



**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 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 12:54PM on November 10, 2021 at Zoom Meeting ID: 708-386-048.

Directors Present:	Kelley Bell Mike Eaton Howard Liebenberg Mike Manfre, Vice President Jim McKenna, President John Ricker
Directors Absent:	Robert Ketley
Associate Directors Present:	Kathryn Tobisch Vasiliki Vasilli
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder Lisa Lurie, Executive Director
NRCS Staff Present:	Drew Mather, Soil Cons. & Acting DC for Half Moon Bay/Santa Cruz

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:54PM, with a quorum present. Jim McKenna chaired the meeting. Roll was called and connectivity confirmed; Kelley Bell present; Mike Eaton present; Robert Ketley absent; Howard Liebenberg present; Mike Manfre present; Jim McKenna present; John Ricker present.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME**

Jim McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**4. NRCS REPORT**

Drew Mather gave a report for NRCS; Whit is on emergency leave. He informed the Board that there will be a dual incumbency for Assistant Area Conservationist position, such that retiring current AAC, Kay Joy-Barge will be training the new AAC Allen Curry. Allen will be taking his position on November 21; the two will work side-by-side for six weeks. Drew told the Board that there will be a December 10<sup>th</sup> EQIP application deadline and again one in April. Drew continues to work with Matt Abernathy regarding post-fire recovery efforts.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board reviewed the consent agenda items. John Ricker moved approval of the consent agenda items with the correction of the word "smelt" in the minutes to be replaced by "smolt". Mike Manfre seconded the motion. The vote was by roll call; the ayes included Kelley Bell, Mike Eaton, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, Jim McKenna, and John Ricker. The motion passed unanimously.



## 6. ACTION ITEMS

### 6.1. Consider approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2021-10 to extend remote meetings per AB 361 for 30 days

Lisa presented the Board with Resolution RCDSCC 2021-10 to continue remote meetings under a state of emergency per AB 361 requirements. Kelley Bell moved approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2021-10. John Ricker seconded the motion. The Board requested staff to look for potential options to hold the Board meetings once we return to in person meetings. The District Office conference room is too small to comfortably seat 9 to 10 people. It was suggested to look at the Community Foundation, City of Capitola Chambers, or the Port District. The vote was by roll call; the ayes included Kelley Bell, Mike Eaton, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, Jim McKenna, and John Ricker. The motion passed unanimously.

### 6.2. Consider approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2021-11 to enter into agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for the “Redwood Seedling Distribution Project”

Lisa shared that CalFire collected redwood seeds from two elevations from locations effected by the CZU Lightning Fire, the seeds were propagated at the L.A. Moran Reforestation Center near Davis. CalFire will partner with the RCD to distribute the seedlings (70,000), which will need to be in cold storage for a month prior to distribution in February. The seedlings will be free to the community. After discussion, Mike Manfre moved approval of Resolution RCDSCC 2021-11. Mike Eaton seconded the motion. The vote was by roll call; the ayes included Kelley Bell, Mike Eaton, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, Jim McKenna, and John Ricker. The motion passed unanimously.

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 7.1. Executive Directors Report

Lisa Lurie gave a verbal Executive Directors Report. The District has met a milestone with the soon to be released Administrative Draft Regional Conservation Investment Strategy document. The document is being reviewed internally this week and will be released to stakeholders in mid-December and subsequently to the public. The Regional Transportation Commission is the lead on the public outreach for this effort. Additionally, the Scotts Creek Coastal Resiliency project is moving forward with the Technical Advisory Committee meeting next week to discuss the project. We hope to see the final Project Initiation Document led by CalTrans in early 2022. This effort to integrate a bridge replacement with restoration of the lagoon has been over a decade in the making. The RCD and project partners are also working on a Strategic Funding Plan to support the remaining planning and construction phases of the project.

Lisa shared that the Chipping program was utilized by around 300 landowners this fall and spring. Funding by the County of Santa Cruz will support an administrative coordinator for the Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County who will be administered by the RCD. We anticipate having that new hire onboard in the next few weeks.

Lisa went on to discuss the partnership the Ag Team is developing with NRCS to develop carbon farming program. Lisa attended, with Mike Eaton, the Area RCD meeting in Monterey. Additionally, staff helped coordinate and attended the Pajaro Compass meeting in collaboration with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County.

In addition to the dam removal project the Board toured today on Branciforte, the RCD has supported Sempervirens Fund in removing a dam on Mill Creek. Interviews are ongoing to fill the Forest Health



Program Specialist position. Lisa has been working with BBK to update the Employee Handbook and would like to get participation from a couple of Board members to review the document; Jim McKenna and Kelley Bell agreed to help. Additionally, it was requested to have a couple members review the financial documents format for the consent agenda; John volunteered, and Robert Ketley was nominated to help with this task. Finally, Lisa said that she is in process with setting up the Board of Supervisor meetings and will let Board members know when those are scheduled should they be able to join. John Ricker volunteered to help where needed.

### 7.2. Director/Associate Director Reports

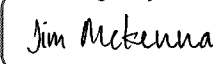
The Board expressed their appreciation to staff for the tour and the Happy Valley Conference Center for their hospitality. They enjoyed seeing the projects firsthand and are encouraged and impressed by the hard work of staff.

Additionally, Howard noted that he has observed a heavy crop of madrone seeds on the hillside around the county. The trees looked stressed.

### 8. ADJOURN

**The next meeting of the RCD Board will be December 8, 2021 at 6:30PM via Zoom. Mike Manfre moved to adjourn. Kelley Bell seconded the motion. The vote was by roll call; the ayes included Kelley Bell, Mike Eaton, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, Jim McKenna, and John Ricker. The meeting was adjourned at 1:43PM.**

(TC:JM)

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