

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
January 18, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Placer County Resource Conservation District Board was called to order by RCD Board Chairman Tom Wehri at 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Stanley (Stan) MacDonald  
Gregory (Greg) Nau  
Stewart Feldman  
Chris Paull  
Cherie Schiavone  
Tom Wehri  
Whitney Nicholas, Associate Director

Directors Absent: Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.

Others Present: Rich Gresham, RCD Manager  
Cliff Heitz, NRCS District Conservationist  
Katie Maloney, RCD Sr. Administrative Assistant  
Bill Templin, American River Watershed Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Stan MacDonald moved to approve the agenda as presented. Chris Paull seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

David Vertin, Nevada County RCD Director  
Christian Carleton, Foothill Associates

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Stewart Feldman moved to approve of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 21, 2004 as presented. Chris Paull seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the *Financial Statement for the Month Ended December 31, 2004* and *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for December 2004*.

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the *Financial Statement* and the *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for the Month ended December 31, 2004*. Cherie Schiavone seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

New Business:

- a) *RCD Reporting for Six Months Ending December 31, 2004:*  
Katie Maloney reviewed and fielded questions regarding income and expense reports related to current RCD grants including the 319(h) grant, the CA Dept. of Conservation (DOC) Watershed Coordinator grant, and the CA Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection (CDF) Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) grant, reports included in the board packet.

Stewart Feldman suggested the percentage of the contract billed be included on future grant reports.

Katie concurred that she will make that change for subsequent reports and pointed out that billings do not necessarily flow evenly throughout a grant cycle as they usually start slowly and build momentum as project components move through their individual implementation cycles.

Katie reviewed the final Financial Statement for Year Ended June 30, 2004 and fielded questions. She reported the RCD's Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Bill Myers, has completed his annual audit and noted the CPA prepared Financial Statement for the '03-'04 fiscal year will be mailed to each director in the next week. She fielded questions from the board regarding the adjustments made by the CPA and noted Bill Myers has offered to come and directly answer any questions the board may have regarding the annual audit and reporting.

Katie reviewed and fielded questions regarding the Six Month Budget Variance Report for Period ended December 31, 2004 as included in the board packet. Katie inquired if the board was satisfied with reporting formats and if they found them easy to understand. The board indicated the reports were understandable and made no suggestions regarding any reporting format changes.

Katie reviewed the '04-'05 Annual Plan Hourly Allocation for the six months ending December 31, 2004 as included in the board packet along with six month narrative progress reports as requested from staff members Rich and Mark.

Rich Gresham fielded questions regarding current and anticipated progress related to the annual plan components and hours spent thus far on those components. Rich reported he is working on a template that will reflect the performance measures as outlined in his six month performance review and noted the performance measures outlined in his review do not correspond directly to annual plan components. He noted some hourly allocations may need to be adjusted to include additional outreach efforts as outlined in his performance review in the form of newsletters and press releases to better reflect reality.

Board discussion included the idea of highlighting one RCD project per board meeting, to better understand project details and their related partnerships, and the need to further identify overhead costs associated with the new treatment of District Manager as an employee position vs. a contract position.

Katie and Tom will get together and work on crunching the numbers.

Tom Wehri indicated the six month reporting process reveals the RCD is pretty well aligned at this point with the annual plan and thanked staff for their reporting efforts.

*b) Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: CA Association of RCDs (CARCD) Alleged By-Law Violations at 2004 Annual Meeting:*

David Vertin introduced himself as a Nevada County RCD Director. He reviewed the alleged CARCD By-Law violations that occurred at the CARCD Annual Meeting and indicated the desire to send a letter to the CARCD noting the violations and asked the board for their support in signing on to such a letter in addition to the Nevada County RCD and potentially other RCDs in the process of being approached about the matter.

Greg Nau asked what is perceived as the highest violation that took place and Dave responded that proceeding with CARCD business without a quorum being present. Discussion revolved around what constituted a quorum and the challenges of determining which districts are eligible to vote, as of what date they acquire eligibility, and a lack of proper roll call procedures.

