



**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2023 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 **6:37PM on April 12, 2023**, the meeting was conducted in person at the City of Capitola Community Room and virtually via Zoom, Meeting ID: 708-386-048.

- Directors Present: Mike Eaton  
 Howard Liebenberg  
 Mike Manfre, Vice President  
 Jim McKenna, President
- Directors Absent: Kelley Bell  
 Robert Ketley  
 John Ricker
- Associate Directors Present: Vasiliki Vasil  
 Kathryn Tobisch (Zoom)
- RCD Staff Present: Laurel Bard, Recorder  
 Lisa Lurie, Executive Director  
 Matt Abernathy (Zoom)
- NRCS Staff Present: Drew Mather, District Conservationist

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37PM, 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 present; Jim McKenna present; John Ricker absent.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME**

Jim McKenna welcomed everyone to the hybrid meeting.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Barbara Riverwoman commented that she was attending the meeting because she was interested in the San Lorenzo River and had heard of the RCD while attending a symposium.

**4. NRCS REPORT**

Drew Mather shared NRCS program updates. He shared that the NRCS has performed 48 storm related site visits in concert with the RCD and other technical experts; there has been a site visit every day since the visits started being offered. The NRCS emergency assistance program is very restrictive when it comes to providing assistance, but they still want people who have been affected by the storms to reach out to them. Drew also provided an update on EQIP. The NRCS Capitola office put up \$1.5 million in funding requests for applications this last round but no applications were awarded funding; only \$0.5 million were even available. However, Drew reported, the Inflation Reduction Act may provide more funding, and a new program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, may also be able to provide assistance to people. Additionally, the RCPP Project has been ranked and is waiting on NRCS to finalize eligibility. In response to a question by Jim McKenna about the lack of awards both for EQIP and for storm damage assistance, Drew explained that he wants to set up more local working groups for people to raise local resource concerns. Drew also responded to questions by Mike Manfre about a prospective levy repair project with a private landowner, and the larger Pajaro Levee set back project. Lisa provided information on partnerships in the lower Pajaro working to advance multi-benefit



projects in connection with the broader levy set back project. Mike Eaton suggested a future presentation from the Pajaro River Flood Management Agency and other partners on this topic.

## 5. CONSENT AGENDA

The Board reviewed the consent agenda items, which included the March 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes; approval of the FY 22-23 Second Quarter Financials; and a CARCD communication regarding AB 388 (Aguiar-Curry). Howard Liebenberg moved approval of the consent agenda items. Mike Manfre seconded. The ayes included Mike Eaton, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, and Jim McKenna. There were none opposed; the motion passed unanimously.

## 6. ACTION ITEMS

### 6.1. Consider and approve Functional Organizational Chart

The Board discussed the purpose and presentation of the Functional Organization Chart. After hearing how the Functional Organization Chart has helped start discussions among RCD staff about staff roles and may help with community engagement and improving funder understanding of our programs and services, Mike Eaton made a motion to approve the Functional Organization Chart. Mike Manfre seconded the motion. The ayes included Mike Eaton, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, and Jim McKenna. There were none opposed; the motion passed unanimously.

### 6.2. Consider and approve Resolution RCDSCC 2023-02 A Resolution to Apply and Enter into Grant Agreement(s) with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and Designate a Representative to Negotiate and Sign the Agreement, and Any Amendments thereto, for the “2023 Fire Prevention Direct Award”

After hearing a presentation from Forest Health and Fire Resilience Program Specialist Matt Abernathy regarding the success of Phase I of the Summit Road Shaded Fuel Break and the RCD’s plans for Phase 2 of the project, Mike Manfre made a motion to approve the Resolution. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. The ayes included Mike Eaton, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, and Jim McKenna. There were none opposed; the motion passed unanimously.

### 6.3. Consider and approve Memo Authorizing the RCD to Explore, Negotiate, and Enter Into A Reimbursement Agreement with the Girl Scouts of Northern California For the Work Outlined Under the “Skylark Ranch Forest Health Project”

Lisa Lurie and Matt Abernathy gave background for the Skylark Ranch Forest Health Project, explaining how the project has had to change and develop after the CZU Complex, and outlining the plan to partially reimburse the Girl Scouts of Northern California for the proposed work. Mike Eaton made a motion to approve the Memo. Howard Liebenberg seconded the motion. The ayes included Mike Eaton, Howard Liebenberg, Mike Manfre, and Jim McKenna. There were none opposed; the motion passed unanimously.

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 7.1. Executive Director Report

Lisa gave a verbal Executive Director Report. She recapped the ongoing demand for storm response and explained that the RCD is working to expand the capacity of the Spring Chipping Program to accommodate increased storm-related demand. Lisa also announced the upcoming Central Coast Regional Meeting of the Governor’s Wildfire Resilience Taskforce at the Coconut Grove on May 11<sup>th</sup>, and field tours for participants on May 12. Lisa explained that