



**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 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 **6:43PM, April 9, 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
Mike Manfre, Vice President
Jim McKenna, President
John Ricker
Roberta Smith |
| Directors Absent: | Howard Liebenberg |
| RCD Staff Present: | Tangi Chapman, Recorder
Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance
Susan Pearce, Interim Executive Director |
| Others Present: | Matt Freeman
Kellyx Nelson, San Mateo RCD – Executive Director |

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:43PM with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. Introductions were made.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Matt Freeman from the Santa Clara Open Space Authority presented a resolution by his Board of Directors honoring the work of Karen Christensen in her groundbreaking leadership on ecosystem services among other things. He gave kudos and shared his appreciation of Karen’s work through the years. On behalf of Karen, the Board accepted the resolution and shared in the admiration of her work.

Kellyx Nelson communicated that the San Mateo RCD Board of Directors also wrote a resolution honoring Karen and her efforts to help rebuild the San Mateo RCD. In addition, she told the Board that she would be available to help in the transition to the new Executive Director and would continue to advocate at the state level for the initiatives that she and Karen have championed in recent years. She spoke of her relationship and collaboration efforts with Karen through the years. Kellyx also gave an update on efforts she has been making to keep the IWRP torch moving forward. The Board thanked Kellyx for coming to the meeting and lending a hand to the District. In addition, the Board gave support to Kellyx to advocate on behalf of the RCD of Santa Cruz County to the California Coastal Conservancy.

REPORTS

NRCS Reports

The NRCS activity report was circulated for the Board to review.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the March 12, 2014 meeting minutes. John Ricker moved approval of the March 12, 2014 meeting minutes. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

BUDGET & FINANCE

FY 2013-2014 February Expenditures – The March 2014 expenditures were reviewed by the Board. Sharon highlighted that two grants were wrapping up this month. Roberta Smith moved approval of the March 2014 expenditures. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried. Sharon Corkrean reported that the FY 2012-2013 Financial Audit has been completed and submitted to state and federal agencies.

(Mike Manfre entered the meeting)

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Resolution 2014-04 – Tangi Chapman presented the Board with Resolution 2014-04 to replace Karen Christensen as Trustee of the RCD 401(k) retirement plan. Roberta Smith moved to approve Resolution 2014-04 appointing Jim McKenna as Trustee of the RCD of Santa Cruz County 401(k) retirement plan. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

1010 Adoption/Amendment of Policies – Susan Pearce requested that this action item be moved to next month.

AB 1961 Letter of Support – Susan Pearce presented AB 1961 Sustainable Farmland Security Act. She explained that this is a revision of the previous Sustainable Farmland Security Act which contained language for one to one mitigation of farmland for each acreage that is removed from production. This new version has no one to one requirement, rather the intention of the act would “require counties to develop a Sustainable Farmland Strategy, which includes maps of agriculturally-zoned lands and local goals, policies and ordinances for the retention and mitigation of agriculturally-zoned lands.” The Board discussed the merits of the act and expressed their concerns. The Board felt that Santa Cruz County already had very strong Agricultural zoning rules and regulations. The act does not offer any financial support for conducting such inventories which could put strain on local agencies. The Board requested that Kelli Camara contact California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN) and get more details regarding the proposed act and to relay the Boards concerns and bring the Letter of Support back to the next meeting.

Return to REPORTS

Staff Updates

Susan gave the Board updates on staff activities. She also updated the Board on the Executive Director hiring process. The District received 14 applications which were then scored. The top 8 were then forwarded to the hiring committee who then narrowed the applications down to 4 to be interviewed. The committee will then select two or three to move on to the final interview which will include the full board and selected staff. Jim McKenna suggested, as part of the interview, candidates prepare a 10 to 15 minute presentation on a specified topic.

Susan updated the Board on grant proposals that staff have been working to secure. She reported that the District will receive funding through the Wildlife Conservation Board to implement six projects. The District is working with Sustainable Conservation to submit a regional grant proposal.

Susan then informed the Board that Sacha Lozano is on a temporary work visa which is held by the District. His visa will expire this fall and he is currently working to secure a permanent visa. He is looking for letters of support.

Susan gave an update on the College Lake Study that the District has been coordinating. CBEC has been working on the study; it has been behind schedule due to reimbursement and stop work delays. The study will explore options and to make informed decisions regarding to management of the College Lake area. She went on further to inform the Board that the Pajaro Valley Water Management Area is about to publish their draft EIR on the Programmatic Basin Plan and there have been concerns raised that PVWMA should wait until the College Lake Study has been completed before the draft EIR is released.

Directors/Associate Directors Reports

John Ricker shared that he and Susan Pearce went to a Coastal Conservancy meeting at which Karen Christensen was honored for her work.

Gordon Claassen informed the group that he will be attending a Rangeland Coalition Meeting.

Written Communications

No written communications were given.

Calendar Dates

April 23, 2014 – Area RCD Meeting hosted by Cachuma RCD

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57PM. The next meeting will be held May 14, 2014.

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

