



**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2018 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 on February 14, 2018** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:34PM. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. There was a quorum present.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Jim McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1. The Board considered approval of a Cost of Living Adjustment for all regular employees. Chris Coburn reported that the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics Consumer Price Index for 2017 was 2.9% for the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Additionally, he demonstrated to the Board the factors that go into how billable rates are calculated for each grant application the District submits. That calculation includes, among other considerations, an annual merit increase of 5% and an annual COLA increase of 3%. Chris stressed the importance of attracting and keeping talented employees and felt that keeping up with the Cost of Living was important to stay competitive. Gordon Claassen moved approval of a 2.9% Cost of Living Adjustment increase. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.



6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1. Executive Director's Report – Chris gave highlights from his Executive Director's report. Chris highlighted that a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy in support of the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP) is nearly complete. But Chris noted that the RCD has been notified that a recent application to the State Coastal Conservancy for continued support of IWRP has been recommended for funding. The Conservancy's Board of Directors will consider that grant award at their March 22nd meeting in Oakland. Chris also mentioned that the RCD has also been recommended for grant funding under the United States Department of Agriculture's Regional Conservation Partnership Program. There is although the future of Federal funding through the Farm Bill and other sources is in question given President Trump's proposed budget. Chris updated the Board on the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Recharge Project, and the extent to which staff is working through ongoing regulatory permissions to implement the project.

(6:55PM Enter Kathryn Tobisch)

Chris shared that the finance team has been working closely with the new auditors to complete the FY 2017 Financial Audit. Finally, Chris shared that he continues to monitor the potential for the District to work with *Cannabis* growers.

6.2. NRCS Report – The NRCS Report for January was circulated among the Board.

6.3. Director(s) Report – Gordon Claassen reported that he will be heading to Chico State for the Grazing for Change Conference and Workshop February 24th.

Robert Ketley shared that he went on a Field Trip to Swanton Pacific Ranch with Chris and Angie to look at grazing techniques.

Jim McKenna shared that his wife's childhood home in Montecito was destroyed in January's mudflows. Additionally, Jim informed the Board that he attended the International Erosion Control Symposium and mentioned that the work done by John McCullah and his team is truly innovative and exciting.

7. ADJOURN

Gordon Claassen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40PM. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be **March 14, 2018.**