



## MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

The Regular Meeting of the Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Santa Cruz County Board of Directors was called to order at **6:53 PM, February 11, 2015** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

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

### WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:53PM to discuss non-action items. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting.

### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications.

### REPORT

#### NRCS Report

Rich Casale circulated his NRCS Activity Summary for January. Highlights include nine new EQIP applications; Rich anticipates funding all projects throughout the season. Rich shared some pictures of severe erosion in South County from the December storm. (Gordon entered at 7:01PM and there was then a quorum.) Rich gave a presentation at the EcoFarm Conference last month on the "Forgotten Practices." There were over 200 attendees to the Storrs winery tour for the conference. Rich and April Jernberg also participated in the Watsonville High School Agriculture Career Day event.

### MINUTES

The Board reviewed the January 14, 2015 meeting minutes. Gordon Claassen moved approval of the January 14, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

### BUDGET & FINANCE

FY 2014-2015 Expenditures – The January 2015 expenditures were reviewed by the Board. Sharon Corkrean gave highlights of expenditures from January. Howard Liebenberg moved approval of the expenditures as presented. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

### ACTION ITEMS

#### Program Discussion Items

Director/Associate Director Policies – The Board reviewed the incorporated changes to the Director and Associate Director Policies. John Ricker suggested adding to the Associate Director Application form whether or not the applicant is a registered voter. Gordon moved approval of the Director and Associate Director Policies. Howard seconded the motion. All were in the favor.

Cost of Living Adjustment – Chris circulated the Bureau of Labor and Statistics press release that gives a Consumer Price Index at 2.7% for the San Francisco Bay Region. In addition, Chris told the Board that he is very proud of the staff of the District and appreciates their experience and dedication. Sharon explained the COLA is the only rate increase that staff receives unless they are taking on more responsibilities in their current position and then a merit increase is given. After discussion, Howard Liebenberg moved to give the staff a Cost of Living Adjustment of 2.7%. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

## REPORTS

### Staff Reports

Chris began the staff reports by announcing that Stacie Ruffoni is leaving her position with the District to move to the Sacramento area. The Board expressed their gratitude to Stacie for all the work she has done in the upper Pajaro watershed. There will be a farewell party for Stacie at Cilantros in Watsonville next Tuesday.

Chris let the Board know that the District was awarded funding for a large woody debris project on Scotts Creek on Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch. Funding for this project is provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and is part of the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. Chris reported on a meeting that both he and John Ricker attended that was hosted by NOAA fisheries to address coho recovery south of the Golden Gate. Several concerns regarding project implementation were discussed at the meeting, including funding, lack of resource agency staff support and permitting difficulties.

Chris was pleased to tell the Board that the Wildlife Conservation Board asked the District to submit a proposal for several construction projects including Bryant-Habert, Soquel Creek by Olive Springs Quarry, as well as a project on San Vicente Creek.

Chris updated the Board on the open space conversation. Fred Keeley presented his vision for the Open Space District including the proposed National Monument on the North Coast at a meeting hosted by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. Additionally, Chris shared a letter to the editor at the Sentinel by David Van Lennep of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau regarding the proposed National Monument on the Davenport North Coast.

Chris said that he and Sacha Lozano continue with partners and stakeholders to discuss the findings of the Ecosystem Services Report. There was a follow-up meeting with the Moore Foundation during which partners from the SC3 (Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Sonoma Counties) collaborative discussed project status and what some potential next steps could be. Chris explained that partner feedback has been supportive and there has been much interest in how the report's findings could be applied locally. Among other ideas discussed with the Moore Foundation and the SC3 partners, was a statewide policy in place for use of Ecosystem Services in general decision making, grants, and policy making.

Chris was pleased to inform the Board that the Scotts Creek Bridge project is showing signs of reviving; Caltrans potentially has some mitigation funding to support additional analysis and the project is gaining momentum.

Chris has been involved in the Sempervirens Fund Stewardship 5.0 process. He informed the Board that the process has been a huge time commitment and reported that the Sempervirens Fund had agreed to give a stipend for participation in the program.

The District continues to struggle with lengthy reimbursement lags from the state. Chris used Department of Water Resources as an example that reimbursement can run nine months or more from the time of invoice submittal. This creates a strain on relationships with subcontractors who are out their money. In addition, the state usually requires 10% retention per invoice. For grants that span five years this adds up to a substantial amount of money. Chris is working with Conservation Strategy Group to address this issue at the state level.

Chris reported that Sacha has been working with Andy Fischer on a recharge project. Kelli Camara is working to help make up for staff reductions, moving several projects forward. Lisa Lurie continues working on the Community Water Dialogue and is getting ready to hire an Agricultural Technician. In addition, there are several grants in the hopper. Depending on whether or not we get awarded these grants, the District may need to bring on additional staff.

### Director Reports

John Ricker reported that the Working Lands Resolution is moving forward and the County of Santa Cruz, as part of the original Conservation Blueprint Steering Committee, is meeting on Friday to see if they will support it.

Tangi Chapman reported that she received a call from Steve Butler. He informed her that the Soquel Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee has completed the revised Management Plan. Steve expressed his confidence in the report and felt that the process went very smoothly. He said he would be dropping off a copy of the report in the next week.

Jim McKenna reported that he would be attending the International Erosion Control Conference in Portland next week.

## WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Tangi circulated the Special District Risk Management Authority Annual Report and SDRMA Notification of Nominations for Board of Directors.

(Closed session 8:06PM)

### CLOSED SESSION

#### Personnel Matters

(Open Session 8:40PM)

### OPEN SESSION

#### Personnel Matters

Howard Liebenberg moved to increase Chris Coburn's hours to 40 hours per week and to increase his vacation time to 20 days per year. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

### NEXT MEETING

#### Date/ Agenda Items

The next meeting will be on March 11, 2015.



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