



**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 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 **5:35 PM, December 14, 2016** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010. A quorum was not present at the start of the meeting.

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|---------------------|---|
| Directors Present:  | Jim McKenna, President (arrived at 5:53)<br>Robert Ketley<br>John Ricker<br>Gordon Claassen<br>Roberta Smith                    |
| Directors Absent:   | Howard Liebenberg<br>Mike Manfre, Vice President  |
| RCD Staff Present:  | Chris Coburn, Executive Director<br>Tangi Chapman, Recorder<br>Gerry Spinelli, Technical Specialist                             |
| NRCS Staff Present: | Kay Joy Barge, Assistant State Conservationist<br>Rich Casale, District Conservationist<br>Roger Tompkins, Soil Conservationist |

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting informally started at 5:35PM. The Board appointed John Ricker to chair the meeting.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

The Board welcomed Kay Joy Barge, the NRCS Assistant State Conservationist.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Board made no changes to the Agenda.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

Gordon Claassen moved approval of the Consent Agenda Items. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**6.1. Consider adopting Resolution #RCDSCC 2016-07 to enter into Agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board**

Chris presented the Board with Resolution RCDSCC 2016-07 to enter into agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board to fund a project in Monterey County adjacent to a high school. The RCD holds a §10(a)1(a) Endangered Species Act threatened and endangered species recovery permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and a Scientific Collecting Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Department that uniquely positions the District to lead this project benefiting a fully protected

species. Project partners include the Monterey County RCD, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the North Monterey County High School. Gordon Claassen moved approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2016-07. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 7.1. Executive Director Report

Chris circulated the Executive Director Report for the Board.

### 7.2. NRCS Reports

Rich Casale reported that he has spent most of the last two months working on the emergency fire response effort in Monterey County.

*(Jim McKenna entered at 5:53PM and the gavel was passed from John Ricker to Jim McKenna)*

### 7.3. District Conservationist Recruitment

Kay Joy Barge reported that the strategic recruitment to fill the impending vacancy for the NRCS's District Conservationist in the Capitola Office has already begun and she hopes to begin interviewing for the position the first week of January. Kay requested input from the RCD Board regarding qualifications the Board would like to see in the new hire. The Board gave an extensive list of skills/characteristics desired including, a charismatic person with both technical and practical-technical skills. Members stressed the need for a candidate that has skills to work and communicate affectively across agencies and is community and politically "savvy." The Board acknowledged that it will be difficult to fill "Rich's shoes" as he has been a part of the conservation community for so long and has both community connections and historical and proven conservation knowledge. The District thanked Rich for his service and wished him well in retirement.

### 7.4. RCD Accreditation

Chris reported to the Board that as part of their rulemaking process, the Department of Conservation (DOC) released for public comment a set of documents for the RCD Accreditation Process. RCD Accreditation is based on the California Association of Resource Conservation District's Vision and Standards Document. Chris noted that the RCD of Santa Cruz County under Karen Christensen's leadership played a key role in conceptualizing then developing the vision and standards document. A portion of that work was funded by the James Irvine Leadership award given to Karen and the RCD. As previously reported, DOC was allocated \$2.5M in the 2016 – 2017 State Budget that is to be allocated to RCDs under a competitive grants program. That funding will be tied to the accreditation process, helping districts to achieve accreditation or further their development if they already meet standards. This RCD is nearly compliant with all standards, but will need to accomplish several tasks in the new year including adopting several new policies and Directors will need to take some training, for example of sexual harassment prevention training.

### 7.5. Directors Reports

Jim McKenna briefly gave highlights from the CARCD Annual Conference in Ontario.

## 8. ADJOURN

The next meeting of the RCD Board of Directors is scheduled for January 11, 2017. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25PM.

Jim McKenna  
President, Board of Directors



(TC:JM)