RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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MINUTES OF THE MAY 15, 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 **6:08PM, May 15, 2013** by Board Chair Jim McKenna at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present:	Gordon Claassen
	Howard Liebenberg
	Mike Manfre, Vice President
	David Moeller
	John Ricker
	Roberta Smith
Directors Absent:	Jim McKenna, President
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder
	Karen Christensen, Executive Director
	Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance
	Kelli Camara, Director of Technical Operations
	Sacha Lozano, Grant Manager
	Susan Pearce, Director of Program Operations
Others Present:	David Batker, Earth Economics

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:08PM with a quorum present. Mike Manfre chaired the meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the April 10, 2013 meeting minutes. Howard Liebenberg moved to approve the April 10, 2013 meeting minutes as presented. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

BUDGET & FINANCE

2012-2013 April Expenditures – The April 2013 expenditures were reviewed by the Board. Sharon told the Board that C-12 and C-13 have closed, but the District has not yet received the final payments for those programs. Gordon Claassen moved approval of the April 2013 expenditures. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

LAFCO Runoff Election – The Board reviewed the candidates for the LAFCO runoff election. After review and discussion, John Ricker moved to vote for Jim Anderson for the regular Special District member and John Hunt for the alternate Special District member on the LAFCO Board of Directors. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Personnel Handbook – Sue Pearce presented the Board with a draft of the Personnel Handbook. She requested that a subcommittee of the Board meet to review and make recommendations regarding the document. Gordon Claassen moved to appoint Roberta Smith and possibly Dave Moeller and Jim McKenna to the subcommittee to review the Personnel Handbook. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

PRESENTATION

Ecosystem Services – Earth Economics

David Batker from Earth Economics gave a presentation regarding Ecosystem Services and how he and his organization are evaluating ecosystems in economic terms. In his presentation, Mr. Batker illustrated that the current built environment has known costs and values. However, he went on to say that many of the economic benefits that society receives from the natural environment in the form of clean drinking water, healthy soil and soil invertebrates, as well as, buffers to climate change and storm damage are largely unknown. His organization has developed matrices to evaluate the natural environment in economic terms. Mr. Batker gave several examples of projects he has worked on including evaluating the damage accessed by Hurricane Katrina. His organization was able to give a value per mile of intact coastal wetlands and dunes based on the cost of repairing the damage caused by the storm in areas where there was little or no coastal buffer due to development. Locally, Mr. Batker is working with the RCD, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and the Mid-Peninsula Open Space District on the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Ecosystem Services and Coastal Conservancy Ecosystem Services grants to create a report that can be used by local landowners, managers and representatives to make informed decisions about public and private land. John Ricker requested that if the Board has any examples of practices that make the Ecosystem Services concepts tie to local reality they should submit them to Sacha so that they could be included in the report. Mr. Batker concurred that any local stories would be an excellent complement to the report. The Board thanked Mr. Batker for the excellent presentation.

Personnel (Closed Session)

The Board entered into a closed session to discuss personnel matters.

Personnel (Open Session)

The Board reported that Karen Christensen has requested a leave-of-absence until after Labor Day. Donna Meyers has offered to step in as the Interim Executive Director while Karen is on leave. Dave Moeller made a motion to appoint Donna Meyers as acting Executive Director and to grant Karen's leave-of-absence, returning to work after Labor Day 2013. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

REPORTS

Directors/Associate Directors Reports

Gordon Claassen reported on a low stress stockmanship / stock handling workshop that Tina Williams and Richard Connell taught at Cal Poly Swanton Pacific Ranch in Davenport. The class was held on Thursday, May 9 with a hands-on training Friday, May 10. The workshop was put together by Kent Reeves.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

Gordon Claassen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06PM. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The next **Board Meeting will be on June 12, 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)