

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2009 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, September 9, 2009** at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present:	Margaret Kinda Howard Liebenberg Mike Manfre, Vice President Jim McKenna, President David Moeller John Ricker Roberta Smith
Associate Directors Present:	Ward Hastings Katherine Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Executive Assistant Karen Christensen, Executive Director Angie Stuart, Program Specialist Marti Johnson, RCD Coordinator for AWQA

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:43PM with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. The Board welcomed incoming Director David Moeller. David replaced the vacancy left when Tom Lukens stepped down. Tangi Chapman requested and the Board agreed that the Action Item be moved up on the agenda immediately after the Minutes.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No oral communications were given.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the July 15, 2009 regular meeting minutes. Howard Liebenberg moved to accept them. David Moeller seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Access and Grant Match Agreement– Angela Stuart circulated the revised Access and Grant Match Agreement. She informed the Board that the new document addresses the issues brought up by the Board at the April Meeting. She explained that this agreement would be used for projects in which the RCD contracts with the landowner. The agreement spells out the landowner’s requirements and responsibilities in accepting funding for projects. In this agreement the RCD would require the landowner to give their cash match portion of the project to the District upfront. John pointed out that this would be considered revenue to the District thereby increasing the budget. John suggested creating a new “Capitol Improvement” fund within the County account to deposit match money. The Board made it known that for larger projects they prefer for the landowner to contract directly with the contractor. The Board then discussed the issue of recordation on the deed of the property. Margaret pointed out that recordation is the only way to ensure that if the property is sold the new landowner will be accepting responsibility for the terms of the enhancement project. It was suggested that the only thing to be recorded on the deed is the maintenance piece of the project. The Board debated whether or not it would be a disincentive for landowners to agree to projects if they had to have it recorded. John Ricker countered that the District must balance that with their responsibility to taxpayers that funds are spent appropriately and are maintained adequately. Karen then said that 95% of the District’s projects are small in size, while the other five percent are large

enough that recordation or some other means may be necessary to ensure the terms of the agreements are upheld. It was then suggested that the District set a financial threshold at which projects get reviewed for recordation. Mike pointed out that the next step would be for the District to have to enforce the maintenance agreement. However, it was pointed out that recordation has nothing to do with enforcement, rather it gives official notice. It was suggested and agreed that the issue of recordation be agendaized for discussion at the November meeting. John Ricker then suggested that the wording of the second sentence be changed to read "to install conservation practices" not to "improve property." He also pointed out that the name of the District be changed in the first sentence (and checked throughout) to Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County. Howard Liebenberg moved to accept the Access and Grant Match Agreement with John's editions. John then pointed out and Howard accepted the change, that the wording be changed half way down page two to read "Landowners certify..." rather than change from third person to first person mid sentence. Roberta seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

REPORTS

Staff Reports

Angie reported on the completion of the *Slow it, Sink it, Spread it* book. She told the Board that the County has reviewed and asked for copies of the book to have available at the county building. She said that they found one mistake on a map that will be corrected. In addition, the State Water Board wants to use a link to the book on their website. It was suggested that the District send out a press release about the book to get a wider distribution. Angie then left the meeting.

BUDGET & FINANCE

2008-2009 Expenditures – Karen circulated the July 2009 and August 2009 Expenditures for review and approval. John Ricker moved to accept the July 2009 and August 2009 Expenditures. Margaret Kinda seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

REPORTS

Staff Reports (continued)

Karen reported that she has been working on staff retention. She said that temporary employees have been hired to ease the workload of existing staff. Karen said that the Pajaro IRWM is the only grant that still has past-due funds and that all other invoices have been paid. She went on to report that while none of the frozen grants are "online", many projects may be funded through the federal stimulus program. Karen indicated that it has been a busy week for staff with the launch of several projects. Gold Gulch proceeded in June with Proposition 50 funds and will be completed this summer. Karen and staff have been working on methods for tracking and obtaining stimulus funds. She said that the District has already been approached to apply for stimulus money for projects that are "shovel ready". Karen pointed out that the District was approached largely because of the relationships that have been forged in recent years among various agencies. Karen also said that most project costs have increased by 25% over what the engineers' estimates were for the projects. Karen said that Joe and Rich have been extremely busy in responding to landowners after the Lockheed Fire. Staff will likely be putting together another post-fire Winter Preparedness workshop in the near future. Finally, Karen reported that Arianne Rettinger will be on maternity leave within the next week or two and that a temporary contract employee is being hired to help with her duties.

Written Communications

Karen circulated written communications to the Board. Written Communications included a letter and supporting materials from Douglas Deitch of the Monterey Bay Conservancy to the California Coastal Commission; the LAFCO Agenda and LAFCO-proposed Grand Jury Response; the CSDA 2009 Board Elections Ballot; a letter from the County of Santa Cruz Treasurer announcing the nomination and appointment of an Alternate to the County Treasury Oversight Commission; and a letter from Matt Rexroad, Attorney at Law with Meridian Pacific, Inc., requesting an electronic list of email addresses for all RCD of Santa Cruz County employees including documentation of an email from Karen Christensen with the requested information.

Calendar Dates

No Calendar dates were given.

Directors/Associate Directors Reports

See attached Directors Report from Roberta Smith regarding the Lockheed Fire.

John Ricker reported that the County has been taking a "low profile" on the Lockheed Fire at this time and that the RCD has been coordinating dialogue among agencies. He then reported on a Moore Foundation-sponsored grant to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County to coordinate a "Conservation Blue Print" for Santa Cruz County. This will include vegetation mapping, resource concerns, working landscapes and biotic and water resources. The document will highlight goals and objectives for conservation and stewardship opportunities. The project has a steering committee and a technical advisory

committee. John said that the whole process should take a year for fact finding, preparing documents and holding public meetings. Dave Moeller said that he would be happy to help represent the District in this effort.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The next **Board Meeting will be on October 14, 2009 at 6:30PM at the RCD office 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.** Howard Liebenberg moved to adjourn at 8:25PM. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Jim McKenna
Director, Board of Directors

(TC: JM)