



**MINUTES OF THE JULY 22, 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 **6:35PM, July 22, 2015** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present: Gordon Claassen
Howard Liebenberg
Jim McKenna, President
John Ricker

Directors Absent: Robert Ketley
Mike Manfre, Vice President
Roberta Smith

RCD Staff Present: Chris Coburn, Executive Director
Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance
Tangi Chapman, Recorder

Member of the public: Devii Rao, UC Coop-Extension

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:35PM with non-action items as there was not a quorum. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. Introductions were made.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rao told the Board that she is coordinating with the RCD of Monterey County to get a Mobile Slaughter Lab and is curious if Santa Cruz County would be interested as well. Gordon Claassen said that he would check in with folks he knows in San Mateo County who might be interested.

REPORTS

NRCS Report

The NRCS Activity Summary for June was circulated. Chris Coburn mentioned that there might be additional EQIP funds for drought response.

(John Ricker entered creating a quorum)

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the June 17, 2015 meeting minutes. Gordon Claassen moved approval of the June 17, 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 June 2015 expenditures were reviewed by the Board. Sharon Corkrean highlighted that California Department of Food and Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant closed along with several others. Gordon Claassen moved approval of the June 2015 expenditures as presented; Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. The vote was called: John Ricker abstained; Gordon Claassen, Howard Liebenberg and Jim McKenna approved of the motion. The motion carried.

Final FY 2015-2016 Budget – Sharon Corkrean circulated the Final FY 2015-2016 Budget. Sharon fielded questions from the Board regarding the Budget. Sharon also took the opportunity to discuss how the budget could be affected by the recently completed cost allocation plan (CAP). The CAP should allow the District to capture expenses that were not previously allowed, depending on the allowances contained in each grant. Howard Liebenberg moved adoption of the Final FY 2015-2016 Budget. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

Staff Reports

Chris Coburn gave updates on current projects that are in various stages of going out to construction contracting. Bid walks have been completed for both the Scotts Creek Fisheries Enhancement project and the Scotts Creek project. Bidding was extended on the Soquel Creek project after some modifications were made to project specifications. Ten firms attended the bid walk, and an undetermined number of those firms may submit bids on the projects. The bid period for the Scotts Creek project has closed and Go Native was the low bidder and was within the engineers estimated cost for the project. The Uvas Creek Acacia Removal bid walk is scheduled for the week of July 20th, the need for food-grade oil for use in the chainsaws will be discussed at the bid walk, as suggested by the Board during their review of the designs and specifications. The Milsap project bid walk is scheduled for Monday, July 20. The Uvas Creek Gravel Augmentation project bid walk has not yet been scheduled.

Chris reported on the June 25th Stormwater Planning and Design workshop that Angela Gruys coordinated. The workshop was a success and brought together designers consultants, planners and others to improve the stormwater management process. The workshop was funded through a Proposition 84 grant awarded to the County of Santa Cruz. Chris complimented the work that Angie did to develop and carry out the workshop. An indicator of the success of the workshop was that 80+ people attended, with many representing the private sector and most stayed throughout the day. Chris also expressed appreciation for the City of Watsonville who hosted the event at their community room.

Chris also took the opportunity to highlight a fee-for-service agreement with the Forest Lakes Mutual Water Company on which he and Kelli Camara have recently worked. Chris reported that the work demonstrated the type of services that the RCD can provide to the private sector, and the role that the District can play in balancing environmental and human needs on natural resources.

Chris reported on a grant award recently made to the County of Santa Cruz that will support the development of a voluntary rotation cover cropping and land fallowing plan for the Pajaro Valley. The District will be working under this grant through the Community Water Dialogue. The District has also been awarded a \$1.1 million grant by the California Coastal Conservancy for continued implementation of the Integrated Water Restoration Program (IWRP). Funds will be shared among San Mateo, Monterey and Santa Cruz County RCDs.

Chris reported that the Santa Cruz County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) has scheduled a public hearing for the District's service and sphere review at 9:30 on August 5th.

Roberta Smith and Chris attended a community meeting to discuss possible national monument status for the Coast Dairies property on the North Coast. The meeting was organized by the Rural Bonny Doon Association and held at the Bonny Doon Elementary School. The meeting featured presentations by the Sempervirens Fund, CalFire, concerned local residents and several others that

was followed by an extensive questions and answers period. Chris noted that many in attendance were very concerned about the creation of a national monument and the effect it could have on natural resources and also their community. Chris also noted that many in the community are conflating the move to establish a national monument with efforts to develop an Open Space District for the County. Chris reported that he and others are working on concepts for an Open Space District that is very focused on stewardship and parks maintenance, with only a limited focus on acquisitions. The Open Space District would not be given powers of eminent domain. Chris noted that the County Board of Supervisors will be holding a study session on August 18th regarding an open space district.

Finally, Chris mentioned that the Loma Prieta RCD has hired Dina Iden to be the new Executive Director and that Athena Pratt, the District Conservationist in the Hollister Office is leaving her position locally for one in New Mexico.

Director Reports

Gordon Claassen reported that Swanton Pacific Ranch will be hosting a Savory Institute Tour and workshop at the Tom Cat Ranch near Pescadero on October 5.

CALENDAR DATES

- August 5 - LAFCO Service Review Meeting for RCD of Santa Cruz County
- August 18 - Board of Supervisors workshop on the formation of an Open Space Authority
- TBD Blue Circle Meeting
- TBD RCD 75th Anniversary Celebration in 2016

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were no written communications.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The next meeting will be on September 9, 2015; there will be no August Board Meeting. Gordon Claassen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43PM. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.



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