



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 **6:35PM April 18, 2007**, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, Capitola, California.

Directors Present:	Howard Liebenberg Mike Manfre, Vice President Jim McKenna, President John Ricker
Directors Absent:	Sheryl Bailey Tom Lukens Roberta Smith
Associate Director Present:	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder Karen Christensen, Executive Director Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance Kellie Guerra, Conservation Program Specialist
Others Present:	Kevin Collins, County Fish and Game Commission

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:35PM with a quorum present. Kellie Guerra was introduced at the meeting as the new Conservation Program Specialist to work in the San Benito RCD office. The Board congratulated Kellie on her new position with the SCCRCD. Kevin Collins was also welcomed to the meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications. Karen shared written communications with the Board. Karen reported that Jim Rapoza was reappointed to LAFCO. Additionally, LAFCO sent a notice of the Arana Gulch Reorganization to the City of Santa Cruz. This reorganization would remove approximately seven acres of riparian open space land from the County of Santa Cruz (thereby detaching from the SCCRCD) and annexing its to the City of Santa Cruz. LAFCO also sent a copy of their draft final budget which would be placed on their April 4 agenda for adoption.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the March 14, 2007 meeting minutes. John Ricker moved to accept the March 14, 2007 meeting minutes as written. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Expenditures

General Expenditures – The General Expenditures for March 2007 were circulated for review. Howard Liebenberg moved to accept the March 2007 General Expenditures. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Annual CARCD Dues – Karen informed the Board that the annual CARCD membership contributions are currently up for renewal. Karen reminded the Board that in previous years the SCCRCD has utilized the 2% formula. Karen also explained that she has noticed that CARCD has had a much stronger presence in Sacramento, and has really increased its usefulness to the District over the course of the year. Karen encouraged the Board to take this into consideration when determining the final amount to contribute to the CARCD. Mike Manfre moved to approve a membership contribution to CARCD for \$1,100. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Transfers

No transfers were discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

RCD Logo – Karen circulated the proposed new logo for the Board to consider for adoption. She explained that CARCD has developed this as their new logo and that the local Districts are encouraged to use it as well. John Ricker moved approval of the new logo to represent the District. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor.

RCD Name – Karen proposed a name change for the District. With Santa Cruz County at the beginning of the name, she explained, there has been much confusion with agencies, vendors and the community regarding the connection to the County of Santa Cruz. In order to minimize this confusion, Karen suggested changing the name to the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County. The Board discussed the merits and the expense of such a change. It was suggested that, before the District finalizes the change, LAFCO be notified to see if LAFCO would need to take any action to make the change official. John Ricker moved approval to retitle the District the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County upon the Executive Director clearing the change with LAFCO. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor.

AWQA Strategic Plan – Karen presented the Agriculture Water Quality Strategic Plan to the Board. She explained that AQWA has submitted an ambitious plan to address the water quality needs of the region. The plan identifies seven Strategic Sections which will be used to focus resources and solicit funding over the course of the next five years. They include the following: Identify, Prioritization & Directing of Resources, Agricultural Industry Networks, Technical Information and Outreach, Education and Public Relations, Regulatory Coordination and Streamlining, Funding Mechanisms & Incentives & Recognition, Public/Private Rural Lands and Roads. John Ricker pointed out that he was glad to see that the rural land and roads component was back in the document. Rich pointed out that he, Karen, Carey and Arianne all participated in this process. John Ricker made a suggestion and the Board agreed that in the Summary Table under Action Items for Data Review, Coordination and Dissemination, a third item be added that states, "Compile and evaluate water quality data and program accomplishments relative to the identified goals toward the end of the 5 year plan period." John Ricker moved to approve the AQWA Strategic Plan with the aforementioned addition. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Benefit Package – Karen informed the Board that currently the Health, Dental and Retirement benefit contracts are up for renewal. She reported that the Health and Dental benefits have increased 23 and 9%, respectively. Karen informed the Board that she and Sharon have both reviewed the numbers and feel as though the District would be able to continue to contribute 100% of premiums for the HMO 40 and the PPO 35 plans, 100% coverage for the Dental PPO, and 4 ½% match for the 401(k), but will need to make adjustments when the contracts come up for renewal in April of 2008. The Board expressed the importance of the District providing health benefits to attract and retain quality employees. Mike Manfre moved to continue the current level of coverage for health, dental and 401(k) contributions. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS

Staff Reports

Karen circulated the new Livestock and Land *Best Management Practices* brochure as well as a flier for the next Workshop for Private Road Residents to be held Wednesday May 23 from 6:30 to 9:00pm at the Corralitos Grange Hall. Karen reported the Regional Water Quality Control Board would like to see the Roads Program extended into the upper Pajaro watershed. She further reported that Kellie Guerra began work in the Hollister office on Monday April 15 and Karminder Brown is scheduled to begin May 1. The Board asked Karen if there had been any further developments with the Permit Coordination Program problem described in the previous meeting. Karen informed the Board that the PC Program is back on track. The Department of Fish and Game is quite happy with the performance of Kelli Camara and agrees that the letter from DFG was poorly written and was not intended to reinvent the process. Karen reported that there are nine or ten projects in the queue for the PC Program. Karen and Lea will be heading down to San Luis Obispo for a Conference on Food Safety and Water Quality.

Directors/Associate Director Reports

John Ricker recently attended a Board of Supervisors Meeting. He reported that the Arana Gulch Blue Trail Gully Project was discussed for a half hour. The Port District initiated the discussion and proposed the County along with the City of Santa Cruz and the State of California contribute the \$95,000 needed to complete this project. The Board of Supervisors discussed where the money would come from and the applicable technical issues with the project. Currently the designs are 100% completed but may need to be modified; grading permits have

already been secured. This project is set to begin this summer. John reported that the Board of Supervisors was definitely engaged in the project.

NRCS Reports

Rich circulated a quarterly report for January through March 2007 for review. He also shared an email correspondence with Mary Walter of the Farm Bureau regarding their Food for Thought quote in the *Between the Furrows* newsletter.

Calendar Dates

May 23 **Rural Road Survival Strategies for Santa Cruz County**, Corralitos Grange Hall, Corralitos 6:30-9:00PM (RCD)

ADJOURN

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM. The next **Board Meeting will be on May 9, 2007 at 6:30PM** at the Capitola Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, in Capitola.

Jim McKenna
Director, Board of Directors

(TC:JM)