



**MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 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 **6:41PM, May 11, 2016** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010. A Quorum was present.

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

WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened at 6:41PM; Jim McKenna chaired the meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications.

REPORTS

NRCS Report

The NRCS Activity Report for April was circulated. Chris Coburn reminded the Board that NRCS will be moving into Suite 136 with the office consolidation. NRCS and RCD IT folks are currently coordinating to rewire and house the servers in Suite 136.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board reviewed the consent agenda items, the April Minutes, and the April Financials. John Ricker moved approval of the consent agenda items. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion.

ACTION ITEMS

RCDSCC 2016-02 – Chris Coburn presented the Resolution to the Board. The RCD has been awarded funds by the Wildlife Conservation Board to work on a plan for streamflow augmentation in Soquel Creek. Funds for this grant are derived from the Proposition 1 Water Bond. The intent of the project is to determine where opportunities exist to augment streamflow for greatest benefit, and to work with private landowners to collaborate on win-win solutions. The hope is that projects identified would provide additional water supply reliability while increasing late summer / early fall streamflow. The RCD will work with Soquel Creek landowners voluntarily by developing off-stream storage of water during the rainy months and implementing conservation programs with the goal of improving coho salmon and steelhead habitat. The \$211,000 grant demonstrates a successful partnership between the

RCD, Trout Unlimited and the Wildlife Conservation Board. John Ricker moved to approve Resolution RCDSCC 2016-02 as presented. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Chris Coburn provided the Board with an Executive Director Report for the month of April. Chris reported on a meeting he attended at TomKat Ranch, an education foundation and working ranch. The meeting focused on conservation and soil health related to livestock grazing. Chris has been getting “up to speed” on “in-lieu-of fee mitigation” and how other RCDs are developing this tool to further habitat restoration in their Districts. Inland Empire RCD is currently adopting an in-lieu-of fee program, and Chris has been learning from their experience. The concept is that where there are impacts beyond avoidance and minimization measures to threatened / endangered species, that in-lieu of impact fees could be collected, and that the RCD, working through IWRP, could implement mitigation more effectively and with a greater benefit than what could be done through smaller uncoordinated projects. Chris hopes that this could be an opportunity for the RCD to fund quality species and habitat restoration in the county.

Chris reported on the Board of Supervisor’s recent hearing on Cannabis cultivation in the county. The meeting largely focused on zoning and where cultivation would be allowed and it did not get into any great detail regarding environmental impacts. The RCD Board discussed how the RCD could play a role in the process and whether or not the Board wanted Chris to continue to monitor and involve the RCD in the matter. The Board directed Chris to continue representing the RCD at meetings and to report back as there are developments.

Chris informed the Board that the county has asked the RCD to coordinate the development of a county-wide Fire Safe Council. This would be a 501(c)3 umbrella organization that would coordinate the four current fire safe councils and unrepresented areas. He has a meeting next week with the County OES to discuss the project.

Finally, Chris discussed the PG&E gas line integrity surveys. He reported that Supervisor John Leopold held a meeting to discuss the process with the public. The high pressure gas lines need to be inspected county-wide and access to the lines currently is compromised by decades of vegetation growth. The intent of the meeting was to alert the community about the potential impacts and educating landowners on the process.

Director Reports

Roberta Smith mentioned that Davenport has a high pressure gas line going into the Cement Plant; this line has been a huge benefit to Davenport and is also a major concern due to its location. After the incident in San Bruno she called PG&E regarding the safety of the line and has since noticed a “sniffer” helicopter that flies over the line on occasion. PG&E also engaged in investigating and repairing the line. This work is directly related to the last topic in the previous section regarding the analysis of gas line integrity.

Howard Liebenberg reported that while working on a project in Carmel Valley he came across two tadpoles in his sprayer truck that had been sucked from a swimming pool and through two pumps and were still alive. He rescued them and put them safely back in the pool.

CALENDAR DATES

- 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 June 8, 2016. Gordon Claassen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03PM. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned.



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