David Vertin noted the Nevada County RCD has sent letters regarding CARCD issues before without ever having received a response from the association, therefore instigating the desire to have additional RCDs get involved in hopes of having the CARCD properly address issues that member RCDs bring forth in a timely manner.

After further discussion regarding how to best address the alleged violations, Stewart Feldman moved to have Tom Wehri craft a letter of concern to the CARCD on behalf of the board with the assistance of the Operations Committee with a copy to the appropriate CARCD Regional Chair for potential discussion to take place at the next regional meeting. Greg Nau seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Letter of Support to the Placer County Board of Supervisors (BOS) Recommending Robert Weygandt's Membership on the Governing Board of the Sierra Nevada Alliance:*

Tom Wehri and Greg Nau reviewed the formation of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the make-up of the conservancy's governing board, and past board discussion regarding the provision of appropriate RCD support for Robert Weygandt's membership on the governing board of the new conservancy.

Greg reported the Placer County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has already taken positive action to move Supervisor Weygandt forward as their candidate for membership on the governing board of the conservancy making the RCD letter of support being considered by the board a non issue.

Greg shared with David Vertin the BOS agenda brief regarding the selection of Robert as the county's choice of representative.

David noted there have been concerns regarding the lack of a defined role for RCDs in the conservancy.

Greg noted Supervisor Weygandt is not only very aware of RCDs and the services they provide to their constituency, but has been a important supporter of RCD efforts both within the county and regionally.

After board discussion, Greg noted the need to lobby regional RCDs for Robert's candidacy for the conservancy governing board and the board concurred that Greg should draft a letter for area RCDs to provide them an historical view of Supervisor Weygandt's activities and emphasizing his past and current support of RCDs as integral partners in the conservation and stewardship of our natural resources.

d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Forestry & Fuel Management Committee's Recommendation to Retain Douglas Ferrier's Services as a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) for the RCD:*

Stewart Feldman reviewed the committee's recommendation that the board consider retaining Douglas Ferrier's services as a Registered Professional Forester for \$1 per year in order to provide the district with quick assistance when matters come before the district where the expertise of the RPF is needed. It was noted Doug's expertise will be useful in the planned development of CA Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) funding proposal.

Cliff Heitz pointed out CFIP grants can be used a match for EQIP projects.

After board discussion, Chris Paull moved the RCD place Mr. Ferrier on a \$1 per year retainer per the committee's recommendation. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Forestry & Fuel Management Committee:*

See agenda item d) above.

*Information & Education Committee:*

Chris Paull reported brainstorming regarding potential partners in education including the Colfax 4H program and Placer Nature Center in conjunction with the annual Nature Bowl event.

*Legislative Committee:*

Cherie Schiavone reported meetings have taken place with Supervisors Ted Gaines and Bill Santucci regarding potential RCD services and assistance for the coming fiscal year.

Stewart Feldman reported meeting with new Supervisor Jim Holmes and outgoing Supervisor Harriet White. Rich followed up with a second meeting with Supervisor Holmes regarding the current county contract work program and potential components of next year's program.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

*Stewart Feldman:*

- Stewart attended various watershed group meetings.

*Chris Paull:*

- Chris reported attending various meetings and tours.

*Greg Nau:*

- Greg reported attending various meetings with county supervisors. A meeting with new Supervisor Bruce Kranz is scheduled. He noted that supervisors have been supportive of the RCD and indicated the RCD's relationship with the county is superb.
- Greg noted he is planning to tour with RCD Resource Manager Mark White to review erosion control issues within the county.

*Whitney Nicholas:*

- Whitney passed around several newspaper articles for board perusal.

STAFF REPORTS

*RCD Report:*

In addition to the written activity reports for the month of December submitted to the Board, the following points were discussed:

- Rich Gresham reported county supervisors have asked the RCD to continue with fuel load reduction efforts and support of Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP) efforts.

