



**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 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 **6:38 PM, September 8, 2014** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

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| Directors Present: | Jim McKenna, President
Gordon Claassen
Robert Ketley
Roberta Smith |
| Directors Absent: | Howard Liebenberg
Mike Manfre, Vice President
John Ricker |
| RCD Staff Present: | Tangi Chapman, Recorder
Chris Coburn, Executive Director |
| NRCS Staff Present | Rich Casale, District Conservationist |

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:38PM without a quorum; the Board decided to proceed with non-action items.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications.

REPORT

NRCS Report

The NRCS activity report was circulated for the Board to review. Rich updated the Board on the many workshops he has given in the past month, including presentations at the Homeless Garden Project, High Ground Organics, and a farm tour for Hartnell College students. Rich has been coordinating workshops for the EcoFarm Conference where he will be giving a presentation entitled "Forgotten Practices."

(Jim McKenna entered the meeting at 6:45PM and formed a quorum)

Rich told the Board that he currently has four volunteers and had to create a waiting list for the next quarter. He has three students from UCSC and one Harbor High student. Rich continues to "beat the water conservation drum." He will be helping to coordinate the Local Working Group meeting for the rollout of the 2015 Farm Bill. This is a time for the community and interested groups to provide input on the focus and eligibility requirements of federal funds. He said the meeting will likely be a joint meeting with Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for the last week of September or beginning of October.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the August 13, 2014 meeting minutes. Gordon Claassen moved approval of the August 13, 2014 meeting minutes. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

BUDGET & FINANCE

FY 2013-2014 August Expenditures – The August 2014 expenditures were reviewed by the Board. Robert Ketley requested that the expenditures be presented in a "dashboard format" where the expenditures and revenue are presented in a graphical format with the current month and the previous month illustrated. He would also like to see projects highlighted. Tangi Chapman and Chris Coburn said they would talk with Sharon to regarding how this might be accomplished for future meetings. Gordon Claassen moved approval of the August 2014 expenditures as presented. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Program Discussion Items

Conflict of Interest Code – Tangi Chapman presented the Board with the updated Conflict of Interest Code; the changes include an introduction, some minor grammatical clarifications and an additional paragraph on the Appendix of Designated Positions page regarding disclosure requirements for consultants that act in a staff capacity. Roberta Smith asked if Jim Robins should be required to be included in the consultants that are required to file a Statement of Economic Interest. Chris Coburn said that he would discuss with Susan Pearce and bring this issue back to the Board for further discussion. Robert Ketley moved approval of the updated Conflict of Interest Code. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Resolution RCDSCC 2014-10 – Chris Coburn presented the Board with Resolution RCDSCC 2014-10 to adopt the Pajaro River Integrated Regional Management Plan. By adopting the resolution, the RCD would be able to subcontract with recipients of the IRWM funds in the Pajaro River. Robert Ketley moved approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2014-10 as presented. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Resolution RCDSCC 2014-11 – Chris presented the Board with Resolution RCDSCC 2014-11 to allow the District to apply for additional grant funds to the Wildlife Conservation Board. Funds will be used for habitat improvement projects in Watsonville, Soquel Creek, and San Vicente Creek. Robert Ketley moved approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2014-11. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

SBCWD Subgrant Agreement – Chris presented the Board with a sub-grant agreement between the San Benito County Water District and the RCD. The grant is funded through the Pajaro River IRWM and the RCD will work on the Pajaro Agriculture Water Quality and Aquifer Enhancement project. Roberta Smith moved approval of the sub-grant agreement between the SBCWD and the RCD. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS

Staff Reports

Chris reported on the Partners in Restoration projects that are going out to bid. He said that the Scotts Creek Flood Plain project has been awarded to Durden Construction Inc., while the Ellicott and Buena Vista habitat improvement projects have been awarded to Bay Circle Construction, Inc.. He said that the Lompico Roads Project received 2 bids that were way over the engineer estimates and bids were rejected. The scope of the project was reviewed and adjusted to bring the costs down and, after rebid, Jim Walters Tractor Service was awarded the contract. In addition, the San Vicente Cape Ivy Removal Project is underway. Chris went on to let the Board know that the RCD has been working with the Land Trust to submit a proposal for grant funds through the Wildlife Conservation Board. Finally, the College Lake project is nearing completion though it needs additional technical analysis. Chris discussed with the Board the date for the November Board meeting and annual Board tour. It was tentatively set for November 19. Chris also told the Board that he attended a meeting with local fire agencies including the Fire Safe Councils, CalFire, County Planning, and State Parks to discuss community wildfire preparedness and how to move forward with a county-wide fire program. Chris will also be attending a meeting on October 2 in Sacramento to discuss the Water Bond funding with key legislators and staff as well as to promote the work of RCDs and discuss issues, concerns and expanding funding opportunities for the District.

Director Reports

Roberta Smith attended an end-of-summer BBQ event at Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch at which summer interns gave presentations of their projects. She was very impressed.

Jim McKenna reported on a recent backpacking trip in the Sierras; he was struck by the lack of water. Streams that are normally running this time of year are dry. The lakes were the only places to find water.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Written communications were circulated from SDRMA and CARCD.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM. The next meeting will be held October 8, 2014. Agenda items for the next meeting include an RCD Social Media presentation and discussion of Director and Associate Director Policies.

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

