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RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 2022 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 April 13, 2022,** the meeting was conducted virtually per AB 361 and Executive Order N-35-20 via Zoom, Meeting ID: 708-386-048.

Directors Present:	Mike Eaton
	Howard Liebenberg
	Jim McKenna, President
	John Ricker
Directors Absent:	Kelley Bell
	Robert Ketley
	Mike Manfre, Vice President
Associate Director Present:	Vasiliki Vasil
	Kathryn Tobisch
RCD Staff Present:	Tangi Chapman, Recorder
	Lisa Lurie, Executive 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; Mike Eaton present; Robert Ketley absent; Howard Liebenberg present; Mike Manfre absent; 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

There were no NRCS reports given.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

The Board reviewed the consent agenda items, including the March 9, 2022, Minutes, March 15 2022 Minutes, and Resolution RCDSCC 2022-08 to extend remote meetings per AB 361 for an additional 30 days. John Ricker moved approval of the consent agenda items with Mike Eaton removed from the "aye" vote in the March 15, 2022, Items 4.1 and 4.2 as he was absent. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. The vote was by roll call; the ayes included Mike Eaton, Howard Liebenberg, Jim McKenna, and John Ricker. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1. Review and Discuss the Quarter 4 2021 Financials

The Board reviewed the fourth quarter financials provided by Arianne Rettinger the Districts new Director of Finance. The document provides the details of grant expenditures of all active grants as of 12/31/21 including Start

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and end Dates, the percentage of time remaining on the grant/fund, the contracted amount, expended to date, amount received to date, the remaining amount and the percent completion in terms of dollars. Lisa Lurie shared that the quarterly profit and loss will be given at the May meeting after the quarterly invoices are in process. The board discussed the new presentation of grant expenditures, noting that it was interesting and informative to see expenditures relative to contract amount and time remaining. Suggestions included proving the information relative to the FY budget and/or linked to strategic plan goals, and providing the information in a format that could be organized in different ways to answer different questions. After discussion, the Board asked how Lisa determined if the District has the capacity to accept additional grants, or if there is enough work for current staff. Lisa described the staff projection analysis that Ari updates quarterly to look at the current and forecasted staffing needs. The Board said that the current iteration is very helpful and look forward to the next version, which will be provided along with the quarterly profit and loss statement at the May meeting.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1. Memorial Planning for Director Roberta Smith

Vasiliki Vasil reported that she was unable to meet with others regarding the memorial planning for Roberta Smith. Mike Eaton reported that he received a beautiful piece of milled wood from Whitehouse Canyon that will be used for making an arbor into the garden at the Bonny Doon Elementary School. He suggested that perhaps there could be a dedication plaque to Roberta in connection with this project. It was suggested that the planning team meet on May 3rd at 11:30AM at the site; Tangi will send contact information to the team volunteers.

7.2. Executive Director Report

Lisa Lurie gave highlights from the Executive Director Report. The Public Works Program Forest Health projects approved at the last RCD Board meeting were approved by the Coastal Commission at their April meeting with no public comments. This is an important milestone. The next step in the process is to go out to bid next month. Additionally, Lisa reported that Matt Abernathy and Angie Richman are coordinating the Landowner Agreements for the Summit Road Fuel Load Break project in collaboration with the Santa Cruz Mountain Alliance.

Lisa shared that Jay Ryan, one of the District's Americorps Watershed Stewards, completed his community volunteer event at the Felton library in partnership with Felton Library Friends and with support from RCD staff. The event was well attended, and the group removed invasives and cleaned up the native garden in Discovery Park.

The District has received a grant with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to continue and expand irrigation and nutrient management work in the Pajaro Valley. Included in the grant is funding for a Program Assistant field technician. Additionally, the District received a Direct Award from CalFire for a shaded fuel break in the Lockhart Gulch area. Lisa shared that the RCD in conjunction with PV Water and UCSC submitted a proposal to the Department of Conservation that would support regional planning for repurposing marginalized ag land to achieve multi-benefits, support implementation of the College Lake Multi-benefit project, and would provide programmatic funding to support the Recharge Net Metering program and planning/implementation of multiple managed aquifer recharge projects.

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The job announcement for a Program Specialist (to refill the vacancy of Erin McCarthy) has been posted. Lisa said the hope is to start interviews in mid-late May.

Finally, Lisa shared that there is an effort underway to make changes to Division 9 of the Public Resources code. This effort has been many years in the making but was stalled over the past few years due to the pandemic. The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts has been working with the Pacific Policy Group to shape the legislation. Next month the Board will be considering whether to support the effort.

7.3. Director/Associate Director Reports

John Ricker reported that he has been appointed to the County Drought Task Force on behalf of the District. The Task Force has been formed to address the state mandated development plan for small water system and well water users to weather the drought. John will report back to the Board on any potential developments and opportunities for the District to play a role in the response.

Vasiliki Vasil expressed her concern with a group of substances known as PFAS and how that might affect the groundwater contamination in areas where water is actively being pumped back into the aquifer as in the case of the PureWater Soquel project. John Ricker responded that PFAS has been monitored for years and that the only location where the substance has been found is at monitoring sites around the Buena Vista landfill, and only in small quantities. He went on to say that the treatment of the water at PureWater Soquel is quite robust, not the same as a wastewater treatment site. The water is put through a separate process that includes reverse osmosis and oxidation. It was suggested that any research on the subject be passed along to Soquel Creek Water District. Lisa said she would reach out to them as well on the subject.

8. ADJOURN

The next meeting of the RCD Board will be May 11, 2022, at 6:30PM via Zoom. Mike Eaton moved to adjourn. John Ricker seconded the motion. The vote was by roll call; the ayes included Mike Eaton, Howard Liebenberg, Jim McKenna, and John Ricker.

(TC:JM)

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Jim Mckenna
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