RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 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, May 11, 2011** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present:	Howard Liebenberg
	Jim McKenna, President
	David Moeller
	John Ricker
	Roberta Smith
Directors Absent:	Margaret Kinda
	Mike Manfre, Vice President
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder
	Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance
	Alicia Moss, Program Specialist
	Nik Strong-Cvetich, Program Specialist
Others Present:	George McManamin, Restoration Consultant

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:40PM with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. The Board agreed to allow Nik Strong-Cvetich and Alicia Moss to present their Action Items after the Welcome and Introductions.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Weed Management Authority Letter of Support – Nik circulated a letter of support for the Weed Management Area Program he drafted on behalf of Mike Manfre. The letter outlines the success of the program and the continued threat exotic weeds pose to both agriculture and wildlands. Dave Moeller moved to accept the WMA letter of support. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Resolution 2011-04 – Nik explained to the Board that the California Department of Forestry is requiring the District approve a resolution authorizing the RCDSCC to enter into an agreement with the state to accept funds on behalf of the Weed Management Area of Santa Cruz County. The resolution also appoints the Board President to sign the Agreement. After discussion, John Ricker moved approval of Resolution 2011-04. Dave Moeller seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. *(Nik leaves the meeting)*

Resolution 2011-03 – Alicia told the Board that Resolution 2011-03 authorizes the District to accept funds from the California Department of Fish and Game to install large woody debris structures in San Vicente Creek to create habitat complexity. Howard Liebenberg moved to approve Resolution 2011-03 as presented. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. *(Alicia leaves meeting)*

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

George McManamin gave a brief introduction of the work he has been doing for both the RCD and the City of Capitola. He handed out "Summarized Response to Questions of Continued RCDSCC Involvement in Restoration Efforts on the Lower Reaches of Soquel Creek". He highlighted the main points of the document and expressed his commitment to working on restoration projects on Soquel Creek. His goal is to determine whether the RCDSCC wishes to continue committing

resources to restoration efforts on Soquel Creek and at what level the District wants to be involved. He told the Board that he would be available to answer any questions and looks forward to hearing from the Board regarding this issue. *(George leaves the meeting)*

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the April 13, 2011 meeting minutes. John Ricker moved to accept the May 13, 2011 meeting minutes as corrected. Dave Moeller seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

REPORTS

NRCS Reports

No reports were given.

BUDGET & FINANCE

2010-2011 Expenditures – The April 2011 Expenditures were circulated for approval. John Ricker questioned the $75/month water bill. Sharon explained that the cost has gone up as there are so many on staff between the RCD and NRCS. John pointed out that Suite 136 has a kitchen with tap water available; he suggested using a Brita style filter. Howard also questioned the cost of health and dental benefits. Sharon explained that the number looks higher than it really as since the RCD is now paying the full cost of benefits (i.e., employee and employer premiums) and then getting reimbursed for the employees portion. After discussion, John Ricker moved to accept the April 2011 Expenditures. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

(return to) ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Potential Claims Against the District Policy – The policy was not ready for review.

AGWA Coordinator Agreement for Port District – John Ricker explained that the Port District is negotiating a replacement for the AGWA Coordinator. The Port District would like to contract with the District to administer and oversee the position. Sharon discussed the cost of administering such a position and the benefit and liabilities were discussed by Sharon and the Board. After consideration, Dave Moeller moved to appoint John Ricker to negotiate the AGWA contract with the Port District. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

SB586 Letter of Support – The Board discussed the letter of support for SB586. After discussion they decided to take no action on the letter, citing discomfort with taking a stance on such an issue. The Board suggested that if there were strong feeling from staff regarding the letter, that a new letter be drafted that was short and concise and related the merits of the legislation to the mission of the District.

REPORTS

Staff Reports

Sharon reported that she received a draft lease from LOMAK Properties to extend the current lease for another 3 years. Sharon pointed out that the lease calls for an annual increase based on CPI with a minimum increase of three percent. Tangi agreed to contact LOMAK and negotiate the increase to a straight three percent after the Board discussed the need for the District to plan for and budget the annual increase.

John and Sharon talked about the need to hire a Program Manager and that Arianne Rettinger is working on a job description for this position. Sharon said the goal is to have someone hired by July 1. In addition, she told the Board that another staff person will need to be hired for the Department of Conservation Watershed Coordinator position. Sharon said the RCD is looking into pushing this grant back so that it will start later in the year, but at this point it is unclear how much flexibility will be permitted.

Sharon updated the Board on the MANA grant and said that of the $300,000 grant, only $40,000 has been spent to date. That leaves $260,000 for the second year, which may be difficult to spend in one year; the RCD is hoping to extend this grant as well.

Written Communications

Written communications were received and circulated from NACD (2010 Annual Report).

Calendar Dates

No Dates were mentioned

Directors/Associate Directors Reports

Jim McKenna told the Board that at the last Fund Development Strategy meeting the consultant encouraged the Board to pick a date for a half day Board Retreat for June. The goal of this meeting is to discuss and brainstorm avenues for fund development for the District. The Board highlighted dates that would not work, and asked Tangi to conduct a "Doodle poll" to find dates that would work for all members of the Board. Jim said that the retreat would be held at the Community Foundation.

John Ricker reported that the Proposition 50 sub-agreements have been amended to extend budgets for projects. He said that though he forgot to include the District's Proposition 50 sub-agreements he would do that within the next month. John said that 60% of the budget should be spent by 2012, with the remaining 40% left for the subsequent year. Sharon said that staff time needs to be adjusted now to reflect the extension. John then went to report on Proposition 84 funding which will fund two IWRM projects in which the District is involved. John told the Board that he wrote a letter on behalf of the RCD regarding the proposed projects.

Dave Moeller gave a report of the Farm Bureau's new promotional DVD premier that he attended. He said the event was a lot of fun with 135 people in attendance. The event was held at the Cabrillo Horticultural Center.

Sharon said that she attended the Agricultural Ladies Lunch.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The meeting closed at 8:20PM. The next **Board Meeting will be on June 8, 2011 at 6:30PM at the RCD Office in Capitola.**

Jim McKenna
Director, Board of Directors

(TC: JM)