

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
April 15, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present:

Thomas (Tom) Wehri  
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.  
Stanley (Stan) MacDonald  
Claudia Smith  
Scott Harvey  
Andrew (Dave) Funk

Directors Absent: Steven (Steve) Garcia

Others Present: Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist-Auburn Field Office  
Rich Gresham, RCD Manager  
Mark White, RCD Resources Management Planner  
Katie Maloney, RCD Programs Manager  
Ryan Bellanca, RCD/NRCS GIS Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Bob Wiswell moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a time sensitive item, the election of the LAFCA Special District Representative. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Scott Harvey moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2008 as presented. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the Financial Statements as well as the Grants and Programs Summaries for the month ending March 31, 2008.

Scott Harvey moved to approve the financial statements and reports as presented. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

New Business:

- a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Capital Court Campaign Support:*  
Tom Wehri reviewed the NACD capital improvement effort and made a recommendation to support the effort with a donation at the \$250 - \$300 level.

After a short discussion, Scott Harvey moved to support the NACD effort with a \$250 donation. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Subcontracting in Relation to the RCD/Dept. of Facility Services (DFS) Agreement Workplan:*

Rich Gresham reviewed the DFS request that the RCD subcontract with Dr. Richard Harris to assist with the development of a riparian vegetation management plan for Coon Creek as outlined in the Agreement's Task 4 Workplan and requested the Board authorize the subcontract in the amount of \$12K.

After a short discussion to clarify the request, Claudia Smith moved to authorize the subcontract and workplan as approved by DFS. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: '08-'09 Placer County Contract Rates*  
Mark White reported feedback received from county personnel regarding the current RCD rates in relation to current private sector rates highlighted an opportunity to adjust RCD rates for resource management expertise. Mark handed out copies of draft language for the '08-'09 Placer County Joint Work Program as it relates to his expertise. Mark requested the Board consider revising the rates to bring them more in line with the current market to enable him in negotiating the '08-'09 Placer County Joint Work Program Contract.

Tom Wehri recommended the Board approve potential rate changes related to the '08-'09 Placer County Joint Work Program Contract. Bob Wiswell moved to approve as recommended. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Contracting with CalFire to Produce Quarterly Forestland Steward Newsletter:*

Rich Gresham reported the contract with CalFire to produce the Quarterly newsletter, Forestland Steward, is in process and requested the Board authorize him to execute the Agreement on behalf of the RCD after briefly reviewing the workplan as per past discussions. Claudia Smith moved to authorize Rich to execute the Agreement on behalf of the RCD as requested. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- e) *Update and Discussion Re: Ag Resource Center/Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposal:*

Tom Wehri reviewed past discussions with the Board regarding the development of an Ag Resource Center. He distributed a written report detailing existing conditions, desired conditions and needs, options, and his recommendation to pursue the acquisition or development of a joint RCD/USDA Service Center in conjunction, where appropriate, with Placer County's DeWitt Center space evaluation expected to occur over the next few years. He noted that with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's current timeline to permanently re-locate within the year, it is not practical to include them in the process.

Tom noted the next step will be to meet with the county facilities manager to discuss RCD/USDA need for a minimum of 4,000 square feet, preferably 6,000 to 8,000 square feet, maximum 10,000 square feet of space. Evaluate the opportunity to acquire a long term lease and/or possibility of the RCD constructing and owning the building while concurrently developing a space plan for a building to meet both RCD and USDA needs. If the preferable option of re-locating to DeWitt turns out to be impractical, the RCD should begin to explore options to acquire an existing building or a building site in the Auburn area.

- f) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: USDA Service Center – Auburn Field Office Issues:*

Mike Brenner reviewed the current month to month lease arrangement for current office space and the impact of increased rental costs resulting from the pull out of the Farm Services Agency from the Auburn Service Center. Mike requested the Board consider some kind of contribution to rent when considering the RCD Budget for the next fiscal year.

Tom reviewed the expected changes in the '08-'09 budget in terms of revenue and professional services with the completion of grant funded watershed coordination efforts. He

recommended the Board conduct their annual planning session next month at the regular board meeting. The annual planning session will provide a forum to discuss both the issues of contributing to the USDA Service Center rent and the Foothill Farmers Market Association's request for website support. The Board concurred.

*g) Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Special District Representative Election:*

The Board reviewed the ballot of potential representatives to fill the Special District seat on LAFCO and after a brief discussion, Claudia moved to vote for the RCD nominee and current Representative John Moberly to continue to fill the LAFCO seat once his current term expires. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Forestry & Fuels Management Committee: Stan MacDonald reported the Committee met and continued their work on the development of an updated Healthy Forest/Defensible Space Handbook, reviewed prospective photos for the update, and explored grant funding options.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

*Bob Wiswell*

- Bob thanked Tom Wehri for agreeing to attend the April meeting of the High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council meeting as he has a scheduling conflict.

*Claudia Smith:*

- Claudia reported attending the CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Regional Spring Meeting where meeting expense issues were discussed and a motion was passed to authorize the advance of \$500 to the hosting RCD to defray the upfront costs associated with hosting a regional meeting.
- Claudia continues to farm and encouraged Directors to get out in the field and observe on-the-ground efforts.

*Scott Harvey:*

- Scott reported the Governor's surcharge proposal is in draft Bill form, but currently has no proponent to carry it forward. The matter is expected to become a State Budget negotiation issue.
- It was reported Dept. of Conservation (DOC) staff changes si slowing forward movement regarding the formation of a State Resources Advisory Committee.
- Scott recommended the Board think about nominating the District for the Governor's Environmental Leadership Award. He assured the Board that nominating itself for the award is not only appropriate, but also common practice.

