



**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 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 **6:32PM on June 13, 2018** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present:	Gordon Claassen Howard Liebenberg Robert Ketley Mike Manfre, Vice President Jim McKenna, President John Ricker Roberta Smith
Associate Directors Present:	None
RCD Staff Present:	Lisa Lurie, Executive Director Kelli Camara, Technical Director Tangi Chapman, Recorder
NRCS Staff Present:	Whitney Haraguchi, District Conservationist

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32PM. 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

Howard Liebenberg moved approval of the Consent Agenda Items. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

(John Ricker, Gordon Claassen, Roberta Smith entered 6:35)

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1. Consider approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2018-02 to accept funds and designate a representative for the Coastal Conservancy 2018 IWRP grant

Lisa Lurie presented the Board with Resolution RCDSCC 2018-02. The purpose of the resolution is to authorize the District to enter into agreement with the Coastal Conservancy for Phase V of the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program, and to designate the Executive Director or designee as the representative to conduct negotiations, execute, submit and sign all documents to complete the requirements of the agreement. Lisa highlighted that the award for this grant is \$1,087,000 and includes projects for the RCD's of Santa Cruz County, Monterey County and San Mateo County. It is expected that the grant will fund the designs of seven to ten projects within the tri-county area. The RCD of Santa Cruz County will be the



administrative lead on the grant. After discussion, Gordon Claassen moved approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2018-02. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion carried.

5.2. Consider approval of an exemption from formal bidding procedure, as per Section 1080.7 of the District's Procurement Policy, for the San Andreas Road Sediment Capture Project

Lisa introduced the San Andreas Road Sediment Capture Project to the Board and circulated a Memorandum Letter regarding the request. The expected costs for the project are \$100,000 for construction, with up to 75% being funded through a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board. She explained that per the Procurement Policy this project falls within 1080.5.1.2 of the procurement policy and therefore is subject to the informal bid process. However, due to the nature of the project RCD staff is recommending an exemption to this procedure per section 1080.7.4 Compatibility and Continuity. The exemption is being sought to increase efficiency since the proposed contractor is already on site working on a gully repair project. NRCS and the landowner are contributing funds to the project. The Board discussed the nature of the project and the associated permitting conditions. Robert Ketley moved approval of the staff recommendation for exemption of the informal bid process per Section 1080.7.4 of the Procurement Policy. Gordon Claassen seconded the motion. Howard Liebenberg abstained from the vote. All others approved the motion. The motion carried.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1. In-lieu-of-fee Program Presentation

Kelli Camara gave a presentation to the Board regarding the In-lieu-of-fee Program (ILFP). She explained that the District has submitted a full proposal to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the ILFP program. The program serves as a mechanism for the District to sell mitigation credits to implement habitat restoration and species recovery projects. She explained that due to a change in policy, the Ventura office of the USFWS will be requiring mitigation of development impacts to sensitive species and habitats when issuing permits. Due to the success of the IWRP program and implementation of successful restoration projects the District is in a good position to sponsor an ILF Program. The proposal has been approved and the District will now need to submit the Draft Instrument before the program can move forward. Once this has been submitted and approved the District will be able to move quickly into the implementation phase of the program. Kelli gave examples of how the program would work in practice. There was then a discussion of the program. Kelli pointed out that this program has great potential for working with PG&E and CalTrans. The service area for the program would be Santa Cruz and Monterey counties and would initially have the capacity to complete two projects in each credit category over a three-year period for a total potential of 16 projects over three years. She also indicated that the program could be expanded to include other species in the future. The Board identified several areas of concern, including the exposure of the District and the Board to potential liability, and the requirement of maintaining the project in perpetuity. Kelli explained that credits will include costs of maintaining the project as well as unforeseen catastrophic events, and that money would need to be invested in an endowment until it was needed. She said that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has expressed interest in serving as an endowment partner. Mike Manfre requested the RCD contact the Inland Empire RCD to see how they have approached the issue of liability.

6.2. Executive Director's Report

Lisa Lurie circulated the Executive Director report. She pointed out that there has been a huge wave of grant proposals submitted over the past month by staff. Kudos to all staff! Lisa together with Mike Manfre have visited County Supervisors Greg Caput and Zach Friend to introduce and follow up with the request for additional funding to support requests for assistance from local landowners. Lisa explained that the



visits have been very helpful and that some of the feedback they have been getting is that the RCD does great work, but is not widely known. In light of that, she will be working to identify strategies to get the word out to constituents.

Lisa highlighted the iSpy science event that Angie Gruys and Director Robert Ketley collaborated on in coordination with the City of Watsonville. The District has received positive feedback from the event, and requests for similar style events in the future. Lisa mentioned that there are several outreach and workshop events schedule for June. The State Department of Conservation is currently conducting a statewide listening tour and has heard from Land Trusts and RCDs the need for renewed watershed coordinator funding. Additionally, Lisa highlighted the progress being made regarding the advance mitigation Memorandum of Understanding with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC). Several grant applications have been submitted in collaboration with the Fire Safe Council and another round of county funding to support this program has been approved. Staff continue to move forward on the Scotts Creek Bridge replacement and lagoon restoration efforts.

Lisa will be working with the RCD’s Ag Team to replace the vacancy left by Lisa moving into the Executive Director roll. Additionally, the Board discussed updates to other staff transitions.

6.3. NRCS Report

Whit Haraguchi gave updates to the Batch #2 projects. All six applications have been contracted. Kay Joy Barge updated the local partners that in the FY 2019 groundwater will be considered a resource concern, noting that this should allow increased movement and participation in Regional Conservation Partnership Projects. Whit mentioned that NRCS has a new Earthteam Volunteer who may be available to help Sacha and Gerry with nutrient testing in the field. He said that the hiring freeze is thawing and that 30 of the 90 statewide vacancies are in the hiring process. However, the local Soil Conservationist position is not among the positions. Finally, Whit let the Board know that Geoff White the acting State Conservationist along with the State Executive Team will be visiting locally and that the RCD will be hosting a tour of local successful projects.

6.4. Director’s Report

Howard Liebenberg mentioned that he checked out the website www.fireadapted.org and was reminded that an ember can float through the sky up to one mile. He pointed out the need to prepare for a fire happens months before the fire starts.

Robert Ketley was excited to report on a possible steelhead siting on Arana Gulch above the Chaminade property off Paul Sweet Road.

7. ADJOURN

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be **July 11, 2018**. Gordon Claassen moved to adjourn at 8:42PM. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.