

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2010 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 **6:38PM, January 13, 2010** at the Resource Conservation District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present:	Margaret Kinda Howard Liebenberg Jim McKenna, President David Moeller John Ricker
Directors Absent:	Mike Manfre, Vice President Roberta Smith
Associate Directors Present:	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Executive Assistant Karen Christensen, Executive Director Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance
NRCS Present:	Rich Casale, District Conservationist
Others Present:	George Donderos, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:38PM with a quorum present. John Ricker chaired the meeting until Jim McKenna took over at 6:40 upon his arrival.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No oral communications were given.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the November 11, 2009 and the December 9, 2009 meeting minutes. Dave Moeller moved to accept the minutes as presented. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

BUDGET & FINANCE

2009-2010 Expenditures – The November and December 2009 Expenditures were circulated for approval. Sharon noticed a journal entry error that she would change. John Ricker moved to accept the November and December 2009 Expenditures. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Operational Agreement– Rich circulated the Operational Agreement between the NRCS and the RCD of Santa Cruz County. Rich indicated that the Board had not reviewed and approved this agreement since 2001 and that the agreement should be reviewed annually in the future. He said that the overall content of the agreement was the same. However, it has been updated with the District's new name, and current programs and equipment. John Ricker moved approval of the updated Operational Agreement between the NRCS and the RCD of Santa Cruz County. Dave Moeller noticed several typographical errors which were subsequently changed, than. Dave seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

401(k) Program Change–Tangi informed the Board that she and Karen have been looking into a new 401(k) program. The current program is a variable annuity and is quite expensive. In addition, she explained that, some staff members have been unhappy with the investment options and would like to see more "Socially Responsible" investment opportunities.

In order for staff to proceed with further research and plan set-up there needs to be a Board motion. John Ricker moved to authorize staff to further investigate and initiate the transfer of the 401(k) into another program at the discretion of the Executive Director. Margaret Kinda seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. It was also suggested that staff further investigate participation in the County of Santa Cruz CALPERS deferred compensation program.

INTRODUCTIONS

George Dondero from the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission was introduced and he gave background on himself and future projects for the Transportation Commission.

REPORTS

NRCS Reports

Rich gave a brief NRCS report highlighting the eight new EQIP applications, one new WHP application and one new hoop-house application he has received for 2010. The hoop-house project is a one year pilot program that was initiated by Ed Burton, NRCS State Conservationist. He explained that hoop-houses are PVC pipe and plastic covers that are used to extend the growing season for various crops. Rich indicated that he had concerns about run-off from and hoop-houses, and also view-shed issues, but that the technique is being used more and more to extend the growing season and more and that NRCS is being encouraged to implement this as a practice. Rich gave some fire updates. He said -indicating that there have been one or two slides as a result of the Lockheed fire. He also shared that-discussed two flood plain easements that have been funded by NRCS tothat have removed flood prone properties from out-of agriculture production and that they were restored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch.

Staff Reports

Karen reported that she, Kelli ~~Camara~~, and Sharon will be reviewing staff budgets. Based on budget projections they will then determine what adjustments will be needed ~~to be made~~ to staff hours. Karen pointed out that there have been no Cost of Living Adjustments to staff wages for the past year. She suggested the Board review the need to initiate a Cost of Living Adjustment at the April Board Meeting. Karen and the Board discussed the need to diversify funding sources. Karen said the goal of the RCD is to be efficient and provide excellent quality control.

Written Communications

Written Communications were circulated from LAFCO regarding an application for a governmental boundary change in the City of Scotts Valley.

Calendar Dates

There were no Calendar Dates discussed.

Directors/Associate Directors Reports

Kathryn Tobisch reported that there would be a talk on February 1, 2010 entitled Beyond Fear and Greed, the moral implication of the financial crisis.

Dave Moeller reported on a meeting he attended with other members from the RCD and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. The focus of the meeting was to initiate clear communication, identify and agree to partner and collaborate where possible and to highlight mutual goals.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The next **Board Meeting will be on February 10, 2010 at 6:30PM at the RCD office 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.**

Jim McKenna
Director, Board of Directors

(TC: JM)