



**MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2021 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 **6:32PM on July 13, 2021** at Zoom Meeting ID: 708-386-048.

- Directors Present: Robert Ketley
Howard Liebenberg
Jim McKenna, President
Mike Manfre, Vice President
- Directors Absent: Kelley Bell
John Ricker
- RCD Staff Present: Tangi Chapman, Recorder
Sharon Corkrean, Director of Finance
Lisa Lurie, Executive Director
- Consultant Present: Kelli Camara, Technical Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32PM, with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. Roll was called and connectivity confirmed; Kelley Bell absent; Robert Ketley present; Howard Liebenberg present; Mike Manfre present; Jim McKenna present; John Ricker absent.

2. INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

Jim McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. NRCS REPORT

The NRCS report was shared with the Board. Highlights from the report include that NRCS offices will continue maximum telework until October 1st at the earliest; the Secretary of Agriculture will be conducting field tours in California the month of July; deadline for new EQUIP Conservation Incentive Contract pilot program was last Friday, the program focusses on drought resiliency; a statewide fire recovery resource has been developed for all district conservationists and their staff, Rich Casale and Angie Gruys helped out considerably with this effort.

5. PARTNERS IN RESTORATION PRESENTATION

Kelli Camara gave a presentation on the Partners in Restoration Renewal. She told the Board that the PIR program is closing out its 15th year. At the end of last year, the District initiated the renewal process with the various permitting agencies. The support for continuation of the program has been overwhelming, with the county suggesting approval be given in perpetuity. Kelli is working with partners to expand the size and scope of the projects that are included in the program. While it will not likely make it in to this PIR renewal Kelli said that groundwater recharge projects may also be included in the future. The program has proven to be a valuable tool for restoration efforts in the county and the District has been able to implement many beneficial projects each year that otherwise would have been stuck in the lengthy permitting process.



Kelli shared that conversations have been happening to expand the program into the post-fire recovery effort, and while many agencies are supportive of the concept, the concern is how to maintain the integrity of the program under emergency situations. Jim McKenna expressed his concern that post-fire recovery efforts focus on resource conservation matters and that other agencies may be better suited to redevelopment efforts post-fire.

The Board gave kudos to Kelli in her success with the program and to the continued evolution of the program.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

The Board reviewed the consent agenda items which included the June Expenditures and Minutes. Howard Liebenberg moved approval of the consent agenda items. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. The vote was by roll call; the ayes included Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, and Jim McKenna. The motion passed unanimously.

7. ACTION ITEMS

7.1. Consider approval of Draft Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget

Jim McKenna introduced the Draft Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget, he shared that the budget had been reviewed extensively by John Ricker, though he could not be at the meeting tonight. Sharon Corkrean let the Board know that Lisa Lurie had been involved in the budget conversations and had reviewed as well. She shared that many of the projects that were anticipated to go to construction last season did not move forward, that coupled with additional construction projects has contributed to the nearly \$6.5 million anticipated budget for this fiscal year. Due to COVID, the CZU fires and reduced staffing, the District spent about half of what was anticipated last fiscal year. This has shifted much of the work to the current fiscal year. The Board asked if we had enough to meet our expenses from last fiscal year; Sharon confirmed that all expenses were covered and that the district continued to do work and bill indirect expenses. The proposed budget includes \$4.3 million in professional services (including construction). The Board expressed concerns with finding construction contractors given the current labor shortage. Lisa said that several projects are going out to bid now so we will know more about that in the next month or two. Additionally, Lisa said that the RCD hopes to hire another Program Specialist to help with Forest Health and Fire Resiliency projects. Sharon reminded the Board that this is a draft budget and that the final budget will be adopted in September at which point we should know if anticipated construction projects will move forward and then adjust the budget accordingly. Robert Ketley moved approval of the Draft Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. Mike Manfre questioned the number of smaller size grants, he noted Sempervirens Fund, San Lorenzo Valley Water District, among them. It was explained that many of these smaller grants are ones that have been ongoing and are wrapping up, small Fee-For-Service, or supplementary grants to cover construction expenses. The vote was then counted by roll-call vote; ayes included Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre and Jim McKenna. The motion passed unanimously.

7.2. Consider approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2021-07 to enter into an agreement and designate a representative for the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program

Lisa Lurie presented the Board with Resolution RCDSCC 2021-07. The resolution authorizes the District to enter into an agreement with the Coastal Conservancy for the next round of the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program and to designate the Executive Director as authorized representative to negotiate and sign the agreement. Like the previous IWRP grants, this will fund San Mateo, Monterey and Santa



Cruz County RCDs to design and permit fish passage and stream restoration projects. The grant will be administered by the Santa Cruz RCD and will be split between the three RCDs. After Discussion, Robert Ketley moved approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2021-07. The vote was counted by roll call; ayes included Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, and Jim McKenna. The motion passed unanimously.

7.3. Consider approval of procurement and contracting for Buena Vista 2 Wetland Enhancement Project Construction

Lisa presented a Memo detailing the Buena Vista Wetland Enhancement Project and the procurement method for contracting the work. Lisa said that the project is currently out to bid, and the timing of contract award would be prior to the next Board Meeting. The engineers estimate put the cost of the project over the \$100,000 threshold, requiring board approval. After review of the project detail, Robert Ketley moved to accept the staff recommendation to award the contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder in accordance with Policy 1080.7 for the Buena Vista 2 Wetland Enhancement Project. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. The vote was counted by roll call; ayes included Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, and Jim McKenna. The motion passed unanimously.

7.4. Vote on Candidates for CSDA Board of Directors Term 2022-2024 Seat A – Coastal Network

The Board reviewed the two candidates for the CSDA Board of Directors Coastal Network, after discussion and then a vote no candidate received a majority, and no consensus could be reach for either candidate. No action was taken.

8. CLOSED SESSION

8.1. Personnel Matters Government Code Section 54957

9. OPEN SESSION

9.1. Report Out Closed Session Motion

Jim Mckenna reported that no action was taken during the Personnel Discussion. It was requested that a Closed Session be added to the August Board meeting.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.1. Executive Directors Report

Lisa Lurie shared highlights from the Executive Directors Report. The Public Works Project was passed by the San Mateo Board of Directors at their June meeting. The PWP was subsequently passed by the Coastal Commission. Interestingly, Lisa shared that at the state level the public comments were concerned mostly with state regulation in the coastal zone being diminished. The commissioners passed the PWP, and recognizing that state level solutions are required, also gave direction to staff to engage at the state level to work towards long-term solutions.

Lisa reported that the spring chipping program has wrapped up, congratulations to Angie Gruys for spearheading this project. Lisa said that Mike Eaton is awaiting confirmation from the Board of Supervisors on his appointment to the Board, this is set to happen on August 10.

Angie gave a presentation to the Board of the new website pages and format. She would like the Board to further check it out and give feedback. The links are in the Executive Directors Report.

10.2. Director/Associate Director Reports



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Robert Ketley said that he watched the Public Works Presentation on YouTube and was impressed with the presentation and suggested this would be a wonderful marketing tool and a flexible way to get the message out to constituents, he suggested leading with a short abstract of the presentation.

Mike Manfre suggested that some sort of memorial or tribute to Roberta be planned. Lisa shared staff have been working on ideas for a future event.

11. ADJOURN

The next meeting of the RCD Board will be September 8, 2021 at 6:30PM via Zoom. Robert Ketley moved to adjourn. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. Ayes included Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, and Jim McKenna. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

(TC:MM)

DocuSigned by:

Mike Manfre

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