

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
March 15, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Stanley (Stan) MacDonald  
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.  
Stewart Feldman  
Chris Paull  
Cherie Schiavone  
Thomas (Tom) Wehri  
Whitney Nicholas, Associate Director

Directors Absent: Gregory (Greg) Nau

Others Present: Rich Gresham, RCD Manager  
Cliff Heitz, NRCS District Conservationist-Placer County  
Mark White, RCD Resource Management Planner  
Katie Maloney, RCD Sr. Administrative Assistant  
Bill Templin, American River Watershed Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the agenda as presented. Cherie Schiavone seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

*Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist-Nevada County*

Cliff Heitz introduced Mike to the board.

Mike noted that Cliff has been mentoring him and was attending the meeting on Cliff's recommendation.

*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 February 22, 2005 with the addition of some clarification and minor corrections. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the *Financial Statement for the Month Ended February 28, 2005* and *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for February 2005*.

Board discussion revolved around the need to clarify the process regarding expenses over and above those approved in the yearly budget process that come before the board for formal approval and those that haven't such as the donation to Foresthill High School for the CA Envirothon registration.

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the *Financial Statement* and the *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for the Month ended February 28, 2005*. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

## BUSINESS

Old Business:

a) *Discussion Regarding '05-'06 RCD Annual Plan:*

Rich Gresham reviewed a draft tentative agenda for the proposed workshop the board is considering to facilitate the '05-'06 annual planning process. He invited board input and feedback regarding how to proceed.

Board discussion revolved around the need to review programs in process, on-going time requirements and constraints, current accomplishments, and prospective projects and programs. It was stressed that the planning process needs to result in the identification of specific tasks with specific deliverables that can be considered for prioritization.

The board made several suggestions regarding items for the planning session agenda including allowing Cliff Heitz time up front to review NRCS programs and activities and suggested time allotments to each component on the agenda.

After further discussion, Tom moved to schedule a four hour meeting to pursue the planning process at the next regular board meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the normal location with the meeting to start at 3 p.m. to allow additional time for the planning session. The business agenda will be limited to the planning process unless a time sensitive issue presents itself that must be addressed. The board subcommittees will meet before the board meeting to identify three tasks they would like to see accomplished next year for input into the planning process. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

b) *Discussion Regarding Spring CA Association of RCDs (CARCD) Regional Central Sierra Meeting:*

Tom Wehri, now present, took over running the meeting at this point and reviewed the CARCD regional meeting scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Empire Mine in Grass Valley. The event is being hosted by the Nevada County RCD and Tom solicited attendance by board and staff members. Katie noted those interested and will take care of registration.

Tom took time to review the letter of response from CARCD President Patrick Truman indicating action has been taken to address the issues of concern set forth in Tom's letter on behalf of the board after the RCD board reviewed CARCD business meeting protocol issues.

After review of the response letter, Stewart Feldman noted the definition of a quorum and when the quorum is established still needs further clarification. The board concurred the issue may need to be addressed further depending upon the outcome of the regional meeting. They further noted the regional meeting was not an appropriate setting to address personality conflicts or the purview of the regional RCDs.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### *Operations Committee:*

Tom Wehri, Chris Paull, Rich Gresham, and Mark White met and discussed the annual planning session agenda.

### *Forestry & Fuel Management Committee:*

Stan MacDonald reported the committee met to discuss the Spears Ranch Vegetation Management Plan, the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Stewardship Council, the DMA 2000 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Sierra Conservancy, and to review the project matrix. The committee is moving forward with the development of CFIP funding proposal for the Spears Ranch.

Rich noted the RCD will be hosting the CARCD Forestry and Fuels Management Subcommittee meeting May 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> with a field trip being planned that will give an overview of forest practices being utilized by PG&E, the US Forest Service, and Sierra Pacific Industries.

The next board committee meeting is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> and will focus on identifying three tasks with deliverables to provide input for the RCD '05-'06 planning session.

*Air & Water Resources Committee:*

Although the committee did not meet, Tom Wehri reported CARCD is providing assistance, under the guidance of NRCS District Conservationist, for air quality assistance under EQIP in the San Joaquin Valley.

*Legislative Committee:*

Although the committee did not meet, it was announced that Day in the Capitol is slated by May 18<sup>th</sup>. Mark White will register those indicating an interest in attending.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

*Bob Wiswell:*

- Bob attended the State Farm Bureau Leadership Conference and participated in the component related to sheep commodities.
- Bob reported the Placer County Farm Bureau is reviewing the Placer County Conservation Plan and identifying issues with the planning effort.
- Bob stressed the RCD needs to place the landowner first in their upcoming annual planning effort.

*Stewart Feldman:*

- Stewart reported attending watershed group and Alliance meetings as well as the tour of the Colfax Waste Water Treatment Plant that Bill Templin coordinated.

*Chris Paull:*

- Chris reported with Mark White's assistance with irrigation design the Franklin School Pumpkin Patch is underway. The proceeds will go to support the science and garden docent programs.
- Chris reported the Placer County CA Special Districts Association annual planning meeting will address education regarding fire, attendance, tax base revenue, and board membership issues. He noted opportunities for the RCD to be involved in resource issues.

*Tom Wehri:*

- Tom noted his discussion with Cliff Heitz regarding the Conservation Security Program and the roll out meeting scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. He pointed out the feds are sponsoring the educational meeting and suggested the RCD provide refreshments for the meeting. There were no objections. Mark White noted refreshments may be offered by the City of Lincoln where the meeting will be held.

