



**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 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 **4:40PM, November 12, 2015** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

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| Directors Present: | Gordon Claassen
Howard Liebenberg
Mike Manfre, Vice President
Jim McKenna, President
John Ricker |
| Directors Absent: | Robert Ketley
Roberta Smith |
| Associate Directors Present: | Vasiliki Vassil
Kathryn Tobisch |
| RCD Staff Present: | Chris Coburn, Executive Director
Tangi Chapman, Recorder |
| NRCS Present: | Rich Casale, District Conservationist |
| Members of the Public: | Stuart Davis |

WELCOME- INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 4:40PM; Jim McKenna chaired the meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no Oral Communications from the public.

MINUTES

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

REPORTS

NRCS Report

Rich Casale updated the Board on NRCS activities in September and October. He reminded the Board that he has been over-extended recently between increasing demand with residents fearing El Nino as well as the recent departure of the office's Soil Conservationist. He has had some relief through the assistance from neighboring NRCS field offices. In addition to these demands, Rich also mentioned that the San Benito and Santa Clara field offices have lost their District Conservationists so he has been helping out those areas as well. Rich reported that he has presented at several workshops,

including two livestock and land workshops and two winter preparedness workshops – several more workshops are upcoming. The EQIP roll-out begins in November and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis each month thereafter. Rich mentioned that he and Chris Coburn have been working to develop the scope for a paid internship through NRCS. Finally, Rich reported that he also is working on updating the economic analysis of conservation practices, including how practices could bring a return on investment.

ACTION ITEMS

Web Transparency – Tangi and Chris shared with the Board the Special District Leadership Foundation’s recommendations on website transparency. The RCD staff has been reviewing the recommendations and making changes to the website where appropriate, including posting the completed financial audits and the approved budget. The Board questioned which recommendations were required and which were merely suggestions. Tangi and Chris will investigate further and bring a report back to the Board on those elements that are required.

Staff Reports

Chris reported that he will be attending a stakeholder meeting to discuss needs and opportunities for a possible Open Space District in Santa Cruz County. The Board concurred with Chris that the recommendations of the RCD regarding the purpose and scope of such a district would be to fund park maintenance, safety, stewardship and access on existing properties rather than acquisition of new land. Chris hopes that the meeting will outline a path for moving this process forward.

Chris reported that the Blue Circle event, hosted by the RCD and the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County on November 10th, was a success and that the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County created a short video of the event which they posted to their Facebook page. The November 28th tour with the new California Department of Conservation head, David Bunn, went well and Chris reported that David Bunn seemed impressed with the work the RCD and our partners are doing. Additionally, the Central Coast Area meeting went well and the Board supported the meeting’s “cross-pollination” of ideas and the possible sharing of resources across Districts.

Chris continues to work with the Regional Transportation Commission, CalTrans, and the State Coastal Conservancy on the Scotts Creek restoration and bridge replacement project. The RCD has been awarded \$84,000 in settlement funds to continue moving the project forward. Chris also met with the County’s Cannabis Task Force to look at the possible role the RCD might be able to take with regard to providing voluntary services to growers. Rich mentioned that as a federal agency, NRCS is not able to work on any projects that involve the cultivation of marijuana. Mike suggested that Chris speak with Mary Lou Nicoletti at the County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office regarding this issue.

Chris mentioned that Roberta Smith was honored by the County Board of Supervisors for her ongoing community involvement throughout the years by declaring November 4th “Roberta Smith Day.”

Director Reports

Gordon Claassen reported on the Southern Coast Rangeland meeting he attended that brings together scientists and governmental agencies. He said the event leads to productive conversations in small group settings.

CALENDAR DATES

- November 18-21 CARCD Conference, Tenaya Lodge in Fish Camp

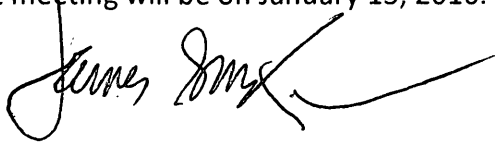
WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were no written communications.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The next meeting will be on January 13, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim McKenna", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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