Rich noted he hopes to foster collaboration between PG&E and CalTrans in their fuel load reduction efforts along the I-80 corridor as PG&E is very interested in handling the biomass generated from the project.

Rich requested the board allow him to move forward with these concepts and the board voiced their support.

Rich proposed that half his time next year be devoted to the development of a conservation plan for the Spears/Didion property, Mark continue his work in resource management and erosion control efforts, and Katie continue with her watershed, alliance, and urban forestry efforts for the upcoming year.

- Rich noted Chris Paull was awarded the \$1K scholarship from the CARCD to attend the NACD meeting as the RCD had requested.
- Rich reported the CARCD is offering \$25K in grants for public outreach to promote NRCS programs in underserved areas. He noted Dan Macon will be presenting this opportunity to the High Sierra RC&D board and if interested will assist Cliff with a proposal.
- Rich announced a CA Special Districts Association meeting and solicited attendance from interested directors.

- Rich reviewed the planned tour for area legislators and/or aides that will take place on Friday. The tour will highlight partnerships and projects in Placer County.
- Katie Maloney reported in addition to her normal monthly activities with the watershed groups and the fire safe alliance, she has been busy working with the CPA on finalizing the '03-'04 financial statements, and compiling the '04-'05 six month progress reports for the board.
- Bill Templin handed out his activity report and briefly reviewed his activities.
- Bill highlighted the potential for the development of an interpretive center at the Folsom Dam site that also houses the American River Water Education Center.

#### AGENCY REPORTS

- Cliff reported the receipt of 26 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications so far and noted increased funding for this year's program. The application deadline is January 28<sup>th</sup>. Preliminary engineering work ups are being conducted for those applications. He noted there are more requests this year for irrigation work than in past years.
- Cliff reported the Conservation Security Program (CSP) looks to be a complicated program. Western Placer County and portions of Sutter, Yolo, and Sacramento Counties are eligible for the program. The program is based on "rewarding the best and encouraging the rest". Workbooks have been developed to help farmers conduct self-evaluations. Cliff handed out a workbook for board perusal. One newspaper article regarding CSP has been published. After more program information is made available, additional outreach will be conducted.
- Cliff reported Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) applications are being accepted with a deadline of mid-May to apply for current year program funding.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of RCD letter dated December 30, 2004 from Rich Gresham to Brian Leahy requesting \$1K scholarship to defray the RCD's cost of Chris Paull attending the NACD annual conference.
- Notice of NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee meeting and agenda for January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission agenda for January 10<sup>th</sup> and minutes of December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- NACD publication, *New & Views*, for November/December 2004.
- Conservation Technology Information Center publication, *Partners*, for November/December 2004.
- PlacerGROWN newsletter for winter 2004/2005.
- Placer County Water Agency newsletter, *PCWA Update*, for December/January 2004/5.
- Great Valley Center newsletter, *Great Valley News*, for winter 2004.
- CA ReLeaf newsletter, *CA Trees*, for fall 2004.
- Truckee River Watershed Council newsletter, *Truckee River Currents*, for fall 2004.
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District newsletter, *The Confluence*, for winter 2004.
- ESRI Course Catalog for January-June 2005.

- Bureau of Reclamation newsletter, *Reclamation, Managing Water in the West*, presenting an overview of Placer County Water Agency Pump Station Project.
- The High Ranch Nursery newsletter, *High Ranch News*, for January 2005 and their *2005 Wholesale Price List*.
- Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management newsletter, *Bren School News*, for fall 2004.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

After board discussion about travel time needed for the NACD meeting conflicting with the regular board meeting date in February, it was decided to change the regular board meeting date to February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 p.m. with the following agenda items:

- NACD Meeting Report
- CA Clearinghouse Grant Proposals Review
- Preliminary RCD Annual Planning Discussion

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Greg Nau moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris Paull seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Board Chair Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.