*Whitney Nicholas:*

- Whitney brought up potential school education opportunities.

STAFF REPORTS

*RCD Report:*

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

- Mark White reported assisting Cliff with the Conservation Security Program meeting slated for March 17<sup>th</sup>.

- Mark updated the board regarding the Loomis horse ranch issues and the resulting approval of a six month conditional use permit with additional conditions stipulated, including water quality monitoring requirements. Mark is expecting a request for assistance with the development of a horse management plan.
- Mark indicated new City of Auburn personnel has met with him to discuss plan review work.
- Mark reported he has been mentoring NRCS personnel, Kirsten Losse, in irrigation design work and noted she is progressing well.
- Mark indicated a meeting to develop the strategy for the '05 Placer County Ag Tour is slated for tomorrow.
- Bill Templin handed out copies of his activity report dated March 15<sup>th</sup> and reviewed his activities.
- Bill handed out copies of the American River Watershed Conference program announcement and conference registration brochure. The conference will be held April 21<sup>st</sup> thru 23<sup>rd</sup> at CA State University, Sacramento. Bill reviewed the agenda, noted a missing NRCS watershed perspective, and solicited NRCS participation from Cliff.

Bill will be presenting the North Fork American River Sediment Dynamics Study at the conference as well as providing an exhibit and poster for the exhibition component. He solicited input and feedback from the board.

- Bill reviewed Creek Week activities, reported the Sierra Nevada Alliance funding proposal was declined, and announced Georgetown Stewardship Day on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Rich noted he will continue to pursue potential collaboration with Auburn Recreation District (ARD), not just on the watershed center, but also potential pond management and water quality assistance.
- Katie Maloney reported in addition to her normal monthly activities with the watershed groups and the fire safe alliance, she has completed the paperwork in conjunction with the hiring of four RCD extra help employees to conduct CDF's '05 Fire Safe Inspection Program, and assisted the drafting of ARD lease agreement language.
- Rich reported his progress with GIS training and noted Mark will begin training soon. He asked Cliff if the RCD might be able to assist NRCS with their basic GIS work.
- Rich reported the Sacramento River Watershed Program has awarded \$60K in support to expand the Watershed Information Model (WIM), a web-based data library capable of handling both GIS and text information, to include Placer County watersheds. He will be approaching the CARCD about opportunities to expand the WIM to the entire Sacramento River watershed.
- Rich handed out copies of the 2004 RCD Annual Report. Cliff offered the use of the NRCS printer to print the reports.
- Rich noted CDF has asked the RCD's assistance to get the word out about CA Forestry Improvement Program (CFIP) funding and noted the pending development of a CFIP funding proposal.

## AGENCY REPORTS

- Cliff handed out information on the Conservation Security Program (CSP) and noted the challenges to be met in rolling out the program that recognizes good stewardship practices. Challenges include the short time frame in which to sign up cooperators and the effort needed by producers to participate in the program. He gave an overview of program's components and the area of eligibility. Cliff noted concern with the program's eight year rotation and briefly reviewed the watershed boundary determination process. He fielded questions from the board and handed out the press release for the workshop slated for March 17<sup>th</sup> to roll out the program to producers and invited board members to attend.
- Cliff reported "needs and feasibility assessments" are in progress for 31 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications; two applicants have dropped their applications. He noted a budget allocation of \$486K for this year's program.

Tom Wehri briefly reviewed Farm Bill issues and noted he will be going to Washington D.C. on behalf of both the state and national associations to lobby for technical assistance programs.

## COMMUNICATIONS

- CARCD letter dated March 9, 2005 to Tom Wehri from CARCD President Patrick Truman outlining action set in motion to address the concerns regarding CARCD protocols brought forth in Tom Wehri's letter on behalf of the board.
- CARCD Spring Regional Central Sierra Meeting Packet from Nevada County RCD hosting the meeting at the Empire Mine in Grass Valley on April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Copy of letter dated February 25, 2005 regarding the Local Agency Formation Commission annexation of Loomis Hills Estates.
- Thanks you letter to the RCD from Foresthill Science Teacher, Katie Cantrell, for the RCD donation of \$720 to cover CA Envirothon registration costs.
- Thank you note to Rich Gresham from the Gold County Lioness, Valerie Sussek, for his presentation to the group on fire safety.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission agenda for March 14<sup>th</sup> and minutes of February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- CARCD Annual Quota packet including 2004 Report of Activities, membership application, quota worksheet, and directory information input sheet.
- Thank you letter to Rich Gresham from the Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safe Council for RCD support of their Auburn Lake Trails fuel reduction grant proposals.
- Institute of Ecological Health publication, *Linkages*, for fall 2004.
- Flyer advertising Menig Weed Control.
- International Erosion Control Association call for presentations for *Environmental Connection '06* slated for February 20-24, 2006 in Long Beach, CA
- Sacramento River Discovery Center newsletter for February 2005.
- NACD/NRCS publication, *Buffer Notes*, for February 2005.
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) newsletter, *Forestry Notes*, for February 2005.

- County of Placer Public Information Office notice of Indian Gaming Local Benefit Committee to begin 2005 grant process.
- Placer Local Agency Formation Commission meeting agenda for March 9, 2005.
- US Forest Service publication, *Wildland Waters*, for winter 2005.
- Nevada County RCD 2004 Annual Report.
- The High Ranch Nursery newsletter, *High Ranch News*, for March 2005.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- RCD '05-'06 Annual Planning Session

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Stan MacDonald moved to adjourn the meeting. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Board Chair Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.