

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ

The regular Meeting of the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz (RCDSCC) Board of Directors was called to order at **6:45PM** **September 11, 2007**, at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, Capitola, California.

Directors Present:	Howard Liebenberg Tom Lukens Mike Manfre, Vice President Jim McKenna, President Roberta Smith
Directors Absent	Sheryl Bailey John Ricker
Associate Directors Present	Ward Hastings Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder Karen Christensen, Executive Director Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance Ezra Neale, Roads Program Manager

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at **6:45PM** with a quorum present. The Board welcomed Ezra Neale to the meeting. The Board adjusted the agenda to discuss Program Updates before Oral Communications.

REPORTS

Program Updates

Strategic Planning Session Update – Karen reported that comments from the Strategic Planning Session held over the summer have been compiled. The District is currently awaiting word from Daniel Mountjoy regarding another planning session with Ray Ledgerwood as facilitator. The meeting will likely take place in November.

Teacher Resource Night – Karen informed the Board that the District will be participating at the Museum of Art and History (MAH) Teacher Resource Night on Monday October 1, 2007. The District will have a booth staffed by our Education Consultant who will be showcasing the Watershed Activity Guide as well as answering questions. Karen pointed out that there are over 20 other groups joining in for this event with many opportunities to share the Watershed Activity Guide. Ward Hastings shared his experiences teaching Outdoor Education in Fresno and just how valuable it is to get kids out learning science first hand in the field. Karen added that the Outdoor Science Camp had many instructors participate in the Teacher Training Workshops. The MAH is serving as the lending library for the Outdoor Science Camp's equipment.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the July 18, 2007 meeting minutes. Tom Lukens moved to accept the July 18, 2007 meeting minutes as written. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Expenditures

General Expenditures – The General Expenditures for July 2007 were circulated for review. Howard Liebenberg moved to accept the July 2007 General Expenditures. Tom Lukens seconded the motion. All were in favor. The General Expenditures for August 2007 were circulated for review. Howard Liebenberg moved to accept the August 2007 General Expenditures. Tom Lukens seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Board expressed their gratitude to the City of Watsonville regarding their timely accounting and payment schedule.

Transfers

No transfers were discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Pinto Lake County Park – Karen gave background information regarding the operation and maintenance agreement between the District and Pinto Lake County Park. She further explained that Rich Casale (NRCS) performs annual inspections of the site to ensure that the County is in compliance with the agreement. The current NRCS report tactfully encourages the County to fix the few problems that exist and makes recommendations for improvements. The County has indicated that it wishes to install an 18 hole Frisbee Golf Course in what is the “wildlife protection zone”. Karen read an email sent from the State Office to NRCS and County Parks. The Board acknowledged that this type of recreational use can have a significantly negative impact on the original intent of the park. However, members also recognized the desire of the County to establish more recreational opportunities. The Board encouraged public discussion regarding this new recreational opportunity and recommended consulting with local advocacy groups regarding their concerns with the plan. The Board felt it was premature to make a decision regarding the project until members could review the plan and come up with recommendations based on the proposal. The Board warned that any proposal would need to prove that it would be consistent with the original intent of the funding for the park.

Liability Insurance Discussion – Karen reported that the District is looking into the adequacy of our current Liability Insurance Policy. Tangi shared an email from Paul Fuller, the Rural Special District Insurance representative, regarding Board Member Coverage, indicating that Board Members have wrongful acts coverage up to \$1 million. Howard suggested finding out the difference between \$1 million and \$2 million coverage. Karen confirmed that other Districts have similar coverage, though some cover up to \$2 million. The discussion then moved into Bonding and Insurance requirements of other agencies. Karen and Sharon indicated that each agency has its own requirements, making contract templates difficult. Karen assured the Board that the District has been receiving legal council from Lloyd Williams regarding contracts. The topic of “additionally insured” was raised. Specifically, the process by which the District would require contractors and subcontractors to provide extra coverage to the District in the event of an insurance claim. Howard shared that when he uses subcontractors for his business, he requires them to add him as “additionally insured”. Karen will continue to work with staff to iron out our contract language so that the process is consistent and smooth and to ensure that the District is adequately covered. Jim encouraged the District to take all measures to ensure that contractors are taking as much responsibility for projects as possible. The Board strongly encouraged staff to research and run queries on contractors to verify that they are in good standing and not litigious. Kathryn questioned whether the District has the ability to choose clients. Karen pointed out that the District has a Professional Services Policy which gives some flexibility. It was decided that a staff member will research this topic more and report back to the Board after November.

REPORTS

Staff Reports

Karen gave a legislative update on a bill in the state legislature that would force local governments to lower their payment retention amount on public works projects from 10 to 5 percent, threatening public funds. She has contacted Assemblyman John Laird and voiced her concerns with how this change would place a financial burden on the District. John Laird’s staff indicated that the bill has been tabled. Karen informed the Board that she will now be sitting on the Board of the Regional Water Management Foundation, a subsidiary of the Community Foundation. She explained that this was recommended to ensure that the accounting for the \$12 million grant be handled separately from the Community Foundation’s operating budget.

Ezra Neale gave updates on the Roads Program. He highlighted the expansion of the Roads Program to include home drainage projects on individual parcels. There has been much interest generated on this topic and Ezra is currently investigating potential partners for a demonstration project. Roberta suggested Ezra contact Vincent Hurley on the legalities of this issue. The Board was excited and encouraging of the potential of this new direction. However, the Board cautioned that the District should never get into a situation where RCD staff is giving specific direction to landowners; rather, NRCS, being the technical partner, will give a suite of possible solutions. Roberta encouraged Ezra to contact the Tahoe Basin RCD to see what their drainage program looks like as this is a huge issue in that region. Ezra then talked about a new marketing strategy for the RCD. He pointed out that the Livestock and Land Program has its own logo and staff has been contemplating the same for the other programs. He asked the Board’s opinion on the matter. The Board discussed the pros and cons of such a strategy and encouraged staff to keep in mind that programs come and go and that the RCD is the core. Any individual logo should include the District logo. The Board also felt that the District thus far has been fairly anonymous and getting RCD name recognition should probably take precedence. Staff will keep the Board informed of any developments.

Karen thanked Mike Manfre for agreeing to attend the CCRC&D Area Meeting.

Directors/Associate Director Reports

None were given.

NRCS Reports

NRCS circulated a news article and opinion piece.

Calendar Dates

September 12 CCRC&D Council Meeting, The Depot, San Lorenzo Park, King City, 1:00-4:00PM.

October 1 MAH, Teacher Resource Meeting, McPherson Center, Santa Cruz, 4:00-6:00PM.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The next **Board Meeting will be on Wednesday October 10, 2007 at 6:30PM** at the Capitola office.

Jim McKenna
Director, Board of Directors

(TC:JM)