



**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 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 **6:33PM September 13, 2017** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

- Directors Present: Jim McKenna, President
 Mike Manfre, Vice President
 Robert Ketley
 Howard Liebenberg
- Directors Absent: Gordon Claassen
 John Ricker
 Roberta Smith
- RCD Staff Present: Chris Coburn, Executive Director
 Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance
 Tangi Chapman, Recorder
 Gerry Spinelli, Program Specialist
- Public Guest: Bruce Peters

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. There was a quorum present.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Introductions were made.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board made no changes to the Agenda.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Mike Manfre moved approval of the Consent Agenda items. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1. Consider adoption of FY 2017-2018 Budget

Sharon Corkrean presented the proposed FY 2017-2018 Budget, including comparisons from the previous two years. She explained that the proposed final budget has been increased by 5% since the draft budget was adopted in June. The increase resulted from successful grant applications awarded after the draft budget was adopted. The budget was developed from the approximately 55 grants currently held by the RCD, as well as other sources of revenue including the RCD's property tax increment and funds allocated by the County's Board of Supervisors. Sharon and Chris Coburn reiterated the RCD's desire to secure fewer, larger grants to reduce administrative burden and to be more effective. After additional discussion, Robert Ketley moved approval of the FY 2017-2018 Budget as presented. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1. Executive Director Report

Chris Coburn gave the floor to Gerry Spinelli, Program Specialist / Agronomist with the RCD. Gerry expressed his gratitude at being able to return to his position with the RCD after his brief career move to Modesto. The Board welcomed him back. Chris stated that RCD staff was very pleased that Gerry returned to the RCD, not only for the technical capacity that he brings, but also for his positive and entertaining presence in the office.

Chris provided highlights from his Executive Director's Report (which was previously emailed and circulated to the Board). Chris noted that the sediment basin at a winery in Corralitos is complete as are Phase III of the Scotts Creek Stream Restoration and the San Vicente Large Wood Debris Restoration project. For a variety of reasons, bids for the Pajaro Valley Managed Aquifer Recharge came in much higher than available funding for the project. RCD staff will work to refine the project design and specifications in an effort to bring down costs and re-bid the project early in 2018.

Chris noted that the District continues to develop an In-Lieu of Fee Mitigation Program (ILFP). Chris gave details of how this program would work and the details through which RCD staff are working to develop it. Chris noted that Sharon Corkrean and Arianne Rettinger developed a financial model for the pricing of credits that the RCD would sell to fund a habitat restoration, creation or preservation project. RCD staff has been communicating with the Inland Empire RCD, who already developed an ILFP for their District. Chris will continue to report on the development of this funding source.

Chris reported that he, along with Jim McKenna and NRCS Staff attended the Central Coast Area Meeting last month. The theme for the meeting was Carbon Farming. He also mentioned that the CARCD Annual Conference is coming up November 15-17 in Sacramento. The Board will need to select a delegate for the Conference at the October Board Meeting.

Finally, Chris noted that the County of Santa Cruz released its draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Cannabis cultivation and manufacturing. Mike Manfre expressed his concern that the effort is being approached from a zoning perspective as opposed an agricultural perspective. Mike is concerned that the County could be setting a precedent for using zoning to regulate agricultural practices. In his view, there is danger that such an approach could open the door to regulating other, more traditional, agricultural practices through zoning. The Board had a lively discussion of the issue. The final comments for the EIR are due October 16, 2017.

7.2. NRCS Report

Roger Thompson introduced Whitney (Whit) Haraguchi, the recently appointed District Conservationist to the Board. Whit provided a brief background about himself and his professional experience. Whit will be moving to the area in October to start in his position.

7.2. Director's Reports

None

8. ADJOURN

The next meeting of the RCD Board of Directors is scheduled for October 11, 2017. Robert Ketley moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45PM. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned.

Jim McKenna
President, Board of Directors

(TC:JM)

