



## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 8, 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 6.39PM, June 8, 2011 at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010

Directors Present	Mike Manfre, Vice President Jim McKenna, President David Moeller John Ricker Roberta Smith
Directors Absent	Margaret Kinda Howard Liebenberg
Associate Directors Present	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present	Tangi Chapman, Recorder Kelli Camara, Program Manager Alicia Moss, Program Specialist

### WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6 39PM with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. The Board agreed to allow Rich Casale and Alicia Moss to present their Agenda Items after approval of the Minutes.

### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications.

### MINUTES

The Board reviewed the May 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.

### BUDGET & FINANCE

2010-2011 Expenditures – No expenditures were discussed.

### REPORTS

#### NRCS Reports

Rich Casale spoke to the Board regarding changes in office staff. He has a new Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) intern for 10 weeks. Rich explained that after the students graduate they are guaranteed a job with NRCS. He also will have two student interns over the summer. His current SCEP student Angie will be graduating soon and will move to a permanent position. She will be splitting her time between Santa Cruz and Hollister. Rich said that he has been very busy with 13 contracts in the queue for this construction season. Rich has met with stakeholders to discuss the potential for Forestry EQIP funding that would be specific to forestry. This would allow forestry projects to not have to compete with agriculture programs. Rich will be holding a workshop at Quail Hollow Ranch titled Healthy Horse and Watershed Workshop. He said that Angie Stuart will be presenting at the workshop. Rich then told the Board that the Monterey Bay region has been selected as a pilot area to launch the Federal government's new "Americas Great Outdoors Initiative." He will be attending a meeting June 17<sup>th</sup> to find out more about the program. Kelli said that she and Karen have both been invited to the event as well. Rich Casale mentioned that the Conservation Blue Print for Santa Cruz County has been released. He then told Board that he has gone on 25 site visits to properties that were damaged by the March storms. Of

the 25, twelve had a NRCS state engineer along to look at potential for Emergency Watershed Protection. He thought that two of those were eligible for the assistance program. He went on to say that there is no money available for EWP, but the area office requested he document and apply for assistance anyway to show that there is a need for such a program. He said that regardless if whether these projects receive funding, the landowners did benefit from getting direction and guidance on what they will need to do to stabilize their properties.

Mike Manfre and Rich then inform the Board of the Central Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council (CCRC&D) meeting they attended in May. Rich reminded the Board that NRCS pulled the funding for the CCRC&D coordinator back in February. Without the coordinator, the organization, which is a 501c(3), has been trying to figure out how to proceed. The meeting was intended to be a brainstorming session to help identify the next moves for the organization. Mike noted that there have been many valuable partnerships that have been fostered by CCRC&D. However, Mike questioned whether the Council was still necessary, or if the goals could be accomplished by other organizations like the RCDs. The Board discussed the many programs that have been sponsored and/or initiated by the Council. Mike said that at the end of the CCRC&D meeting it was decided that each representative go back to their District and contact their Supervisor for a meeting. Mike said that he would schedule a meeting in July to talk to Ellen Pirie, Second District Supervisor, and then report back to the Board and the Council.

## ACTION ITEMS

### Program Discussion Items

San Vicente Large Woody Debris Bid Process Approval – Alicia Moss informed the Board that the San Vicente Large Woody Debris Project is ready to send out to bid. She explained that since the project falls under tier 3 of the bid approval process (projects greater than \$100,000), board approval is required before the project can be sent out to bid. Alicia told the Board that the project consists of nine large woody debris structures which will add habitat complexity to the stretch of San Vicente Creek, referred to as the “bowling alley reaches”, between the two projects that were completed in 2008-2009. John Ricker moved approval of the San Vicente Large Woody Debris Bid Process. Dave Moeller seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. Kelli noted that the project falls under the Partners in Restoration, which is currently up for renewal. This project cannot be awarded to contractor until the permits are secured. Alicia anticipates that construction will begin in August or September and should take approximately six weeks to complete.

Potential Claims Against the District – John Ricker requested Tangi discuss with Teresa Rein the wording of the policy and to clarify with the Insurance Carrier if potential claims under a certain threshold should just be paid out-of-pocket.