*Tom Wehri:*

- Tom reported he continues his Envirothon Committee work planning the 2010 national event to be held at UC-Merced.
- Tom reported participating with the Sloughhouse RCD in a mitigation/easement training session to gather information regarding mitigation valuation and landowner assistance.
- Tom attended the CARCD Spring Regional Meeting where John James was elected Regional Chair. Tom will serve as Vice Chair. The Mariposa RCD will host the CARCD Fall Regional Meeting.
- Tom met with Brian Leahy, DOC to discuss the formation of the State Resources Advisory Committee and the open process to be used to identify those interested in serving on the committee.

## RCD STAFF REPORTS

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

- Rich Gresham reported he continues to manage numerous contract/grant projects. He briefly reviewed Coon Creek corridor restoration planning progress in conjunction with the County Planning Dept. He noted new conservation easement parameters have been published in the Federal Register and indicated County Planning is interested in the RCD's easement efforts and the need for linear easement corridors.
- Rich noted the RCD has access to legal representation through the CARCD.
- Rich reported the CARCD Conference and Annual Meeting is slated for November 19-22 in Riverside.
- Rich reported the 'Day in the Capitol' has been postponed to later in May.
- Mark White reviewed his erosion control & BMP training efforts, the expansion of the outfall inventory and ground truthing effort, and upcoming workshops.
- Mark reported the June 12<sup>th</sup> 2008 Ag Tour theme is 'Can you see the Ag through the Forest'. He continues to steward the planning process. Supervisor Kranz will provide opening comments for the tour.
- Katie Maloney reported she continues to conduct her normal monthly duties and is looking forward to receiving the draft financial statement from the CPA for her review.
- Ryan Bellanca reported EQIP, CFIP, CA, and fire safe council projects are being mapped for both Placer and Nevada Counties.
- Ryan plans to participate in Earth Day festivities to promote both the RCD and NRCS services.

## AGENCY REPORTS

In addition to the written activity report for March-April, submitted in the Board Package, the following points were discussed.

- Mike reported completing the review of 42 EQIP contracts that are behind schedule in terms of implementation. The review has resulted in the amendment of 27 contracts, the completion of 4 contracts, and requests to cancel 3 contracts. A number of contract terminations are expected.
- Mike reported the completion of 12 forestry projects, the provision of engineering assistance to the Jackson Office, the collection of wetland projects data, and the distribution of NRCS Conservation Planning brochures.
- Mike continues to represent Area 3 on the State Watershed Approach Team and reported distribution of the Conservation Planning Certification Guidance document in CD form to all Area 3 offices.
- Mike attended the CARCD Spring Regional Meeting.

## COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated March 11<sup>th</sup> acknowledging the RCD's membership renewal with the CA Special Districts Association (CSDA).
- Letter dated March 13<sup>th</sup> from the Mountain Lion Foundation announcing Rural Partners Grants up to \$2.5K to assist partners in protecting domestic animals in lion country.

- Letter dated March 20<sup>th</sup> from Katie Maloney to LAFCO nominating John Moberly for the Special District Representative Seat as per RCD Board action.
- Placer County Treasurer Tax Collector Notification of Tax-Defaulted Land Sale slated for May 21st.
- Copy of reply from the USDA Dept. of the Interior to Placer County Water Agency in response to their review of the CA Red-Legged Frog Site Assessment for the Middle Fork American River Project
- Letter dated February 28<sup>th</sup> from Placer LAFCO soliciting nominations for the Special Districts Representative whose term is due to expire in May.
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Board Meeting Agenda for the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee Agenda for the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting
- UC-Davis Extension Spring Conference, *Climate Change: A Regional Perspective on a Global Issue*, registration materials
- 2008 CARCD day in the Capitol materials
- CARCD Call for Presenters for the Annual Conference slated for November 19-22 in Riverside
- Notice for Air Quality and Water Quality Management Practices Demonstration and Field Day slated for May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Notice of Opportunity to Comment in Review of ESA-Protected Species
- Announcement of 2008 Wildland Weed Field Courses from CA Invasive Plant Council
- Announcement for American River Confluence Festival slated for June 8<sup>th</sup> in Auburn
- Announcement for Pacific Fisher Wildlife Tracking Team presentations slated for May 21<sup>st</sup>
- Rangeland Monitoring Workshop information and registration materials
- FSA County News for April 2008
- National Association of Conservation Districts newsletters, *Forestry Notes*, for March and April 2008
- CSDA publication, *CA Special District*, for March/April 2008
- CSDA Annual Report and 2008 Special Districts Legislative Day materials
- CA ReLeaf publication, *CA Trees*, for spring 2008
- *National Woodlands* magazine for winter 2008
- USDA NASCOE spring newsletter
- CalPERS publication, *CalPERS Employer News*, for winter 2008

### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board discussed holding the Annual Planning Session next month following a morning field trip to view on-the-ground projects and lunch. Items to be placed on the agenda in addition to the Planning Session will be limited to time sensitive items. Normal reports will be deferred to the June meeting. After Board discussion, it was decided the meeting will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> a day earlier than normal to provide additional time necessary for the field trip, lunch, and planning session.

### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Claudia Smith moved for adjournment. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously. Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.