



**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14, 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 **6:31PM, October 14, 2015** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present:	Gordon Claassen Robert Ketley Howard Liebenberg Mike Manfre, Vice President Jim McKenna, President Roberta Smith
Directors Absent:	John Ricker
Associate Directors Present:	Vasiliki Vassil Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Chris Coburn, Executive Director Tangi Chapman, Recorder
Member of the public:	Stewart Davis

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:31PM; Jim McKenna chaired the meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no Oral Communications from the public given.

REPORTS

NRCS Report

The were no NRCS Activity Reports given.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the September 9, 2015 meeting minutes. Robert Ketley moved approval of the September 9, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

BUDGET & FINANCE

FY 2015-2016 Expenditures – The September 2015 Expenditures were reviewed by the Board. Howard Liebenberg moved approval of the September 2015 Expenditures as presented; Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Revised Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network MOU – Chris Coburn circulated the revised Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network Memorandum of Understanding. Chris explained that the MOU is a statement of intent for cooperation among public and private agencies to engage in stewardship on public, private and working lands in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The MOU represents a

shift in the approach often taken by land conservation organizations in which they acquire land but fail to implement adequate stewardship. Chris explained that the draft under consideration was revised from a previous version, brought to the Board in September. Revisions were made to that document during a final series of meetings of the Stewardship Network group. After discussion, Roberta Smith moved approval of the revised Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network MOU; Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CARCD Conference Delegate – Chris informed the Board of the need to elect a delegate to attend the California Association of Resource Conservation District annual conference. The conference will be held November 18 - 21 in Fish Camp at the Tenaya Lodge. Several RCD staff will be presenting at the conference. These include, Chris on the Cost Allocation Plan, Sacha Lozano on the Performance-based Incentives for Conservation in Agriculture, and Kelli Camara on habitat conservation planning and innovate partnerships. Gordon Claassen moved to elect Jim McKenna as the delegate to the CARCD Conference. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Sick Leave Policy 112 – Tangi Chapman explained that the Sick Leave Policy that was passed in June 2015 needed to be amended to specify that the total accrual of sick leave would be capped at 48 hours *per year*. Gordon Claassen moved approval of the amended Employee Handbook Policy 112 Sick Leave Policy. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

Staff Reports

Chris updated the Board on construction projects currently underway and in process of being completed. Chris reported that he attended the Land Trust Alliance conference on October 9th in Sacramento. He presented along with Karen Gaffney, Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District, and Andrea McKenzie of the Santa Clara Open Space Authority. Their presentation provided a brief overview of the SC3 partnership, through which each County conducted an assessment of Ecosystem Services. Andrea, Karen and Chris then went into some of the unique studies and findings from each County. The presentation was received well by the 80+ attendees at the talk. The RCD is cosponsoring a winter preparedness workshop with the County of Santa Cruz at Highlands Park on October 22. Chris also let the Board know that staff submitted two grant applications for Proposition 1 funds – one to the State Coastal Conservancy for funds to develop a restoration plan for the lower San Vicente Creek; and a second application to the Wildlife Conservation Board in partnership with Trout Unlimited for studies to support off-stream storage in Soquel Creek to improve late-summer stream flow and provide a more reliable water supply for riparian diverters.

Chris will be hosting a tour and meeting with the new Department of Conservation Director, David Bunn on October 28. The District will be holding a Blue Circle meeting on November 10th at the Community Foundation in Aptos, with a Stormwater runoff theme. Additionally, the District will be hosting the Central Coast Area RCDs' Fall meeting on November 2nd.

Chris continues to work with local stakeholders regarding the possible need and organization of an open space district for Santa Cruz County. On August 18th, the County Board of Supervisors directed the County Parks and Open Space agency director to conduct outreach to a number of stakeholder groups, including the Land Trust, Sempervirens, Farm Bureau, City Parks and the RCD. Meetings of that group are being scheduled. A report back on these efforts from the County Parks Director is due on January 26th.

Director Reports

Gordon Claassen reported that Swanton Pacific Ranch recently hosted the California State Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross. Gordon will be attending the Central Coast Rangeland Coalition meeting on October 15th in Hollister Hills. The theme is ranching and water quality, and will feature conversations between ranchers and staff representing the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Robert Ketley reported on water quality concerns around the county. He reported that the San Lorenzo River Lagoon has a toxic bloom of dinoflagellates that has him baffled as the usually live in salt water and the lagoon is mostly fresh water. Pinto Lake is experiencing 'off the charts' toxin levels and the Pajaro River has turned a vibrant green due to a non-toxic bloom of phytoplankton. He attributes the blooms to the extended warm weather and is concerned that even if the weather turns cold the impending rains could cause run-off into the Bay to be toxic to marine mammals, especially sea otters. Robert Ketley described work that the City of Watsonville and RCD will be doing to reduce nutrient loading to Pinto Lake and, at the same time, sequester existing nutrients in the lake using an alum treatment.

Robert also reported on having seen a Great White Shark 80 feet from the surf a couple of weeks ago. Chris told the Board that Robert was recognized for his service to water quality efforts at the Central Coast Water Quality Control Board meeting last month.

Jim McKenna reported that he has been replacing lawns with a dune grass called *Carex pansa*. The lawn substitute creates a meadow-like look.

Howard Liebenberg reported that he will be consulting with a property owner in the Carmel Valley where the recent fire began this past month. The property owner is looking to receive information regarding post-fire rehabilitation. They told Howard that the fire burned so hot it turned everything on the property to white ash.

Kathryn Tobisch reported that she attended a meeting of a group called "Freedom from Fireworks," noting that during the summer season fireworks are set-off around the county and disturb neighborhoods, dogs and wildlife.

CALENDAR DATES

- November 10 Blue Circle Meeting at Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County
- November 18-21 CARCD Conference, Tenaya Lodge in Fish Camp
- November 2, Central Coast Area Meeting

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were no written communications.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The next meeting will be on November 12, 2015, which will be the annual Board tour of recent projects. The meeting will likely be in the early afternoon. Gordon Claassen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09PM. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.



PRESIDENT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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