into submitting comments regarding this issue. Rich informed the Board that the Farm Bill funding is getting tighter and that WHIP funding is crucial for many projects.

Resolution 2007-01 – Ezra presented the Board with Resolution 2007-01, Cost-Share Implementation of Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs for Non-County Roads in the San Lorenzo River, Soquel Creek and Aptos Creek Watersheds (Contract 04-228-553-02). This resolution allows the Executive Director to sign documents regarding this contract. Tom Lukens moved approval of Resolution 2007-01. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the January 10, 2007 meeting minutes. Howard Liebenberg moved to accept the January 10, 2007 meeting minutes as written. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Expenditures

General Expenditures – The General Expenditures for January 2007 were circulated for review. Karen explained that the Tucker Bridge Replacement Project offered many lessons on how to allocate funding to avoid problems with reimbursements. She added that investing in a lawyer has been a good investment. John Ricker moved to accept the January 2007 General Expenditures. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Transfers

No transfers were discussed

REPORTS

Staff Reports

Karen reported that State Water Resource Control Board is considering funding 50% of the Integrated Regional Water Management Proposition 50 Northern Santa Cruz County proposal. Karen consequently is working on getting letters of support for this grant. Karen also informed the Board that Karl Fieberling will be starting the week of February 12 as the Pajaro Grant Administrator.

Directors/Associate Director Reports

There were no Director/Associate Director Reports given.

NRCS Reports

Rich reported that he spoke at the Ecofarm Conference. The conference was attended by over 1300 people. Rich thought the conference was a worthwhile venue and encouraged Staff to attend in the future.

Calendar Dates

February 21 CCRC&D Meeting, Rabobank, King City, 1:00-4:00PM

AGENDA ITEMS

Next Meeting

Discussion of Policies

ADJOURN

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM. The next **Board Meeting will be on March 14, 2007 at 6:30PM** at the Capitola Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, and Capitola.

Jim McKenna
Director, Board of Directors

(TC:JM)