



**RESOURCE**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136  
Capitola, California 95010  
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www.rcdsantacruz.org

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 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 **6:38PM on July 8, 2020** at Zoom Meeting ID: 708-386-048.

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|--------------------|--|
| Directors Present: | Kelley Bell<br>Robert Ketley<br>Howard Liebenberg<br>Mike Manfre, Vice President<br>Jim McKenna, President |
| Directors Absent:  | John Ricker  |
| RCD Staff Present: | Tangi Chapman, Recorder<br>Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance<br>Lisa Lurie, Executive Director          |
| NRCS Present:      | Whit Haraguchi   |

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:38PM, with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. Roll was called and connectivity confirmed. Kelley Bell here; Robert Ketley here; Howard Liebenberg here; Mike Manfre here; Jim McKenna here; John Ricker absent.

**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 that he has been collaborating with Erin McCarthy and Monterey RCD on permitting an RCPP Stormwater project. Jennifer Nowark has been coordinating eligibility for the landowner. Whit attended a UCCE workshop via Zoom for prescribed burning. He said that with COVID 19 infections on the rise, the office remains closed and likely will be for the foreseeable future. Additionally, NRCS has had some uncomfortable interactions with clients not wearing masks. He reported that the state engineer has submitted data for a Ground Water Interim standard that may be approved for Fiscal Year 21. There are 17 other interim practice standards being reviewed for adoption; notably Soil Carbon Amendment.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**6.1. Approval of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Draft Budget**

The Board reviewed the Draft Budget. Sharon Corkrean reported that the RCD currently has 59 separate grants, donations or fee-for-service agreements on the books. Of those, the top 11 total over



\$3.0 million. We have a couple regional grants where we are the fiscal sponsor to neighboring RCDs. This includes the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program with San Mateo, and Monterey RCDs and the Forest Health grant with San Mateo, Monterey, and Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCDs. Additionally, we have a large Forest Health project through CalFire in which the Peninsula Open Space Trust is a large subaward. Of the \$5.6 million budget \$1.6 million will cover personnel. Sharon anticipates some minor changes with final invoicing and unexpected grant awards that may shift the budget slightly between now and when the final budget will be adopted in September. After discussion, Robert Ketley moved approval of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Draft Budget. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. Ayes include Kelley Bell, Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, and Jim McKenna; John Ricker was not present. There were none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

**6.2. Resolution RCDSCC 2020-03 to enter into grant agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy and designate a representative to negotiate and sign the agreement and amendments for implementation of the Watsonville Slough Farms Wetland Restoration Project**

Lisa Lurie reported that the RCD has been awarded a Coastal Conservancy grant for the final phase of the Watsonville Slough Farms Wetland Restoration Project with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. This project will be implemented on 9.9 acres of wetland and adjacent habitat and will include reintroduction of topography and restoration of a seasonal pond. Lisa shared that this project will be implemented this fall and the Invitation to Bid has already been posted. The resolution will authorize the RCD to enter into agreement with the Coastal Conservancy and to designate a representative, the Executive Director, to conduct negotiations, execute, submit and sign all documents including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payments requests, and other documents as necessary for the completion of the agreement. Howard Liebenberg moved to approve RCDSCC 2020-03 to enter into agreement with the Coastal Conservancy and to appoint the Executive Director as the representative of the District. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. Ayes include Kelley Bell, Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, and Jim McKenna; John Ricker was not present. There were none opposed. The motion passed.

**6.3. Vote for the California Special District Association Seat C Candidate**

The Board Reviewed the two candidates for the CSDA Seat C position. After review, Mike Manfre made a motion to elect Vincent Ferrante. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. Ayes include Kelley Bell, Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, and Jim McKenna; John Ricker was not present. There were none opposed. The motion passed.

**7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**7.1. Karen Christensen Fund**

Lisa requested the Board participation in an ad hoc committee to explore options to honor and leverage the Karen Christensen Memorial Fund that the RCD received after Karen's passing. The RCD received approximately \$16,000 from family and friends in her memory. Jim McKenna, Mike Manfre, Robert Ketley and Kelley Bell volunteered to participate in the committee. Lisa will set-up a meeting for August.

**7.2. Executive Director Report**

Lisa highlighted items from her Executive Director Report. She gave kudos to Erin McCarthy and Sacha Lozano for their work on the Agriculture Order 4.0 letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board.



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Matt Abernathy the Forest Health Program Specialist joined the RCD on July 7<sup>th</sup>. He has been working as a conservation forester in a joint RCD and NRCS position in Fort Collins, Colorado.

**7.3. Director/Associate Director Reports**

Howard Liebenberg has noticed CalFire crews mowing in Felton. The area has been identified as a priority for fuel load management to reduce fire risk.

**8. ADJOURN**

The next meeting of the RCD Board will be on September 9, 2020 at 6:30PM via Zoom. **Robert Ketley moved to adjourn. Kelley Bell seconded the motion. Ayes included, Kelley Bell, Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, and Jim McKenna. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned.**

(TC:JM)

DocuSigned by:

*Jim McKenna*

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