



**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 11, 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 **6:30PM October 11, 2017** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present:	Jim McKenna, President Robert Ketley Gordon Claassen John Ricker Roberta Smith
Directors Absent:	Mike Manfre, Vice President Howard Liebenberg
Associate Directors Present:	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Chris Coburn, Executive Director Gerry Spinelli, Program Specialist Lizzy Eichorn, Program Specialist
Public Guest:	Bruce Peters

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. There was a quorum present.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Introductions were made. Chris introduced RCD staff, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Eichorn to the Board.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board made no changes to the Agenda.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Roberta Smith 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 Indirect Cost Recovery Policy

Chris Coburn explained that adoption of an Indirect Cost Recovery Policy would allow the RCD to establish an indirect rate and use it whenever possible. The cognizant agency is the federal agency from which the RCD receives the greatest amount of funding from each fiscal year. Chris believes that it is currently the USDA; before that it was the USFWS. The cognizant agency does not have to approve the rate every year; approval will be rather informal in years to come. John Ricker moved approval of the adoption of an Indirect Cost Recovery Policy as presented. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

6.2. Appoint a delegate to the CARCD Conference to be held in Sacramento, California

The CARCD Conference is coming up in Sacramento and will take place from November 15-17. The RCD will be presenting on a variety of topics including but not limited to: recharge net metering, Scott's creek restoration, a collaboration with California Farm Link, and development of an in-lieu of fee mitigation program. Roberta Smith made a motion nominating Jim McKenna to attend on behalf of the District; Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

6.3. Review the North Rispin Property Check List Inspection conducted September 21, 2017

The Board reviewed the inspection report for the North Rispin Property that was prepared by Kelli Camara on behalf of the RCD. The report noted evidence of trash and homeless activity at the property. There was unanimous concern that the RCD is not reimbursed to do this work, and suggested that Chris contact the City of Capitola to request financial support for this work. Gordon Claassen moved approval of the North Rispin Property Check List Inspection. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1. Executive Director Report

As per Roberta Smith's request, Chris Coburn explained in more detail what he plans to cover in the Scott's Creek presentation at the CARCD Conference. The theme of the presentation is "it takes a village" and will showcase how multi-partner collaborations can be a viable way to complete large-scale restoration projects.

Chris presented Jim McKenna with the President's Special Acknowledgement Award. Chris also summarized for the Board recent conversations he's had with staff from the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board around the question of water rights for managed aquifer recharge projects. A key fact to those discussions is that recharge is not considered a beneficial use by the State, and as such, the State cannot issue a water rights permit for a project with the sole benefit of recharge. After discussing this with the State staff, while counter-intuitive, it does make sense. For example, a pre-1914 water rights holder could divert water for recharge, if it were a beneficial use, even if it harmed downstream users. By diverting water to recharge, the diverter could likely also claim some (financial) benefit associated with the project under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Chris will be working with State and local staffs to ensure water rights are established for each of the RCDs recharge projects, although the pathway to accomplish that is still somewhat unclear. Chris also updated the Board on the status of the various projects being implemented this construction season, as well as some grants that staff is working on. Chris also mentioned that he applied and was accepted on the Mid County Advisory Committee.

Chris suggested that the Board tour be scheduled for November 8th around 3:00PM, with a pizza party and short meeting to follow if any action items are needed to be addressed by the Board. Such items may include resolutions that will be considered at the upcoming CARCD conference. No Board members present mentioned schedule conflicts. The Board expressed considerable interest in visiting project sites that have been in place for a couple of years, with particular interest in visiting the East Branch Soquel Creek project that was constructed a few years ago to see how the project has evolved, particularly as a result of last year's storms.

7.2. NRCS Report

No NRCS staff present. The new District Conservationist, Whitney (Whit) Haraguchi, will start his position on Monday October 16, 2017.

7.2. Director's Reports

- Gordon Claassen will be attending the Central California Rangeland Coalition summit on November 19th in La Honda. The topic is "Grazing in Carnivore Country."
- Robert Ketley will be presenting on Pinto Lake toxicity management success at the One Health Institute on November 4th in Davis.

8. ADJOURN

The next meeting of the RCD Board of Directors is scheduled for November 8, 2017 at 3:00PM. It will consist of the Board tour and a shortened meeting to follow. Gordon Claassen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44PM. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned.

Jim McKenna
President, Board of Directors

(LE:JM)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim McKenna", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.