



**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 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 **6:34PM on August 11, 2021** at Zoom Meeting ID: 708-386-048.

Directors Present:	Kelley Bell Robert Ketley Howard Liebenberg Mike Manfre, Vice President John Ricker
Directors Absent:	Jim McKenna, President
Associate Director Present:	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder Lisa Lurie, Executive Director Daniel Nysten, Program Manager
NRCS Present:	Whit Haraguchi, District Conservationist
Others Present:	Mike Eaton Michelle Simon Susan Marx

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME**

Jim McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**4. NRCS REPORT**

Whit Haraguchi told the Board that NRCS had given guidance to reopen and return to the office October 1, 2021. However, with the Delta variant, that has been pushed out indefinitely. He shared that the Hollister office now has a Pollinator Habitat Biologist that will be shared in the region. Additionally, the Under Secretary for Agriculture has been touring California.

*(Howard Liebenberg entered the meeting)*

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

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



## 6. ACTION ITEMS

### 6.1. Consider approval of procurement and construction contract for a Partners in Restoration fish passage improvement project (BrC 3)

Daniel Nylen gave details regarding the Branciforte Dam Removal project and highlighted the memo that was sent with the Board packets. The project consists of removal of 3 dams on a landowner's property. The dams were identified by the county in 2014 as impediments to fish passage. Permits are currently being secured for the project and an informal bid solicitation was released on July 22 to six potential contractors, one contractor attended the non-mandatory bid walk; the District received one bid by the August 6<sup>th</sup> deadline. Staff are recommending that subsequent to bid review and securing of permits, the Board award the construction contract to Monteith for the BrC 3 dam removal. The Board ask questions regarding the project and the contract. After discussion, John Ricker moved to support the staff recommendation to award the Branciforte Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project (BrC 3) construction contract to Monteith pending review of their bid proposal and receipt of permits. Kelley Bell seconded the motion. The vote was then counted by roll-call vote; ayes included Kelley Bell, Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre and John Ricker. The motion passed unanimously.

### 6.2. Consider approval of procurement and consulting contract for a Registered Professional Forester for Last Chance Road and Skylark Girl Scout Camp Forest Health Projects

Lisa Lurie presented the memo regarding the procurement of a Registered Professional Forester for two Forest Health Projects. The consulting forester will help permit the projects through the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) process and the newly approved Public Works Plan (PWP) process. Additionally, the consultant will provide oversight and capacity building to RCD staff and support implementation oversight. There is a small pool of potential local RPFs that have experience with the CalVTP. The request for proposals was sent to 15 local RPFs and there were no bids received. Staff is recommending that the District reach out one on one to RPFs to negotiate a contract. After Discussion, John Ricker moved to support the staff recommendation to negotiate a consultant services contract with a qualified Registered Professional Forester. Robert Ketley seconded the motion. The vote was counted by roll call vote; ayes included Kelley Bell, Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, and John Ricker. The motion passed unanimously.

## 7. CLOSED SESSION

### 7.1. Personnel Matters Government Code Section 54957

The Board entered into a closed session to discuss personnel matters.

## 8. OPEN SESSION

### 8.1. Report Out Closed Session Motion

Robert Ketley made a motion to approve the Board recommendation to increase the Executive Director compensation to Level 2 Step 4 on the Executive Director pay scale. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. After further discussion, Robert Ketley moved to include placing the Executive Director review annually on the Agenda in July or August and for the Board to develop a rubric for evaluating the performance of the Executive Director, Howard Liebenberg agreed with the addition to the motion. The motion was counted by roll call vote; ayes included Kelley Bell, Robert Ketley, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre and John Ricker. The motion passed unanimously.

## 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS



### 9.1. Executive Directors Report

Lisa Lurie shared highlights from the Executive Directors Report. The Summit Road shaded fuel break is moving forward with a small amount of seed funding helping to complete the first phase this week. The Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County, CalFire, Santa Cruz Mountains Alliance, the RCD and a couple of county supervisors have collaborated on the effort which ultimately seeks to create a five mile shaded fuel break along Summit Road, the main evacuation and access corridor during a fire. Work continues on development of the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy with the conservation elements which outline goals, objectives, and priority actions are currently out for technical review amongst a broad Technical Advisory Committee.

Lisa reported that Erin McCarthy took on a project to connect farmers with the abundance of wood chips being generated post-fire. Identifying where to put all the wood chips from the post-fire recovery effort has been a problem, while at the same time, farmers are seeking wood chips for biochar and other uses. Erin is connecting the two.

John Ricker requested an update on efforts to work with the Bonny Doon Fire Safe Counsel. Lisa responded that she will be reaching out; Matt Abernathy is engaged with them on various projects and collaborations. John stressed the importance of working with this community.

Kelley Bell had a question regarding the RCIS and the Pajaro River which separates Santa Cruz from Monterey. Lisa responded that Monterey is a couple steps further in the planning process for their RCIS and recognized the need to address cross-boundary resource priorities (similarly with Santa Clara County). Kelley suggested that perhaps there could be a Pajaro Valley addendum that would allow a mechanism for cross boundary collaboration since habitat connectivity and working lands need to be addressed on the landscape scale, not on the boundaries between counties. Lisa said she will take this suggestion back to the team.

### 9.2. Director/Associate Director Reports

Mike Manfre attended a California Special District Association *Board Member Practices* webinar along with Tangi Chapman and Lisa Lurie. Each had something to take away from the meeting and implement at the District; sexual harassment prevention training requirements, reserve policy, and dedicating an hour annually at a Board meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Howard Liebenberg gave some history to the development of programs at the District. He was encouraged by the initiative of staff to implement the Directors suggestions. He cited the Permit Coordination, Manure Management and Fire programs to name a few.

## 10. ADJOURN

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

(TC:JM)

DocuSigned by:  
*Jim McKenna*  
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