RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136
Capitola, California 95010
tel 831.464.2950
www.rcdsantacruz.org

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 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 **6:35PM on March 14, 2018** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present:	Jim McKenna, President
	John Ricker
	Gordon Claassen
	Roberta Smith
Directors Absent:	Mike Manfre, Vice President
	Howard Liebenberg
	Robert Ketley
Associate Directors Present:	None
RCD Staff Present:	Chris Coburn, Executive Director

1. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM. 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
John Ricker moved approval of the Consent Agenda item. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

5. ACTION ITEMS
There were no action items.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1. Executive Director's Report

Chris Coburn highlighted several items contained in the Executive Director's Report. Chris noted that he will be in Oakland on March 22nd to attend the Coastal Conservancy Board meeting where they will consider a grant award of $1M to the RCD for implementation of the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP). Chris noted that the proposal sought funding for a "back to basics" approach with IWRP that focuses on project identification and prioritization, working closely with the IWRP TAC. Chris also mentioned that staff have been negotiating with NRCS for a pending award through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. In addition, Chris noted that RCD staff are nearly complete with the Full Proposal to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the implementation of an In-Lieu of Fee mitigation program (ILFP). Chris noted that the ILFP could provide valuable funding

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for the RCD's restoration projects while implementing high priority recovery efforts for the Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander, California Red-legged Frog and the Tidewater Goby. Chris finally described how he is working with staff from the Bay Area Open Space Council and the Marin Agricultural Land Trust on the development of a panel for the upcoming conference that will focus on the benefits of agriculture.

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

6.3. Director(s) Report
John updated the Board on the County's recent efforts to regulate cannabis. He pointed out that a number of comment letters have highlighted the potential role for the RCD in providing technical assistance to cannabis growers – particularly in the development of farm plans. Gordon mentioned that he attended the 'grazing for change' conference at CSU Chico, and mentioned in particular a presentation from Georgia that described the conversion of a farm from chemical-based fertilizer to multi-species, organic fertilizer and the benefits that have been observed from that. Prior to the conversion, the farm owners found that soils were simplifying under the petrochemical applications and the soil was not responding to increasing inputs. Gordon described some of the efforts they are working on at Swanton Ranch using more intense grazing cycles and the increased nutrient cycling as well as looking at different types of annual versus the more desirable perennial grasses.

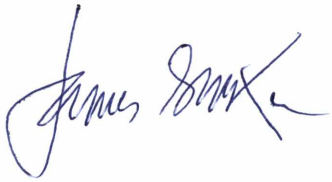
John Ricker moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. All were in favor. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

6.4. Closed Session Item Per Government Code § 54957(b)(1) – Executive Director

The Board opened the Closed Session agenda at 7:10PM.

The Closed Session adjourned at 8:33PM.

There were no items to report out from the Closed Session.

7. ADJOURN

Gordon Claassen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35PM. Roberta Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be **April 11, 2018.**