



**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 15, 2014 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 6:33PM, January 15, 2014 by Board Chair Jim McKenna at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

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| Directors Present: | Gordon Claassen Howard Liebenberg Jim McKenna, President John Ricker Roberta Smith |
| Directors Absent: | Mike Manfre, Vice President David Moeller |
| Associate Directors Present: | Kathryn Tobisch |
| RCD Staff Present: | Tangi Chapman, Recorder Karen Christensen, Executive Director Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance Susan Pearce, Program Director |
| NRCS Staff present: | Rich Casale, District Conservationist April Jernberg, Soil Conservationist |
| Others Present: | Betty Henri-Ellsworth Ross McClenahan, Tree Top Web Design |

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:33PM with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Betty Henri-Ellsworth reminded the Board that she is still interested in finding a way to preserve her 32 acres in perpetuity. Donna Meyers visited the property and has been in communication with Ms Henri-Ellsworth to find a way that the District or another organization might be able to assist her. She shared some of the history and a stylized drawing of the property.

(Ms Henri-Ellsworth left the meeting)

REPORTS

Staff Reports

Susan Pearce introduced Ross McClenahan of Tree Top Web Design. Mr McClenahan has been working with staff to redesign the website. He then gave a tour of the new website. The Board was impressed with the simplicity and easy, intuitive navigation through the site. The website will be launched in early February.

(Ms Tobisch left the meeting)

Susan gave a brief staff update. She told the Board that there are 13 to 14 Partners in Restoration projects slated for next construction season. In addition staff is working with Donna Meyers to create a three year business plan. She also noted that the District and NRCS would be hosting the Blue Circle Meeting February 12 at the UCSC Arboretum.

(Mr McClenahan and Ms Pearce left the meeting)

NRCS Reports

Rich Casale introduced April Jernberg to the Board. She was hired in December to replace Angie Quintana-Jones. April will be in the office three days a week and in Salinas and San Mateo County the rest of the week. In addition, Daniel Little has been hired as the new engineer and started earlier in the week; he replaces Bruce Quintana-Jones. He will be in the office three days a week and Half-Moon Bay the rest of the week. Rich then highlighted items from the Activity Report. He mentioned that the State Conservationist, Carlos Suarez, will be visiting the area February 11-13 and encouraged the District to meet with him while he is in the area. Rich said that there has been much discussion about the drought and he

has been working to bring crop relief to area farmers that will be adversely affected by the lack of water for growing crops. Howard Liebenberg reported on a procedure he saw done at a horse arena to reduce water use and dust. The procedure can cut water use in half.

(Mr Casale and Ms Jernberg left the meeting)

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the October 9, 2013 meeting minutes. John Ricker moved approval of the October 9, 2013 meeting minutes as corrected. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

The Board reviewed the November 22, 2013 meeting minutes. Howard Liebenberg moved approval of the November 22, 2013 meeting minutes as corrected. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

BUDGET & FINANCE

FY 2013-2014 October Expenditures – The October 2013 expenditures were reviewed by the Board. Roberta Smith moved approval of the October 2013 expenditures. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

FY 2013-2014 November Expenditures – The November 2013 expenditures were reviewed by the Board. Howard Liebenberg moved approval of the November 2013 expenditures. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

FY 2013-2014 December Expenditures – The December 2013 expenditures were reviewed by the Board. Howard Liebenberg moved approval of the December 2013 expenditures. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Resolution 2014-01 – Tangi Chapman presented the Board with Resolution 2014-01 which gives Board consent to apply for grant funds available through CalRecycle as well as to authorize the Board President or designee to sign the application. John Ricker moved approval of Resolution 2014-01. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

Resolution 2014-02 – Tangi Chapman presented the Board with Resolution 2014-02 which gives Board consent to apply for grant funds with the California State Wildlife Conservation Board as well as to authorize the Board President or designee to sign the application. Gordon Claassen moved approval of Resolution 2014-02. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

Contractor Prepayment – Sharon Corkrean, Karen Christensen and the Board discussed the issue of contractor prepayment. After discussion the Board felt that the current policy adequately handles contractor payment and that the District should continue to hold payment to contractors until the District has been paid for their work by the funder. The Board suggested that when contracting on Department of Water Resources funds the contracts should be clear that payment could take 180 days. This way the contractor understands up front the wait time for payment.

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Directors/Associate Directors Reports

Roberta Smith reported on the possible fate of the CEMEX property and concerns she and others have with the possible outcomes.

Howard Liebenberg commented on the drought and observations he has made of birds drinking out of the culvert and a perennial spring that has gone dry on his property.

Gordon Claassen reported on a UC Extension Drought Workshop meeting he will be attending January 29 in Browns Valley. He also commented on the drought and steps that Swanton Pacific Ranch has put in place to deal with the lack of water.

Written Communications

Tangi Chapman shared written communications from SDRMA.

Calendar Dates

February 12, 2014 – Blue Circle at UC Santa Cruz Arboretum 3:00PM to 6:00PM

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21PM. The next meeting will be held February 19, 2014.

Jim McKenna
President, Board of Directors
(TC: JM)



2-19-14