



**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2016 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 6:36PM, March 9, 2016 at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present: Gordon Claassen
 Robert Ketley
 Mike Manfre, Vice President
 John Ricker

Directors Absent: Roberta Smith
 Howard Liebenberg
 Jim McKenna, President

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

NRCS Present: Rich Casale, District Conservationist

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:36PM; Mike Manfre chaired the meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications given at this time.

REPORTS

NRCS Report

In addition to the attached written report, Rich Casale had a discussion with those present about the use of hoop houses, and opportunities for capturing runoff from them. Rich also notified the Board that Dan Little, NRCS Engineer, is relocating to the Santa Maria Field Office and will begin reporting there April 1, 2016. Please see the attached report for additional activities. Richard Casale has announced a retirement date of December 31, 2016. He plans to stay on as a volunteer until the District Conservationist position is filled.

(John Ricker entered the meeting at 6:41PM.)

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the February 10, 2016 meeting minutes. John Ricker moved approval of the February 10, 2016 meeting minutes. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

BUDGET & FINANCE

FY 2015-2016 Expenditures – The January and February expenditures were reviewed; given that the Board could not achieve a quorum, approval will be postponed until the April Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Office Consolidation – Chris discussed the need for possible consolidation of Suites 128 and 136. The District is currently expending \$28,000/year to keep Suite 128 between rent, utilities and other costs (e.g. cleaning). Chris stated that Suite 136 could accommodate all RCD and NRCS staff considering current levels of RCD staff, and assuming NRCS staff consisting of a District Conservationist and part-time Soil Conservationist, Engineer and EQIP coordinator. The current lease is up in July, 2016. In considering consolidation, the District is looking into renting a 10x10 storage facility in the Nob Hill parking lot for \$225/month (\$2,700 for the year). Factoring this cost, the District would still realize a savings of \$25,000 per year. The Board expressed support of the office consolidation. Chris and Sharon will begin working with NRCS and RCD staff on the move, and will notify the property manager of this intent.

Resolution 2016-01 – Resolution to apply for Santa Clara Valley Water District Funding – Chris Coburn informed the Board that a variety of concerns have come up, and the RCD is no longer in a position to apply for the funds.

(Kathryn Tobisch entered the meeting at 7:28pm)

Proposed Natural Resource Language, Cotoni Coast Dairies – Chris Coburn presented the Board with information provided by Grey Hayes. Discussion ensued. Chris informed the Board that he had not had time to research this letter, and suggested that additional research be done to better understand the request as well as potential ramifications of support. After discussion, it was decided to seek additional information and bring the item back to the Board for further discussion.

(John Ricker left the meeting at 7:42pm)

Staff Reports

Chris Coburn provided the Board with an Executive Director Report, which was sent out with the Agenda and other meeting information (see attached).

Chris shared with the Board that in addition to the information included in the report, he spent the day in Sacramento attending the California Climate & Agriculture Network legislative day. As a public agency, the District cannot lobby or advocate specific positions to legislators. However, the District can educate legislators on specific impacts of programs or legislation. Organized by CalCAN, the day focused on programs related to AB 32 Global Warming Act funding. Many of these programs have been active locally, and Chris expressed some concerns with how they have been carried out by California Air Resources Board staff, and ways in which the programs could be improved to better realize their goals.

Chris recently met with Bob Thomlin, property owner at the Soquel Creek Project. The project withstood flows of ~8000 CFS during this past storm event. Chris noted that it was exciting to see that the project performed as designed, with the flood-channel activated, and scour and deposition around the large wood structures. The upper-most log dislodged and floated downstream and stopped in an area where it can be anchored to create habitat.

Chris informed the Board that the Open Space project stakeholder group recently held its third and final meeting before a report back is due to the Board of Supervisors. Chris noted that the Group's recommendation is to continue working to better define needs, a potential finance strategy and governance options. Chris is happy that the need for stewardship is being recognized and stated that this is an appropriate role for the RCD to play.

Director Reports

No Director Reports were given at this time.

CALENDAR DATES

- March 16, Farm Bureau Spring Luncheon
- March 19, 2016 Karen Christensen Memorial
- March 26, 2016 NRCS Tour of Silver Mountain Winery
- April 1, Ranching for Profit -- One-Day School, Tom Cat Ranch
- April 13, RCD Board Meeting
- April 21, Central Coast Rangeland Coalition, Sunol

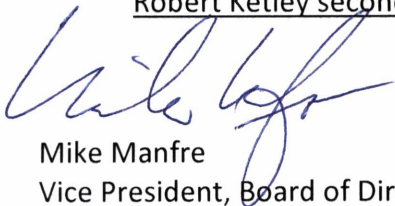
WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were no written communications.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The next meeting will be on April 13, 2016. Gordon Claassen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44PM. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned.



Mike Manfre
Vice President, Board of Directors
(SC:MM)