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RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 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 **6:31PM on March 11, 2020** at District Office, 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010 and 323 Pestana Ave, Santa Cruz.

Directors Present:	Steve Auten
	Kelley Bell
	Robert Ketley, via teleconference
	Mike Manfre, Vice President
Directors Absent:	Jim McKenna, President
	Howard Liebenberg
	John Ricker
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder
	Lisa Lurie, Executive Director
NRCS Present:	Whit Haraguchi, District Conservationist

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM, with a quorum present. Mike Manfre chaired the meeting.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Mike Manfre welcomed everyone to the meeting. Robert Ketley confirmed that he could hear everyone at the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. NRCS REPORT

Whit Haraguchi circulated the NRCS report. He highlighted that the EQIP batching deadlines have been set for April 17th and June 26th. Additionally, Whit informed the group that James Booth the District Conservationist in Hollister will be stepping in for him while he is out on Family Leave for the birth of his child.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

The Board reviewed the consent agenda item and then, Kelley Bell moved to approve the consent agenda items. Steve Auten seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. Ayes include Steve Auten, Kelley Bell, Robert Ketley and Mike Manfre. There were none opposed. The motion passed.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1. **Memorandum of Agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the RCD, and the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts**

Whit shared with the board that there are three separate agreements that NRCS has with the RCD, the local operational agreement, the state level Cooperative Working Agreement and the national agreement between the state and federal office of NRCS. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

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before the Board today replaces the outdated State Tier 2 Cooperative Agreement. Recently the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts requested a refresh of the document with the intent of restating the importance of the partnership between the agencies. The document outlines the roles and priorities of the agencies. The Board asked about the current working relationship between the NRCS and RCD. Whit replied that the relationship is mutually beneficial. The RCD Ag Team is very helpful in communicating and connecting with growers as all members are fluent in Spanish. In turn the NRCS provides the technical guidance to RCD staff. After consideration, Steve Auten moved to approve the MOA between the USDA NRCS, RCD Santa Cruz and the CARCD. Kelley Bell seconded the motion. Ayes included Steve Auten, Kelley Bell, Robert Ketley and Mike Manfre. There were none opposed. The motion passed.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1. Strategic Planning Update

Lisa Lurie informed the Board that all of the Strategic Planning sub-teams have met to review outcomes of the planning process and to strategize on next steps. Lisa will be attending a meeting tomorrow with Amy Stork and others to pull it all together. After that meeting there will be a final review and then wordsmithing of the document. Lisa intends to bring it back to the April Regular Board Meeting in time for the budget preparation process and development of the annual workplans in May.

7.2. Executive Director Report

Lisa circulated the Executive Director report. She highlighted a grant proposal the RCD submitted in partnership with Groundswell Ecology, State Parks, and BLM for the "Santa Cruz Monarch Enhancement Project." Additionally, she gave a presentation on March 6 to the Regional Water Quality Control Board in Watsonville. The presentation focused on the partnership between Regional Board and the RCD over the past 20 years. In turn the Regional Board signed a resolution recognizing this "collaboration and effective use of best management practices and restoration techniques to improve water quality and restore aquatic habitat in high priority watersheds." Lisa then went on to update the Board regarding staffing. The RCD has been accepting applications for the Forest Health Program Specialist and will be reviewing applicants after March 16 with interviews to follow. She has been working with Kelli Camara to draft an announcement for a Watershed Restoration Program Specialist position to fill Lizzy Eichorn's vacancy. Finally, Sharon Corkrean and Arianne Rettinger will be splitting the administration of the grants that Karl Fieberling was working on. They will assess the need to hire a new grant administrator in the near future. Lisa updated the Board on the Forest Health grants. Finally, Lisa gave updates on what the RCD is doing to address the COVID 19 pandemic. She has been following county and state guidelines and has encouraged staff work from home if they are able, instructing staying home if sick, posting of hygiene reminders at sink location, and social distancing as practicable. She let the Board know that there may be loosening of Brown Act rules in the coming days to encourage remote Board meetings. Lisa indicated that she will be closely following the situation as it unfolds.

7.3. Director Reports

There were no Director reports given.

8. ADJOURN

The next meeting of the RCD Board will be on April 8, 2020 at 6:30PM**. Kelley Bell moved to adjourn. Steve Auten seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:31PM.**

(SC:JM)

DocuSigned by:
Jim McKenna
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