RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2020 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 **6:30PM on January 8, 2020** at District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010.

Directors Present:	Steve Auten
	Kelley Bell
	Mike Manfre, Vice President
	Jim McKenna, President
	John Ricker
	Howard Liebenberg
Directors Absent:	Robert Ketley
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder
	Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance
	Lisa Lurie, Executive Director
NRCS Present:	Whit Haraguchi, District Conservationist
Others Present:	Shannon Bane
	Wendy Young

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM, with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Jim McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. NRCS REPORT

Whit Haraguchi informed the Board that Kay-Joy Barge, NRCS Area Conservationist, is recovering from surgery and will be out for six weeks. Additionally, Jennifer Nowark, NRCS Administrator, will be having surgery at the end of January and will also be out for six weeks. Lastly, he said that he has been coordinating with Kelli Camara and Erin McCarthy regarding one to three Regional Conservation Partnership Program projects.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

The Board reviewed the consent agenda item and then, John Ricker moved to approve the consent agenda items. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1. Consider approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2020-01 to enter into agreement with the Coastal Conservancy and designate a representative to negotiate and sign the agreement for implementation of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program

Lisa Lurie presented the resolution to the Board and explained that the grant will use the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program as a model for planning and implementation of forest health

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projects. The RCD of Santa Cruz County will administer the grant and plan/implement projects within our district; San Mateo, Monterey and Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCDs will all subcontract with us for project implementation in their respective districts. The grant is for $1.3 million and will run for two years. The purpose of the funding is to increase local forest health technical capacity and to facilitate regional coordination. It will include coordinating and informing grant agencies regarding local needs and grant writing. The effort is a product of the Durable Collaboration with the regional RCDs and has been a strong collaborative effort amongst the participating RCDs and the Coastal Conservancy. Kelley Bell made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented. John Ricker seconded the motion. John Ricker made a request that in the future the Agenda have a brief description of the Resolution to be considered. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

(Shannon Bane and Wendy Young entered the meeting)

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1. Executive Director Report

Lisa Lurie was welcomed back from her leave by the Board. She explained that she has been back in the office since January 6 and therefore was not able to provide a written ED report. Steve Auten asked about the Ag Order 4.0 that Erin brought to the Board at the last meeting. Lisa gave context and background to the Ag Order 4.0 and informed the Board that the implementation of the Order has been delayed a year, so the issue is not as urgent as it once seemed. She impressed upon the Board that the comments to the Regional Board are important, they need to be thoughtful and constructive. Lisa said that she would be looking at the draft letter, providing her comments and then will bring it back to the Board at a future time. Lisa reminded the Board that January 22, 2020 the District will be holding the Strategic Planning Retreat. She will be sending out the agenda and attached assessment by the end of the week. The event will be held at the Valencia Hall in Aptos. Lisa gave a huge shout out to Sharon Corkrean and RCD staff for holding the fort while she was out. This is confounded by the fact that the RCD had its largest construction year in recent memory and the volume of projects implemented was unprecedented. Lisa noted that there will be several staff transitions in the coming months with Lizzy Eichorn moving on, and Karl Fieberling retiring. Additionally, the RCD will be hiring a Forest Program Specialist in the next few weeks. She will be coordinating workloads and assessing additional staffing needs based on these findings. Finally, Lisa requested Board participation in meeting with members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, which she is aiming to schedule for February. Jim McKenna volunteered to help.

7.2. Director Reports

Kelley Bell gave an update on the California Association of Resource Conservation District annual conference she attended on behalf of the Board. She reported that the breakout sessions were informative, and it gave her an opportunity to connect with RCD staff as well as other RCDs. She attended the business meeting and was encouraged by the CARCD push to lobby for more baseline funding for RCDs. They said that a plan would be released soon. Additionally, she said that CARCD would be aligning their fiscal year with the RCDs. Finally, she said that the CARCD is taking an active roll in promoting RCDs as a conservation resource for licensed cannabis cultivation.

Howard Liebenberg shared that he is donating money to provide Fire Safe information and brochures to San Lorenzo Valley High School Students. He also reported on a retaining wall project the County Public Works is implementing in which he is confused about the location. He estimates that the wall is about 50 feet from where it should be, given the location of the slide and unstable soils. Finally, Howard reported his dismay at the lack of urgency at the San Lorenzo Valley Water District for

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responding to leaks within their pipes. It was said that the rate of water loss is about 35% within the SLVWD system.

John Ricker reported that he attended a meeting with the County Representative and the Santa Cruz Mountain Stewardship Network regarding LIDAR vegetation mapping of the county. Lisa chimed in that Lizzy Eichorn has been working on that effort, and that given her departure she will need to reevaluate the RCDs role.

Jim McKenna gave the visitors an opportunity to introduce themselves to the group since they missed the Public Comment section on the agenda. Shannon Bane introduced herself and Wendy Young explaining that they work for Harrison Associates Consulting firm out of their Salinas Office. They have been working with Kelli Camara on a Regional Transportation Commission project and wanted to learn more about the RCD and its role in conservation and restoration work in Santa Cruz County.

8. **ADJOURN**

The next meeting of the RCD Board will be on February 12, 2020 at 6:30PM. **John Ricker moved to adjourn. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:43PM.**

(TC:JM)