

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
April 19, 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 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Stanley (Stan) MacDonald
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.
Stewart Feldman
Chris Paull
Cherie Schiavone
Thomas (Tom) Wehri
Gregory (Greg) Nau

Directors Absent: None

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

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

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Stewart Feldman moved to approve of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 15, 2005 with the correction of a transposition regarding EQIP funding under agency reports. Cherie Schiavone seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the *Financial Statement for the Month Ended March 31, 2005* and *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for March 2005*.

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the *Financial Statement* and the *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for the Month ended March 31, 2005*. Chris Paull seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

Old Business:

a) '05-'06 RCD Annual Planning:

Rich Gresham reviewed components of the Placer County Contract Accomplishments Report included in the board package. Rich and staff members fielded questions regarding tasks, accomplishments, and potential future efforts.

Rich reviewed '05-'06 staff hourly allocations including hours already committed to work components including proposed county and municipal work, grants and contracts, and administration.

Mark White briefly reviewed RCD/NRCS dynamics, his erosion and sediment control efforts in concert with the county and municipalities, and landowner assistance efforts.

Mark stressed the potential of over extending staff time available to address additional assistance requests that result from press releases and noted his proposed hourly allocations for the coming fiscal year will result in a well rounded technical assistance program.

Mark also noted that training time and dollars this year have been well spent.

Cliff Heitz noted he has had limited time to attend meetings that he would have liked to go to due to his agency's work load.

After receiving staff input, the board moved on to providing board input regarding RCD program direction and goals.

Greg Nau stressed the need to focus on outcomes vs. hours in order to better facilitate evaluation of RCD efforts.

There was board discussion regarding the number of hours spent in numerous meetings.

Rich noted the importance of his attendance at meetings and referred the board back to the accomplishments report where many of the accomplishments were achieved through that particular type of collaborative forum.

Bill Templin also noted the importance of attending meetings where stakeholders participate as that is where opportunities to collaborate with and assist others present themselves and added avoiding duplication of effort also results from this type of communication.

The board moved forward with a brainstorming session in the areas of watershed activities, conservation education, conservation assistance, and administration and training that included board subcommittee input; a prioritization exercise was led by Tom Wehri that resulted in the board's identification of the following areas of importance in order of priority:

- Fuel Load Reduction/Fire Safety
- Small Landowner Assistance/Conservation Education
- Small Grants for On-the-Ground Projects
- Urban Erosion Control

After further discussion regarding the need to identify specific tasks that fall within the goals and objectives identified in the exercise, the board turned the development of a work strategy for implementation back to staff for review and consideration at the next board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

See agenda item a)

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Bob Wiswell:

- Bob reported attending the Placer County Farm Bureau meeting where the review of the Placer County Conservation Plan has been the focus and issues regarding the planning effort are being discussed.

- Bob stressed the RCD should place the landowner first in their annual planning effort.
- Bob attended the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) meeting, but without a quorum present it was a short meeting. He noted the beef marketing program is getting off to a good start and a similar lamb marketing program is being considered.
- Bob noted CDF's Fire Safe Inspection Program has been active in Lincoln and noted it is too early in the season to be conducting inspections as much of the grasslands being reviewed are planned for grazing activities later in the spring, thus reducing fire risk.

Stewart Feldman:

- Stewart reported attending a Placer Farm & Barn planning meeting.
- Stewart reported attending the CA Association of RCDs (CARCD) Spring Regional Meeting at the Empire Mine.

Cherie Schiavone:

- Cherie attended the CARCD Spring Regional Meeting focused on historical mining and Brown Act requirements.
- Cherie noted her recent visit to the Turtle Bay Museum in Redding was very impressive.
- Cherie noted the *Auburn Sentinel* gave cheers to the Chipper Program.

Stan MacDonald:

- Stan reported attending the CARCD Spring Regional Meeting.

Chris Paull:

- Chris reported attending the CARCD Spring Regional Meeting where he gave a report of his attendance at the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) meeting to the regional group.

Chris also reported making a recommendation at the CARCD meeting to adopt the board's recommendations regarding CARCD quorum issues that resulted in the CARCD Central Sierra Regional President Bob Dolton writing a formal letter to CARCD requesting their board adopt the recommendations as outlined by Tom Wehri on behalf of the board.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom added there are still CARCD quorum issues that need further clarification and noted the regional meeting was informative.
- Tom reported the results of his trip to Washington, D.C. to support RCD and NRCS programs.

