

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 13, 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 **6:33 PM, August 13, 2014** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present:	Jim McKenna, President Gordon Claassen Howard Liebenberg Mike Manfre, Vice President John Ricker Robert Ketley Roberta Smith
Directors Absent:	None
RCD Staff Present:	Susan Pearce, Program Director, Recorder Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance Chris Coburn, Executive Director
NRCS Staff Present	Rich Casale, District Conservationist

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the July 9, 2014 meeting minutes. Howard Liebenberg moved approval of the July 9, 2014 meeting minutes. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

BUDGET & FINANCE

FY 2013-2014 June Expenditures – The June 2014 expenditures were reviewed by the Board. Sharon Corkrean reported that certain of the items that Kelli Camara submitted had been adjusted to different categories but that the totals remained the same. Roberta Smith moved approval of the June 2014 expenditures. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

FY 2013-2014 July Expenditures – The July 2014 expenditures were reviewed by the Board. There was a discussion about how Kelli Camara's mileage is budgeted. The Board discussed whether the RCD should consider hiring Ms. Camara as an employee of the District. Chris Coburn and Sharon Corkrean will discuss the issue with Ms. Camara and report back to the Board in October. Howard Liebenberg moved approval of the July 2014 expenditures. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

FY 2014-2015 Final Budget – Sharon presented the Board with the FY 2014-2015 Final Budget. She stated that it was similar to the draft budget she submitted last month. She included two proposed grants that we have not secured but did not include a couple of small grants from USFWS that have just come in. John Ricker moved approval of the 2014-2015 Final Budget. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS

Cost Allocation Plan. Sharon indicated that the RCD is still researching consultants to complete a CAP. She will continue to report on this during upcoming meetings.

NRCS Report

The NRCS activity report was circulated for the Board to review. Rich Casale highlighted several items on the report including Rural Roads site visits with Angela Gruys and serving on the EcoFarm Conference planning team. Rich will be presenting at EcoFarm on forgotten practices for saving water on the farm. He attended the Pinto Lake TMDL meeting and participated in a meeting with RCD staff at the Farm Bureau. NRCS currently has four new interns. The NRCS vehicle is being used a lot by NRCS and Rich wants to make NRCS vehicles available to RCD staff also. Kay Joy Barge, Assistant State Conservationist has put in a request for a new vehicle that can carry more passengers than the current truck. NRCS got five EQIP applications; three were from vineyards, one an egg operation, and one on crop land. Rich is hopeful that all five will be funded, and will find out this week. The number of applications was very low this year. The RCD was asked to submit a full proposal for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Resolution 2014-09 - Chris Coburn reported that the County, the RCD, the Water Districts, and the Regional Water Management Foundation have been working on preparing the updated Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) plan. Comprehensive analysis of water issues in the region with strategies for addressing those issues. This is also the basis for awarding certain state grant funds. John Ricker reported that the plan was a complete update from the previous plan and that the committee worked to identify the current state of water issues in the county and reflect those in the updated plan. John Ricker moved approval of Resolution 2014-09. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Director and Associate Director Policies – Susan Pearce reported that we have converted the old policies into our current format for Board discussion. The Board wants to know how much latitude it has to set duties and responsibilities. The Board asked if the Public Resources Code has any restrictions on this. RCD Staff will ask CARCD and the Board of Supervisors if they have any models or resources to help our Board understand this better. The Board noted that under the old policy guidelines, there are many requirements for Associate Directors that our current Associate Directors are not meeting. The Board talked about adjusting these requirements to reflect that the RCD may have an interest in having Associate Directors represent different skills and viewpoints who may represent the District in certain circumstances who may not fit the old qualifications. RCD Staff can ask CARCD if they have any models of Associate Director Policies as well. The Board requested that Tangi Chapman send a message to the Associate Directors to get their ideas of their role and what it should be.

Conflict of Interest Code – This will need to be reviewed and updated by October. We will present it at the next meeting.

REPORTS

Staff Reports – Chris Coburn reported that he has completed his employment with the County and is solely employed by the RCD. He also reported that a \$7.54 Billion Water Bond was passed by the State Legislature today. He has been working over the past several months to provide input to our elected representatives on the bond. Sooni Gillett will be leaving the RCD at the end of the next month to pursue a larger role at the Raechel and Jackie Foundation. The Proposition 84 INM grant has been signed and is in place. The Climate Ready Grant has also recently been contracted for and will undertake Managed Aquifer Recharge mapping. We are working hard to get bids for this season's construction projects, working on a second round application for the Wildlife Conservation Board and have submitted two Fisheries Restoration Grant Program proposals.

Director Reports – Gordon Claassen reported that he attended a meeting with BLM now that they have taken over the Coast Dairies Property (except the row crop land. On Tuesday he will be going to a workshop on low stress livestock handling at Tomcat Ranch.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were no written communications.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM. The next meeting will be held before September 9, 2014 because we need to have the Pajaro IRWM plan adopted by September 9. Tangi Chapman will poll the Board Members as soon as practicable. Mike Manfre requested an agenda item for the RCD staff to report on the RCD social media program.

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

