

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

The regular Meeting of the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz (the District) Board of Directors was called to order at **6:43PM, November 12, 2008** at the Resource Conservation District, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA. 95010.

Directors Present:	Mike Manfre, Vice President Jim McKenna, President John Ricker Roberta Smith
Director-Elect:	Margaret Kinda
Directors Absent:	Sheryl Bailey Howard Liebenberg Tom Lukens
Associate Directors:	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Executive Assistant Karen Christensen, Executive Director

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:43PM with a quorum present. Karen introduced the incoming Director Margaret Kinda to the Board. Margaret explained that she became familiar with the RCD when she received a flier regarding programs available at the District. She worked with Jen Stern and received assistance for the removal of invasive plants on her property and revegetation with natives. She said that she was so impressed with the RCD that she wanted to learn more and contribute to the organization. She is a retired attorney.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No oral communications were given.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the October 8, 2008 meeting minutes. John Ricker moved to accept the October 8, 2008 meeting minutes. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

BUDGET & FINANCE

General Expenditures – The General Expenditures for October 2008 were circulated for review. Sharon explained that there was a lot of activity in October due to the closing of the IWRP Phase I grant. Sharon gave kudos to all staff for their work on this grant. John Ricker indicated that he would come in before the next meeting and look through the expenditures in detail. Mike Manfre moved to accept the October 2008 General Expenditures. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Transfers

There were no transfers.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Resolution 2008-03 Urban Streams Restoration Grant – Karen informed the Board that the District has drafted a letter of intent to work on a collaborative grant with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, Save our Shores, the Coastal Watershed Council and the City of Santa Cruz School District to work on projects at Harbor High School, Antonelli Pond, Sycamore Grove and De La Veaga Park. The grantor for the proposed project is the California Department of Water Resources and

the grant includes \$860,000 for various activities including debris clean-up, signage, and restoration. The grant application received strong letters of support from Assemblymember John Laird, AGWA and others. Karen further pointed out that this grant presents an opportunity for the District to help build capacity at other organizations. She explained that the resolution under consideration gives approval by the Board to move forward with the grant processes. Karen noted that Kelli Camara was instrumental in getting technical components of the application. The Board asked various questions about the proposal, including the funding source. Karen indicated that the money is from Proposition 84. John Ricker moved to approve Resolution 2008-03 endorsing an application for an Urban Streams Restoration Grant. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Resolution 2008-04 Amendments to the 401(k) Plan – Tangi informed the Board of the need to review and amend the current Summary Plan Description and the Plan Year End dates for the 401(k). She explained that, currently, the program is available to staff that work 1000 hours or more in one year and after one year of service to the District. In the past, the plan was interpreted to mean that an employee would be eligible for the program after 1000 hours (six months for a full time employee, one year for a ½ time employee). The Board discussed the various possibilities for administering the program. Karen noted that there are some long-time employees that do not meet the 1000 hours requirement, but would benefit from access to this program. The Board expressed their concern about employee turnover and the increase in administrative requirements. The Board suggested keeping the one year start date and eliminating the 1000 hour requirement. Roberta Smith moved to amend the Summary Plan Description to remove the 1000 hour requirement and to alter the Plan Year End dates to coincide with the fiscal year, i.e., July 1, 2008- June 31, 2009. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor.

CARCD Resolutions – Karen shared the CARCD Resolutions with the Board. The Board gave direction to Jim McKenna for voting on each resolution. Mike Manfre nominated Jim McKenna to act as the RCDSCC voting delegate for the CARCD Conference. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS

Staff Reports

Karen informed the Board that the Coastal Conservancy has made a staff recommendation to support an IWRP Phase 3 grant. The grant includes funds for designs and permits and roads assessments, and would introduce the program into San Mateo and Monterey Counties. In addition, funds would be allocated to renew the Permit Coordination Program. The grant proposal will go the Coastal Conservancy Board for approval. Karen said the District would be the fiscal administrator for the grant.

Karen reported that Arianne Rettinger has been facilitating a conversation between partners of the Central Coast Nutrient Management Program (CCNIMP). Arianne has been doing a great job of addressing concerns about the program.

The RCD has been approached by the Rangeland Coalition to work on an outreach project in Santa Clara County. There is potential for Kellie Guerra to work more with the Loma Prieta RCD on this project.

Karen will be hosting a tour on Friday to look at the success of the IWRP Projects. The project will be attended by incoming Assemblymember Bill Monning, County Supervisor Mark Stone, the Executive Officer of the Coastal Conservancy and others.

Karen then informed the Board that the Livestock and Land Workshop scheduled for the coming weekend has 50 people signed up to attend. She mentioned that the Land Trust is in the process of acquiring 400+ acres in and around Harkin Slough.

Calendar Dates

November	18-22	CARCD/CARC&D Councils 63 rd Annual Conference, Riverside, CA
	23	Santa Cruz Mountains Puma Project, Dr Wilmers, Cal Poly's Little Creek House, 3:00-4:00PM

Directors/Associate Directors Reports

Roberta encouraged the group to attend the presentation of the Santa Cruz Mountains Puma Project talk given by Dr. Chris Wilmers, Professor of Environmental Studies at UCSC. Dr. Wilmers will discuss objectives and preliminary results of the study. The presentation is scheduled for Sunday November 23, 2008 from 3:00-4:00PM at Cal Poly's Little Creek House.

NRCS Reports

No NRCS reports were given. The Board asked if there were any updates on erosion problems as a result of the recent rain storm in the areas of the county that burned this past spring and early summer. Karen responded that prior to the rains Kelli and Roberta identified potential problems and then had some "quick fixes" installed.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The next **Board Meeting will be on January 14, 2009 at 6:30PM at the RCD office 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA. 95010.** Roberta Smith moved to adjourn (8:44PM). Mike Manfre seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

Jim McKenna
Director, Board of Directors

(TC: JM)