



**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 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 **6:34PM on June 10, 2020** at Zoom Meeting ID: 708-386-048.

Directors Present:	Kelley Bell Robert Ketley Howard Liebenberg Mike Manfre, Vice President Jim McKenna, President John Ricker
Associate Director:	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder Lisa Lurie, Executive Director
NRCS Present:	Whit Haraguchi

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:34PM, with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. Roll was called and connectivity confirmed. Kelley Bell here; Howard Liebenberg here; Mike Manfre here; Jim McKenna here; John Ricker here; Robert Ketley absent when roll was called.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Jim McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. NRCS REPORT

Whit Haraguchi gave highlights from the NRCS report. He reported on the efforts to reopen the office to outside visitors. The NRCS is following a three staged approach to reopening based on the increase or decrease in new local COVID 19 cases. Several Counties that were in Stage 2 were then demoted back to Stage 1 since there was an increase in cases over a 14-day period. Discussions are happening between the RCD and NRCS to address reopening and collaboration in that effort. Whit also reported that two EQIP applications have been approved for funding. He mentioned that Drew has been making field visits and planning, and that some field visits are being done remotely with drones and video.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

The Board reviewed the consent agenda item and then, John Ricker moved to approve the consent agenda items. Kelley Bell seconded the motion. Ayes include Kelley Bell, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, Jim McKenna and John Ricker; Robert Ketley was not present. There were none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

(Robert Ketley entered the zoom room)

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1. Updates to the RCDSCC 1080 Procurement Policy

The Board reviewed the proposed updates to the procurement policy which included an increase in the threshold for negotiated procurement of independent consultant contracts from \$60,000 to



\$100,000 and included new language to address AB 1768 that went into effect January 1, 2020. This new legislation amends the definition of “public works” to clarify that it includes work performed during the design, site assessment, feasibility study and other preconstruction phases of construction... regardless of whether any further work is conducted.” Other minor changes included updating the link to the Federal Procurement Requirements and the definition of a subaward. John Ricker moved approval of 1080 Procurement Policy as presented. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. The ayes included, Kelley Bell, Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, Jim McKenna and John Ricker. The motion unanimously passed.

6.2. Exemption from Competitive Procurement Policy per section 1080.9.1

Lisa Lurie circulated a memo explaining that San Vicente Redwoods project is part of the CalFire Forest Health grant the RCD was awarded earlier this year. The grant was written in collaboration with the Peninsula Open Space Trust, Save the Redwoods League and Sempervirens Fund and includes implementation of forest health projects on the San Vicente Redwoods property. Work on SVR land will include shaded fuel break creation and expansion, dense tree stand thinning, tan oak stem density reduction in areas affected by sudden oak death, and reforestation of burned areas. Additionally, UC Berkeley researchers and the Amah Mutsun Land Trust Native Stewardship Corps will conduct pre and post-monitoring in order to better understand the effects of fuels management and forest health treatments on biological and ethnobotanical resources, pathology and entomology. POST is a subaward to the grant and will be administering the San Vicente Redwoods Project. The subaward is for \$1,284,246 and meets the 1080.9.1 exemption to competitive bidding. Lisa in her memo to the Board recommends that the Board approve this exemption. After discussion, John Ricker moved approval of the non-competitive subaward to POST per the 1080.9.1 exemption. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. The ayes included, Kelley Bell, Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, Jim McKenna and John Ricker. The motion unanimously passed.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1. FY 2020-2021 Draft Budget

Lisa Lurie explained that the FY 2020-2021 Budget is shaping up to be another big year. The preliminary budget looks to be about \$5 million. There regional fire grants accounting for a large portion of that budget. Additionally, the Bryant Habert project is in the final phase of construction and will be implemented this fall. There are two sediment reduction grants, one a 319(h) EPA grant through the State Water Board and a pending Integrated Regional Water Management program award. Lisa has been coordinating with Sharon Corkrean to identify general expenses that can be cut in light of the anticipated reduction in tax revenue and augmentation from the County of Santa Cruz. She also confirmed that the new Forest Health Program Specialist has been hired and that she is preparing to hire for the Restoration Program Manager soon. The Draft Budget will be ready for Board approval at the July Board meeting.

7.2. Executive Director Report

Lisa circulated the Executive Director report. She announced that Matt Abernathy will be joining the RCD team starting July 13. He is a local San Lorenzo Valley resident, though he has been working recently in Colorado for a Conservation District. He understands the way RCDs are run and has experience working with NRCS. She gave updates to new grants coming online, including the Sediment Reduction grants in the San Lorenzo Valley. She said that the Technical Advisory Committee will be convening soon to set the priorities for the grant moving forward. The Pajaro Toxicology grant through



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the State Water Board has wrapped up with final report submitted and the final invoice in process. The Board praised the newsletter that was submitted in-lieu of a workshop and tour due to COVID-19. She explained that staff have been working on proposals which include a Conservation Innovation Soil Health grant through NRCS and two concept proposals to the Wildlife Conservation Board. Staff continues to explore best practices for contracting and working during the pandemic. The staff had a diversity, equity and inclusion discussion at their recent staff meeting exploring ideas for conversation, identifying who we are missing in the conservation conversation and how to reach a wider audience. Finally, Lisa reported that she continues to explore candidates for the vacant Board position.


7.3. Director Reports

Mike Manfre reported that he along with his neighbors along McCluskey Slough have been coordinating with Kelli Camara to open their properties for Salamander repopulation.

8. ADJOURN

The next meeting of the RCD Board will be on July 8, 2020 at 6:30PM via Zoom. **Mike Manfre moved to adjourn. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. Ayes included, Kelley Bell, Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, Jim McKenna and John Ricker. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned.**

(TC:JM)

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