RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2013 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 **6:50PM, March 12, 2013** by Board Chair Jim McKenna at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present:	Howard Liebenberg
	Jim McKenna, President
	Mike Manfre, Vice President
	John Ricker
Directors Absent:	Gordon Claassen
	David Moeller
	Roberta Smith
Associate Directors Present:	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder
	Karen Christensen, Executive Director
	Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance
	Sue Pearce, Director of Program Operations
NRCS:	Rich Casale, District Conservationist

REPORTS

RCD Staff Update

Karen began the meeting with Staff updates as there was not a quorum present for action items. She reported that Lisa Lurie and Alicia Moss have begun working full time for the District. Sharon informed the Board that she has received the Draft Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Audit report. She was pleased to report that many of the processes that have been put in place to track financial and grant information have made it easier to retrieve documents for the auditor. She said that there were two findings in the audit. One showed that the Davis Bacon labor compliance issue from the previous audit had been cleared. The second finding deals with the District's financial controls and for preparing audit statements. The finding was dismissed since, given our size, we are doing the best we can. Sharon reported that she needs only confirm a few numbers before finalizing the audit report.

(Howard Liebenberg entered)

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting formally opened at 6:50PM with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. Tangi requested an agenda item be added to action items. She explained that John Morley is working on a grant proposal that calls for a resolution of the Board to apply for a State Water Resources Control Board grant application. The grant application is due prior to the next Board meeting. John Ricker moved to add Resolution 2013-03 to the Agenda action items. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. Resolution 2013-03 was then added to action items.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the February 13, 2013 meeting minutes. John Ricker moved to approve the February 13, 2013 meeting minutes as presented. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

BUDGET & FINANCE

2012-2013 February Expenditures – The February 2013 expenditures were reviewed by the Board. Sharon told the Board that the Fuels Reduction grant ended in February and many of the expenditures were related to wrapping up that grant. In addition, the C12 and C13 Proposition 50 grant program is coming to a close and many of the expenditures are related to wrapping up of those projects from the last construction season. After examination of the specific line items, Howard Liebenberg moved approval of the February 2013 expenditures. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Community Water Dialogue– Karen Christensen reported on the Community Water Dialogue effort that the District and partners have been engaged in over the past several years. She highlighted the many successes of the program including the Managed Aquifer Recharge and the Wireless Irrigation Network. In addition, the effort has changed the tone of water conservation and supply in the region from contentious to collaborative. Karen noted that the CWD partners are working on a plan for the future and have discussed options for moving forward. Karen explained that the District has been approached to be the fiscal agent in the next phase of the CDW. The CWD partners are working on a draft decision making agreement which will define the roles and responsibilities of each of the partners involved. The Board discussed the benefits of the relationship and felt favorable to move forward on an agreement with the CWD. Karen will keep the Board informed of any developments and will bring the draft agreement when it is ready.

Resolution 2013-02 – Kelly Camara presented the Board with Resolution 2013-02. The resolution authorizes the District to enter into an agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and designates a representative to negotiate and sign the agreements and any amendments for the Pacheco Creek Grant. Kelli explained that the project will be in the Upper Pajaro watershed and involves a study of dam operations at a small reservoir operated by the San Benito Water District. The site is near San Luis Reservoir and will look at alternatives to current dam operations that will have a positive impact on native fish. John Ricker moved to adopt Resolution 2013-02 as presented. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. As a side note Mike Manfre brought up the Central Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council and how they might be involved in projects such as this that span RCD boundaries. Mike told the Board that the Council is looking for direction and he suggested that there may be opportunities to get them involved. Karen said that she will be in Sacramento the following week and will work with CARCD to discuss opportunities and a possible path forward for the Council.

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NRCS Update

Rich Casale circulated the NRCS activity log for February. Highlights included training an RCD staff member to become a certified Conservation Planner. In addition, Rich visited several Rural Roads program sites and is working with Kelli Camara on several potential Permit Coordination projects. Rich told the Board that the State Conservationist Carlos Suarez will be visiting the area briefly on April 25 from 10:00AM to 12:00PM and then for lunch. Rich encouraged the RCD to take part in his visit to the area and will let the Board know of plans for the day as they develop. Rich is also holding a tour with on April 11th to work on relationships with organic farmers. Karen will work with staff to get RCD participation. In addition, Rich reported that the RCD and NRCS will be hosting the Ag Water Quality Alliance meeting in April. Rich is working on the details for the meeting. Finally, Rich reminded the Board that the NRCS/RCD Mutual and Cooperative Agreements must be renewed by April 28th, he will work with Tangi to get on the next agenda.

(Kelli Camara, Rich Casale and Karen Christensen exited the meeting)

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Program Discussion Items

LAFCO Election – Tangi circulated the candidate applications for the LAFCO regular and alternate members. The Board discussed the various candidates and their relationships to the RCD. Then, the Board agreed to vote for Jim Andersen for the regular member and Edward Banks for the alternate member.

REPORTS

Written Communications

Written communications were circulated from the Local Agency Formation Commission regarding the LAFCO Agenda for their March 6, 2013 meeting, as well as their proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Calendar Dates

March 23, 2013 – Eco Event at the Santa Cruz Warriors Game, 7:00PM in Santa Cruz

Directors/Associate Directors Reports

No Directors/Associate Directors gave reports.

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Program Discussion Items

Resolution 2013-03 – Tangi Chapman presented the Board with Resolution 2013-03, a resolution to submit a grant proposal to the State of California for an IRWM Implementation Grant for the Delaveaga Park Service Road project. John Ricker questioned the resolution since all IRWM Implementation grants must be approved by the Integrated Regional Water Management Foundation committee in order to be submitted. He was unaware of any such grant proposal being approved. Tangi explained that she was approached by John Morley earlier in the day to try to get the resolution to the Board before the proposal filing date and that she did not have further information regarding the need for the resolution. The Board then initiated a call to John Morley who gave some background on the grant proposal. After discussion, John Ricker moved approval of Resolution 2013-03 pending confirmation from John Morley that the District could write an IRWM Implementation grant for the proposed project. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

John Ricker moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:13PM. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The next **Board Meeting will be on April 10, 2013 at 6:30PM at the RCD of Santa Cruz County Office at 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136.**

Jim McKenna
President, Board of Directors

(TC: JM)