RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 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 **6:34PM, April 13, 2016** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

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

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:34PM; Jim McKenna chaired the meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications given.

REPORTS

NRCS Report

The NRCS Activity Report for March was circulated. Chris Coburn relayed to the Board that NRCS will be having a recruiting fair, which may help fill the Engineering position and possibly the Soil Conservation position as well. The job fair will be held in Pomona, California.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board reviewed the consent agenda items, the March Minutes, and the January, February and March Financials. Gordon Claassen moved approval of the consent agenda items. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. Gordon Claassen, Robert Ketley, Mike Manfre, Jim McKenna and Roberta Smith were all in favor of the motion. John Ricker abstained. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS

RCDSCC 2016-01 – Chris Coburn presented the Resolution to the Board. The proposed resolution would allow the RCD to enter into Agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board and authorize the Executive Director or designee to negotiate and sign the contract. Chris explained that this is to fund a partnership project with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County to restore wetland function at the Bryant-Haber property, which is part of the overall Watsonville Sough Farm. After discussion, John Ricker moved approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2016-01. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Proposed Language for National Monument Proclamation for Cotoni Coast Dairies – Chris Coburn shared the letter the District has been asked to sign on to regarding the possible National Monument designation for the former Coast Dairies property. The Board discussed the letter and felt that a statement of natural resources is an important statement to include should the property be designated as a National Monument. The only concern the Board had is the possible misinterpretation that the Board supports the designation. The Board felt strongly that it was appropriate to stay neutral on the merits of designation. However, they felt comfortable signing on so long as it was stressed in the cover letter that the Board supports the inclusion of the attached letter to the Proclamation *if* the property was designated. Robert Ketley moved signing on to the letter supporting the Proposed Natural Resource Language for Inclusion in a National Monument Proclamation for the Cotoni Coast Dairies Property in Northern Santa Cruz County, California. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. Roberta Smith then requested to amend the motion to sign on to the letter so long as the "if" was emphasized. Robert Ketley accepted the amendment to the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

N. Rispin Property Inspection – Chris Coburn presented the Board with the North Rispin Property Checklist. After review, John Ricker moved approval of the North Rispin Property Checklist. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Chris Coburn provided the Board with an Executive Director Report. He highlighted that RCD staff has submitted four grant proposals in the past month. One of these is $1 million with the State Coastal Conservancy to build recharge basins within the Pajaro Valley. Chris also highlighted upcoming meetings hosted by the District on April 18th & 19th seeking grower / landowner input regarding potential incentives for a rotational cover cropping and land-fallowing program in the Pajaro Valley. Stacie Ruffoni will facilitate the meetings. Mike Manfre asked if we have had an opportunity to discuss with the California Department of Food and Agriculture the Fertilizer Research and Education Grants (FREP) grants program, and how our district can be more competitive. A discussion followed, Chris will follow up in the future.

(John Ricker exited the meeting at 7:44PM)

Director Reports

Gordon Claassen reported that he attended a Tom Cat Ranch Ranching for Profit Workshop. He said that the workshop was informative and took the perspective that the science must be looked at in relation to the economics.

CALENDAR DATES

- April 18 & 19 Rotational Cover cropping Outreach Meetings
- April 24, 2016 Al Smith Day at Swanton Pacific Ranch, Davenport
- September 29, 2016 Tentative Date for the 75th Anniversary Celebration

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were no written communications.

NEXT MEETING

Date/ Agenda Items

The next meeting will be on May 11, 2016. Gordon Claassen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54PM. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

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