Soquel State Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee Appointment – Tangi circulated a letter from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to Steve Butler requesting he sit on the Soquel Demonstration State Forest Advisory Committee as a Representative of the District. She continued by explaining that Steve contacted her to place the topic on the Agenda for the Board’s approval. Several Board members said that they would want to make sure that he was representing the mission of the District while on the Advisory Committee and that he report on the Committee meetings regularly. John Ricker moved to approve Steve Butler to the Soquel State Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee on the condition that he agrees to consult and confer with staff and/or the Board, represent the mission of the RCD and provide a timely report on Committee meetings. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

SDRMA Elections – The Board looked at the ballot and it was decided that Roberta would further investigate the candidates and then report her recommendation back to the Board at the July 2011 Board Meeting.

## REPORTS

### Staff Reports

Kelli informed the Board that staff had an afternoon retreat at Karen Christensen’s house on Monday. She went on to report that she and Karen Christensen attended the Integrated Resource Watershed Management (IRWM) steering committee meeting earlier in the week. Kelli then updated the Board on personnel matters. Kelli told the Board that the District has hired Susan Pearce as a Program Manager. Susan will be working 10 hours through the summer and then will increase to 20 hours per week in September. Kelli said that she will continue to concentrate on technical assistance remotely, while Sue will be handling the day to day managing of programs. In addition, John Morley, from the Watershed Stewardship Program, will be transitioning into a Program Assistant position when his Americorp contract is complete this August. He will be working on helping Nik Strong-Cvetich with extra projects like the Weed Management Authority, Pollinator Programs, and the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program. She has interviewed Michael Johnson, a

promising candidate for the Integrated Nutrient Management grant. In addition, she is working on hiring a contract employee for Hispanic outreach for the MANA grant.

Kelli said that she was approached by George McManamin regarding his presentation to the Board last month. Kelli indicated she would look at the document that he presented and will give her recommendations. She said that at this time the District does not have the resources to be effective in exotic weed restoration.

Kelli then updated the Board on a 10 year management plan the District has been working on for a Watsonville Slough property. She explained that the process has taken a controversial turn. Kelli visited the site with Jerry Bush, Donna Meyers, Gary Kittleson and Ross Clark. The goal of the landowners is to continue production agriculture on the property and Kelli is developing the management plan that will encompass three lease cycles. However, due to the fact that the land was purchased with public funds, interest in the property has been coming from all sides and has put the RCD in an awkward position.

#### Written Communications

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

#### Calendar Dates

June	13	RCD Strategic Planning Meeting, Community Foundation, Aptos, 12:00pm-4:00pm
July	23	Davenport Geologic Society Meeting, Swanton Pacific Ranch, Little Creek House, all day event with tour

#### Directors/Associate Directors Reports

John Ricker reported that the AGWA negotiations have stalled. The Port District has a limited amount of funding available for the staff position and available will not give enough hours to be effective. The Board discussed possible scenarios for filling the position. Kelli said that she will look at the possibility of cofounding the position with the Port District.

John Ricker said that the Conservation Blue Print for Santa Cruz County has been released and that there were many new faces at the public meeting to release the document. John described the document as vague on next steps, but overall very informative.

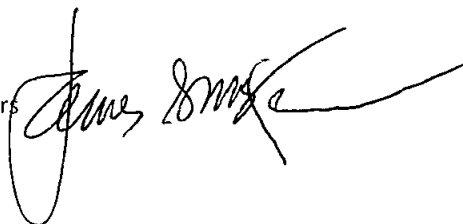
Roberta Smith reported on a meeting she attended by CalTrans to look at bridge replacements on Highway 1 at Scotts Creek and Waddell Creek. She said the meeting was interesting and well attended by locals concerned about the impact of the projects.

#### NEXT MEETING

##### Date/ Agenda Items

The meeting closed at 8:30PM. The next **Board Meeting will be on July 13, 2011 at 6:30PM at the RCD Office in Capitola**. John requested that the Proposition 50 funding agreement be placed on the agenda for July.

Jim McKenna  
Director, Board of Directors



(TC JM)