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 OCTOBER 10, 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 **6:33 PM on October 10, 2018** at the District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

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

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
Jim McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
There were no public comments.

4. NRCS REPORT
Whitney Haraguchi circulated the NRCS report for review. He shared that Morgan Feeney has joined the office one day a week. She administers the RCPP contracts and it has been extremely helpful having her in the office. Additionally, he reported that the Soil Conservation position has been advertised, though the process has been slower than normal. He is hopeful the position will be filled by the holidays.

5. CONSENT AGENDA
Robert Ketley moved approval of the Consent Agenda Items. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion carried.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1. Nominate a delegate to the Central Coast Regional RCD Meeting in Templeton on October 17
Lisa Lurie told the Board that the Central Coast Regional RCD meeting objective is to improve communication between Districts and to share best management practices, accomplishments, and challenges. Jim McKenna volunteered to attend the meeting with Lisa and Whit. The Board then had a lively discussion. Best practices discussed were, hiring great people, attend a Board tour, get involved by talking to local Supervisors about what the RCD is doing in the county, and attract a diverse array of Board Members that can give both professional and geographic perspectives. Accomplishments discussed were the RCD's agility in delivering a wide variety of programs that meet the needs of the people and the trends

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in funding, including Recharge Net Metering, In-Lieu-of-Fee Program, Carbon Planning, Irrigation and Nutrient Management, Fuel Load Reduction and Rural Roads Programs. Challenges identified included effectively reaching and funding technical assistance to the average small landowner that collectively own a lot of property throughout the county. Moreover, securing base funding to pay for the day to day operations that are not often funded through grants.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1. Board succession, recruitment and orientation

Lisa reminded the Board that there are several Board terms up for reappointment. She let the Board know that Roberta will be retiring when her term is up. Jim McKenna will contact his Board Supervisor to let him know that he would like to continue serving. Robert Ketley has contacted his Board Supervisor. Lisa also mentioned that though his term is not yet up, Gordon will be retiring in the near future at which point the RCD Board will appoint someone to fill out the rest of his appointment. The Board talked about the importance of recruiting someone from the North Coast. Lisa shared the timeline for the appointment process, applications are due to the county by October 23, nominations by the Board Supervisors will be October 30, and the appointments will be made the end of November.

7.2. Executive Director's Report

Lisa circulated the Executive Director's report. Lisa reported that the District has received funding from the Coastal Conservancy for Carbon Farming Planning. She said that the grant will take a conservation planning style approach to carbon farming on agricultural lands. Additionally, staff have submitted proposals to the Resources Legacy Fund for the permitting and design of five fish passage projects on Branciforte Creek. Future grant proposals are under development for a non-point source pollution and forest health funding. Lisa attended a meeting with Sempervirens Fund and the Davenport North Coast Association to discuss the preliminary Mill Creek Dam Removal feasibility study with a focus on the lower dam. Friends of Felton Library reached out to the District to discuss partnering opportunities at the newly under construction Felton public library and nature park. The focus of the library and park will be on environmental literacy. Lisa also met with Terry Corwin, now with Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks to discuss partnership opportunities.

Lisa highlighted that the Soquel Streamflow project is gearing up for community outreach in November for people who live on the creek to learn about the status of the basin and introduce the off-stream storage opportunities for landowners. Lisa updated the board on the Healthy Lands Healthy Economies report our District completed several years ago, but now a three-county regional report is being released. The tri-counties involved in this effort will be working on a strategy to roll out the findings and opportunities in the coming months. The ILF program has been moving forward with the completion of the financial assurances piece. The District has also hired a consultant to review the draft instrument and to answer pending questions. Lisa anticipates bringing the program to the Board for review in November.

Angie has been working on the Graham Hill fuel load reduction project and addressing acacia re-sprouts. Lisa also highlighted construction at the Yellowbank Creek mitigation project where three Red-legged-frog ponds are being created. The effort to find a Program Specialist continues with the position being reposted.

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7.3 Director's Reports

Robert Ketley reported that he, John Ricker, Kelli Camara and Angie Gruys visited a private property on Soquel Creek where a large restoration project was completed by the RCD in 2015. He will be doing an article about the project in *California Fly Fishing*.

John Ricker mentioned that he attended a Board of Supervisors meeting at which Bruce McPherson gave a nice plug about the efforts of the RCD. Additionally, he attended a Land Trust donors appreciation event at a quarry overlooking the ocean in late September. He asked if the RCD has been partnering with the Land Trust lately on projects. Lisa summarized ongoing collaborations with the Land Trust, and she will be connecting with Bryan Largay regarding new project ideas. Finally, he mentioned that the county is looking at ground water and streamflow interactions in Soquel Creek and that there are some advocating for the county to step up and be the "Water Master" for the watershed.

8. ADJOURN

The next Meeting of the Board of Directors will be a Board Tour on November 7th, with a potential Board meeting to follow. John Ricker moved to adjourn at 8:17PM. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

(TC: JM)