RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

820 Bay Avenue, Suite 1
Capitola, California 950
tel 831.464.29
www.rcdsantacruz.c

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2019 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 **5:38PM on November 6, 2019** at District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

| | |
|---|---|
| Directors Present: | Steve Auten |
| | Kelley Bell |
| | Robert Ketley |
| | Mike Manfre, Vice President |
| | Jim McKenna, President |
| | John Ricker |
| | Howard Liebenberg |
| RCD Staff Present: | Tangi Chapman, Recorder |
| | Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance\Acting Director of Finance |
| | Erin McCarthy, Program Specialist |

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:38PM, with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. Robert Ketley made a motion to add to the agenda appointing a delegate to the California Association of Resource Conservation District Annual Conference that starts November 12, 2019. John Ricker seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed. John Ricker then moved to appoint Kelley Bell to represent the RCD as the voting delegate at the conference. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

Jim McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**4. NRCS REPORT**

The was no NRCS report given.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board reviewed the consent agenda item and then, Howard Liebenberg moved to approve the consent agenda items. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**6.1. Consider approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2019-07 to approve submittal of a grant application for a "California Climate Investments" Forest Health grant through the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFIRE)**

Sharon Corkrean circulated the proposed resolution authorizing the RCD to submit a grant application to CalFIRE for the California Climate Investments Forest Health grant. Steve Auten shared that the program among other things seeks to reduce fuel loads that lead to large intense wildfires. The state has allocated $90,000,000 for Forest Health and Fire Prevention for landscape scale

820 Bay Avenue, Suite 1
Capitola, California 950
tel 831.464.29
www.rcdsantacruz.c

projects (800-1,000 acres). The RCD is coordinating this effort with neighborhood RCDs and is working on letters of support from partners including CalFIRE. After reviewing the resolution, the Board requested that staff investigate what is meant in #2 of the resolution that states, "Certifies that said applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project." At issue is what is meant by maintaining the project. After discussion, John Ricker moved to approve the resolution as submitted and directed staff to determine and negotiate the maintenance requirements prior to contracting should the proposal be granted funding. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. The motion passed with Kelley Bell, Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Jim McKenna and John Ricker in favor. Steve Auten abstained from the vote. The resolution was approved.

**6.2. Consider signing a comment letter by local area RCDs to the Central Coast Regional Water Board regarding Ag Order 4.0**

Erin McCarthy presented the Board with the draft letter written by Paul Robins and others. Erin explained that the changes to the Ag Order as currently written include a set of regulations regarding riparian setbacks that will be difficult, if not impossible to implement and will be very costly to growers. She further explained that the urgency has lessened in getting this letter drafted as the Regional Water Board is delaying the implementation of the new Ag Order 4.0 until January 31, 2021. However, she felt addressing the matter now is still important. The consensus of the Board was that the letter needed to be more pointed and encouraged staff to include examples. Steve Auten suggested using a map overlaying an existing farm with the proposed Ag Order requirements to illustrate the issues. Robert Ketley suggested bullet pointing the issues and providing a comprehensive analysis of how that will affect our ability to work with farmers. The Board directed Erin to rework the letter incorporating the Boards comments and concerns and bring it back to the January 2020 meeting for further review and consideration.

**6.3. Review and consider approval of the North Rispin Property Checklist**

Tangi Chapman circulated the North Rispin Property Checklist to the Board. She and Angie Gruys visited the site during the power outage the previous week. She noted the presence of trash and an abandoned encampment on the site. Additionally, it was noted that the lid on the cement tank was missing and filled with trash; the lid was present in photos previously taken at the site. Angie commented that the site looked cleaner this year when compared to last year. The Board expressed their concern about safety and were uncomfortable with staff visiting the area unaccompanied. Robert Ketley moved to approve the North Rispin Property Checklist with the addition of the comment that "the absence of a lid may pose a safety hazard" and an accompanying letter expressing the Boards concerns about safety with the suggestion that staff be escorted by a Capitola Safety Officer. Kelley Bell seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

***(Sharon Corkrean and Tangi Chapman left the meeting)***

**7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**7.1. Executive Director Report**

There was no Executive Director Report given.

**7.2. Director Reports**

John Ricker offered his house for the Holiday Party, he suggested December 12 would work well. Tangi will confirm the date and work with Bernadette to hash out the details.

820 Bay Avenue, Suite 1
Capitola, California 950
tel 831.464.29
www.rcdsantacruz.c

**8. ADJOURN**

The next meeting of the RCD Board will be on January 8, 2020 at 6:30PM. **Robert Ketley moved to adjourn. Steve Auten seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.**

**(TC:JM)** 1/8/20