RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136
Capitola, California 95010
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MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 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 **6:32 PM on January 9, 2019** at District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present:	Mike Manfre
	John Ricker
	Kelley Bell
	Howard Liebenberg
Directors Absent:	Jim McKenna, President
	Robert Ketley
Associate Director:	Sheryl Bailey
RCD Staff Present:	Lisa Lurie, Executive Director
	Lizzy Eichorn, Program Specialist, Recorder
NRCS Staff Present:	Whitney Haraguchi, District Conservationist

1. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM. Mike Manfre chaired the meeting. There was a quorum present.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME
Mike Manfre welcomed everyone to the meeting. Kelley Bell is a new board member, so all meeting attendees introduced themselves.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
There were no public comments.

4. NRCS REPORT
Whitney Haraguchi reported that Drew Mather, senior soil conservationist previously from the Hollister office, will be starting the week of January 7th. His presence will bolster the RCD/NRCS agricultural assistance programs. The government shutdown continues but funds from last year have been appropriated for work to continue through the end of the pay period (1/18/19). Also, the program batching period timelines have been affected by the shutdown and will most likely push deadlines out.

5. CONSENT AGENDA
Kelley asked why there is such a large portion of revenue in the "Local/Other" Revenue without a detail break down. In general terms, where is this money coming from? Lisa will follow up with Sharon to inquire and will respond to board. The revenue breakdown and more explanation on what constitutes "Local/Other" revenue will be addressed at the next board meeting as a discussion item. Approval will be needed too.
John Ricker moved approval of the 5.1 Consent Agenda Item. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion carried.

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6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1. Review the North Rispin Property Inspection

Lisa Lurie reported that this is an agreement that we have with the City of Capitola to do the conservation easement annual monitoring on a local property. The annual monitoring was completed by RCD staff members on 10/2/18. Directors inquired about the general status of the property- there was concern regarding the wording on the inspection form as to what the "hearing" entails. The Board requested that staff member names and contact information be added to the form. This action item will be put on next month's agenda as an action item to either adopt or approve.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1. Forest Health Program Development

Lisa Lurie stated that there is a recognized need (amongst RCD staff and partners) for development of an RCD forest health program. Needs include but are not limited to developing capacity to assist with: private resident technical assistance, larger landscape level fuels management, agency priorities/mandates, human property protection and safety needs, and ecological enhancement. At the forefront of our staff discussions has been how do we best balance fuel load management and fire protection needs with other resource management objectives? Lisa sees the RCD in a leadership role to ensure that ecological considerations are front and center for this evolving community priority. The Board of Directors shared their perspectives. There was consensus that general natural resource management needs are huge in the County, especially with regard to fire risk reduction, and that the RCD is uniquely situated to bring a large number of stakeholders together to make landscape-level efforts successful. Board member input included the following: there is a huge opportunity in helping landowners with general land conservation/wildland management planning, a fee for service program may be a reliable way to be able to provide forestry assistance, consider a cost share situation that works across boundaries (i.e. across RCD jurisdictions, or amongst other partner organizations), we need to determine how Permit Coordination plays in to fuels management, and involve resource agencies early in fire discussions - consider IWRP as a communication mechanism. We also discussed the need for community outreach and education around fuel load reduction work to raise awareness and address any possible negative public perceptions. Lisa also touched on the acknowledged need from Santa Cruz Mountain Stewardship Network members for using prescribed fire as an ecological enhancement and fuels management tool. These discussions will continue. All agreed that there is room for forest health work to align with the RCD's mission and is a valuable area to consider program development.

7.2. Executive Director's Report

Lisa circulated the Executive Director's report. RCD staff applied for six grants in December 2018; these included a variety of planning and implementation proposals. Two grants were awarded: Resources Legacy Fund grant funds for removal of five fish passage barriers on Branciforte Creek. California Fire Safe Council grant funds were awarded for a large-scale education and outreach fire preparedness effort in collaboration with Fire Safe Santa Cruz County. Angie, Lisa, and Jim attended the CARCD conference in November 2018. Valuable resources were gathered, and connections made with regard to RCD communications and outreach efforts; Angie will be participating in the state-wide RCD communications training over the next few months. March 16 and 23 are being considered as the dates for the State of the

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San Lorenzo Symposium. It will be held in the lower watershed this year. Soquel Creek Watershed creekside resident event was well attended in November; John Ricker and Trout Unlimited presented information to residents on the state of the Soquel Watershed and potential opportunities for off stream storage of winter diversions to avoid water draw during low-flow months. The ILFP instrument was sent to the RCD's legal counsel and USFWS for review and has also been reviewed by the RCD Board. In the meantime, RCD staff are developing the financial structure that will make the program possible. A staff retreat facilitated by Solid Ground Consulting was held in mid-December; it was a very positive process. One of the main outcomes of the staff retreat was that there is a desire amongst staff to have more concrete strategic plans, developed with board and staff input, with short term actions made clear. Lisa plans to initiate one-on-one Board member meetings to check in - she'll be reaching out. This will be an opportunity to have Directors share their motivations and in turn increase Lisa's understanding of how best to engage Board members. Finally, Erin McCarthy has now joined our team! She brings a wealth of knowledge about local conservation efforts in the agricultural sector; she is already doing excellent work.

7.3 Director's Reports

Howard Liebenberg mentioned that he would like to encourage the UCSC social services department to get involved in homelessness issues in Pogonip.

John Ricker shared his experience in fuels management on his own property. He also recommended that we focus future groundwater recharge efforts in the Aromas Formation, in the oak woodland areas between Aptos and Larkin Valley.

Sheryl shared that she is renewing her commitment to attending Board meetings as an Associate Director.

8. ADJOURN

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will at the District office on February 13, 2019. John Ricker moved to adjourn at 8:38PM. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

(TC: JM)