



**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE
 RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

The Regular Meeting of the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County Board of Directors was called to order at 6:40PM, February 16, 2011 at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010. The meeting had been rescheduled as there was not a quorum present at the original February 9 meeting date.

Directors Present	Margaret Kinda Howard Liebenberg Jim McKenna, President David Moeller John Ricker Roberta Smith
Directors Absent	Mike Manfre, Vice President
Associate Directors Present	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present	Tangi Chapman, Recorder Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance
NRCS Present	Daniel Mountjoy, Area Conservationist
Others Present	Thomas Wehri, CARCD Board President

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:40PM with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. Tangi Chapman requested that the LAFCO run-off election be added to action items on the agenda. The information packet from LAFCO arrived after the agenda had been published but requires attention prior to the next Board Meeting. John Ricker moved to add the LAFCO Run-off Election to the action items. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Thomas Wehri introduced himself as the new CARCD Board President. He is a retired engineer from the NRCS and also the former CARCD Executive Director. Tom reported that he along with John Ricker, Kelli Camara, Rich Casale, and Daniel Mountjoy had met earlier in the day to discuss the roll of CARCD and what the RCDs would like to see the state association doing to help move the District mission forward. They also discussed the 2012 Farm Bill and how that will affect NRCS. Roberta Smith added that our District is in contact with CARCD frequently, but she questioned how other RCDs are doing. Tom responded that the RCD of Santa Cruz County is one of the more progressive Districts in the state. He added that of the 98 Districts statewide, he estimates that there are 40 Districts that do outstanding work, 30 Districts that do good work, and 15 or so that are just "there" partly because they closely relate to water districts. The goal of CARCD is to bring all the Districts in the state up-to-speed and functioning at an effective level. Jim McKenna suggested there be a threshold for all Districts to meet so that legislators can see that the RCDs have value and are efficient. Tom responded that the strength of the state association is receiving input from Districts, he requested that a Board member from the RCDSCC sit on a 15 person policy group that would provide input and comments on policies for CARCD. He further explained that this policy group would not meet in person, rather there would be a circulation of emails that the members would respond to when an issue is presented. Jim McKenna agreed to be part of the CARCD policy group and would respond to emails and or circulate them with the rest of the Board for collective input.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the January 12, 2011 meeting minutes. Jim noticed that, in the minutes, the sentence with the correction by John Ricker made it look like Jim McKenna's Directors' Report was incomplete, rather than that the sentence

in the minutes was incomplete. The sentence was then corrected. Howard Liebenberg moved to accept the January 12, 2011 meeting minutes as corrected. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.



BUDGET & FINANCE

2010-2011 Expenditures – The January 2011 Expenditures were circulated for approval. Sharon pointed out that there were several large contracts that were wrapped up in January. The Board discussed the various projects. John Ricker moved to approve the January 2011 Expenditures. Dave Moeller seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Public Complaints – Tangi reported that the Public Complaints Policy will have to wait until the next Board Meeting as she has not been able to coordinate with legal council.

Pay Scale Cost of Living Adjustment – Tangi circulated the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the San Francisco Bay Area that was recently released by the US Department of Labor and Statistics. She reminded the Board that several years ago they decided to evaluate a Cost of Living Adjustment on an annual basis, using the CPI as a reference. Sharon told that Board that if they choose to use the CPI increase of 1.5% it would amount to approximately \$7,600 annually given current payroll figures. Sharon further explained to the Board that staff members have not been given step increases in the past year unless they have had an increase in job responsibilities. After discussion, John Ricker moved to give staff a 1.5% Cost of Living Adjustment to take effect February 28, 2011. Margaret Kinda seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Resolution 2011-01– Tangi read Resolution 2011-01 to the Board. She explained that the Resolution was necessary to bring the 401(k) in line with the Contract Employee Policy and Student Intern Policy which excludes those classes of employees from participating in the 401(k) program. Dave Moeller moved to adopt Resolution 2011-01 as presented. Margaret Kinda seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

LAFCO run-off Alternate Board Election – Tangi explained that LAFCO sent a letter indicating that none of the candidates for Alternate Special District Board member received a majority of the votes. Therefore, LAFCO took the top two candidates with the most votes for a run-off election. The candidates included Eric Hammer of the Boulder Creek Recreation District and Arthur Smith, Scotts Valley Fire Protection District. A letter was circulated from the Boulder Creek-Brookdale Coalition of Concerned Citizens regarding their concerns with Eric Hammer being elected as alternate Board Member. After discussion, John Ricker moved to vote for Eric Hammer as the alternate Special District representative to LAFCO. Dave Moeller seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.



REPORTS

Staff Reports

Sharon updated the Board on various staff programs. She highlighted that Angie Stuart resubmitted a grant for the Roads Program. John Ricker reported that he has had discussion with Kelli and Alicia regarding the Proposition 50 projects, adding that it appears as though the programs are being well managed. Sharon also told the Board that she and Kelli have been discussing hiring a Contract Employee with the intent of eventually filling the Program Manager Position that has remained vacant since Arianne Rettinger stepped down in 2009. The Board then had a discussion about state and federal funding sources, given all the talk of budget cuts.

Written Communications

Written Communications were received from the Boulder Creek-Brookdale Coalition of Concerned Citizens regarding the 2010 special district alternate to LAFCO, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts updates and newsletter, LAFCO letter regarding the Special District Alternate run-off election, request for nominations for the Special District Representative, and request for volunteers to sit on the Treasury Oversight Commission, Capitola General Plan Advisory Committee agenda, LAFCO request for comments regarding the 20 La Casa Court Reorganization to the Freedom County Sanitation District, the Central Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc agenda and minutes, and Special District Risk Management Authority letter regarding the 2011 Election of SDRMA Board Members.

Calendar Dates

No Dates were mentioned.



Directors/Associate Directors Reports

John Ricker reported that he attended a Roundtable on Regions with the State Department of Water Resources. The outcome of the discussion was that the state has already committed half of the Proposition 84 grants and that priority will be given to existing and planned grants. John Ricker also reported that the Land Trust's Conservation Blue Print draft will be available via internet tomorrow. John said he thought it was a useful document and encourages the Board to have a look. He added that during the creation process he had to continually remind the Land Trust to mention the RCD and partners and to say that this document "builds on work already going on."

Howard Liebenberg gave an update on the Smoke Management Task Force meetings he has attended on behalf of Karen at the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District. Daniel Mountjoy said that he would pass along information on a similar program that was implemented successfully to control dust in the San Joaquin Valley.

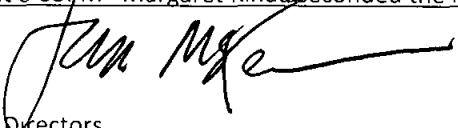
NRCS Reports

Daniel updated the Board on NRCS projects. He told the Board that several new positions have been filled in recent months, including a Stream Engineer and a fish and wildlife biologist. The new staff will be shared region wide and the Fish and Wildlife biologist should be significantly helpful with permitting issues where sensitive species are involved. He said that the AQWA earmark money will no longer be available. Given this, Marti Johnson, the AQWA coordinator, will be scaling back her hours to extend the existing funding farther until it runs out in June of this year. He said that Ed Burton, the State Conservationist, is looking to pull funds from another area to keep this project going as Ed believes the program has been very successful. He also reported on developments in food safety rules that the FDA has been working on to complete.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The next Board Meeting will be on March 9, 2011 at 6:30PM at the RCD Office in Capitola. Howard Liebenberg moved to adjourn at 8:35PM. Margaret Kinda seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.


Jim McKenna
Director, Board of Directors

(TC JM)