Greg Nau:

- Greg noted that he, Rich, and Tom met with Supervisor Weygandt and Otis Wollan regarding the Placer County Conservation Plan that resulted in discussion focused on water issues and a request that Supervisor Weygandt present an update on the PCCP to the board next month. The board agreed to place the update on the next agenda

Further board discussion revolved around the need to be sure that differing viewpoints regarding the PCCP effort are taken into consideration including views from the Placer County Farm Bureau.

STAFF REPORTS

RCD Report:

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

- Rich Gresham reported the CARCD Forestry and Fuels Management Subcommittee meeting slated for May has been postponed until June.
- Rich noted holding continuing discussions with the county regarding the development of conservation plans for the Spears and Didion properties.
- Rich announced Creek Week activities focused on the American River watershed.

Bill Templin added more details regarding Creek Week activities.

- Katie Maloney reported working on invitations to the Western Placer Watershed Conference on behalf of the Dry Creek Watershed Council.
- Katie reported the Placer Tree Partners (urban forestry group) had been awarded a \$500 tourism grant to help re-print additional Treasure Tree Walking Tour maps.
- Mark White reported he is getting ready to begin the development of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs).
- Mark reported attending the CARCD Spring Regional Meeting.
- Mark reported scheduling pre-construction meetings to review Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Mark took note of board members planning to attend the *Day in the Capitol* event.
- Mark reported RCD's receipt of a \$300 check from the Placer County Farm Bureau in support of the '05 Ag Tour.
- Bill Templin handed out copies of his activity report dated April 19th and briefly reviewed his activities that included moving his office to the ARD Canyon View Community Center.
- Bill reminded the board about the American River Watershed Conference to be held April 21st thru 23rd at CA State University, Sacramento and encouraged attendance.

AGENCY REPORTS

- Cliff Heitz briefly reviewed his monthly activities.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of letter dated March 14, 2005 regarding the Local Agency Formation Commission annexation of Atwood III into the Nevada Irrigation District.
- Copy of letter dated April 14, 2005 regarding the Local Agency Formation Commission annexation of Gonzalez property into the South Placer Municipal Utility District.
- Copies of letters dated April 4, 2005 to US Representative Doolittle, US Senator Feinstein, and US Senator Boxer from Rich Gresham voicing RCD support of continued funding of RC&Ds written in response to CARCD Urgent Legislative Request regarding potential funding cuts to or the elimination of RC&Ds.
- Copy of letter dated April 8, 2005 from CARCD Executive Director Brian Leahy to PG&E's Bob Fratini thanking him for their \$1K sponsorship of the annual poster contest at the CARCD 2004 Annual Conference.

- Letter dated April 6, 2005 from CARCD Executive Director Brian Leahy to Placer County RCD thanking the district for renewing their membership in the association.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission agenda for April 11th and minutes of March 14th meeting.
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee meeting agenda for April 7th and February 3rd meeting minutes.
- NACD/NRCS publication, *Buffer Notes*, for March 2005.
- NRCS State Advisory Committee meeting agenda for April 26th.
- High Sierra RC&D meeting agenda for April 15th, minutes of January 21st, and financial reports.
- Memorandum to RCD from Best, Best, & Krieger regarding their filing of 700 Economic Interest Forms with Placer County.
- State Compensation Fund newsletter, *Safety News*, Issue One, 2005.
- Thank you letter to RCD Chair Tom Wehri from Foresthill High School teacher, Katie Cantrell, for the district's student sponsorship in the CA Envirothon competition.
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) newsletter, *Forestry Notes*, for March 2005.
- YSI Environmental seasonal newsletter, *The Water Monitor*, for spring 2005.
- Solicitation for services dated February 27th to RCD from Craig Fechter, CPA.
- Magazine, *Home & Fire*, for winter 2005.
- Announcement of Earth Day activities from ECOSTudents of Sierra College.
- CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) Annual Report 2004, membership application, and solicitation for membership.
- Note from Northstar Fire Chief Mark Shadowens to Rich Gresham regarding his interest in purchasing a chipper for community fuel load reduction as an alternative to burning.
- Call for Papers for the Science and Management of Headwater Streams in the Pacific Northwest.
- Flyer announcing Annual Confluence Festival slated for June 12, 2005.
- Flyer announcing American River Clean-up slated for April 23rd.
- CA EPA announcement of 2005 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards On-line Application.
- CARCD newsletter, *Conservation Advocate*, for spring 2005.
- National Watershed Coalition legislative alert regarding proposed watershed programs funding cuts.
- CSDA Government Affairs Days announcement and registration brochure.

- NACD newsletter, *News & Views*, for March/April 2005.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Placer County Conservation Plan Update
- RCD '05-'06 Annual Planning

ADJOURNMENT

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

Board Chair Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.