

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
May 17, 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
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.
Stewart Feldman
Chris Paull
Cherie Schiavone
Thomas (Tom) Wehri
Gregory (Greg) Nau
Whitney Nicholas, Associate Director

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

Chris Paull moved to approve the agenda as presented. Greg Nau seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Curtis Tarver, NRCS Assistant Conservationist for Field Operations
Christian Carleton, Foothill Associates

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Greg Nau moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 19, 2005 as presented. Chris Paull seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the *Financial Statement for the Month Ended April 30, 2005* and *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for April 2005*.

Greg Nau moved to approve the *Financial Statement* and the *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for the Month ended April 30, 2005*. Chris Paull seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

Old Business:

a) *Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP) Update:*

Tom Wehri welcomed Placer County Supervisor Robert Weygandt and thanked him for taking time to give the board an update on the Placer County Conservation Plan.

Robert thanked the board for the opportunity to present the update and offered the presentation to others interested in the planning effort.

Robert gave a PowerPoint presentation on the effort that resulted from the growth pressures being faced by Placer County. He reviewed various maps reflecting potential buildout scenarios and noted that protection of agricultural (ag) lands falls under the county's purview as state and federal governments do not have any requirements or regulations regarding farmland protection.

Robert reviewed the history of the planning effort, the various current development proposals before the county and the Cities of Roseville and Lincoln.

Robert reviewed the Placer Legacy's Ag Land and Open Space Preservation effort that has resulted in the county purchasing the Spears and Didion properties for a regional park that will present passive recreation opportunities. He also noted future purchases the county is considering.

The PCCP will provide for a comprehensive one-stop permitting process thru the county and noted the county contains 62 habitat types found in the state. Expected benefits from having the PCCP in place include improved efficiency and certainty in terms of the permitting process, improved mitigation thru large-scale land conservation and better monitoring, and county qualification for state and federal funding assistance in land acquisition.

Robert reviewed financial costs and benefits related to the on-going PCCP effort and noted similar programs have been successful in Riverside, San Diego, and Orange Counties.

Robert closed by indicating the PCCP provides an opportunity to minimize conflicts and maximize value created by allowing local authority over permitting decisions. He stressed the need for adequate outreach efforts and solicited feedback.

Tom thanked Robert and noted the board will be looking forward to reviewing and commenting on the PCCP document in the future.

Robert noted a policy document is slated for approval by the Placer County Board of Supervisors around year end.

b) *'05-'06 RCD Annual Planning:*

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

Katie Maloney reviewed her effort to develop a planning matrix that reflects the program components directors identified at the last meeting.

Tom Wehri suggested the directors spend more time and prioritize the individual tasks identified under each program component for review and further planning at the next meeting.

New Business:

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Proposed '05-'06 RCD/Placer County Annual Cooperative Agreement and Joint Annual Work Program:*

Tom Wehri reported the county is in agreement that the Spears/Didion conservation plan development effort will be handled under a separate agreement with Facility Services.

Rich Gresham reviewed planning discussions and potential partnerships in terms of providing services in the range of \$30K.

After board discussion revolving around the general language, potential future efforts and partnerships, growing the RCD, and appropriate compensation for services provided, Chris Paull moved to approve the proposed '05-'06 RCD/Placer County Annual Cooperative Agreement and Joint Annual Workplan. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Tom noted the RCD has made steps forward in terms of potential future efforts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Stewart Feldman:

- Stewart noted he made a progress report regarding the Colfax grant effort to the project manager and briefly reviewed activities.
- Stewart reported attending the CA Association of RCDs (CARCD) Board Meeting earlier in the day where discussion regarding membership issues and communication took place. He noted Bob Dolton has moved out of the Central Sierra Region and therefore stepped down as regional president.
- Stewart noted he has been active with Farm & Barn event planning as well as serving on the CA Visitor Center Board and applying for the Placer Land Trust associate board membership.

Chris Paull:

- Chris reported also attending the CARCD Board Meeting and noted third year Watershed Coordination funding is currently in question.
- Chris reported working on the Franklin School pumpkin patch and has received Mark White's assistance with irrigation for the patch.

Bob Wiswell:

- Bob reported the Placer County Farm Bureau will receive a presentation on the Placer County Conservation Plan at the next meeting. He noted he will be serving on a PCCP Ag Committee.
- Bob noted the next High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) meeting will take place on Friday.

Stan MacDonald:

- Stan reported he also attended the CARCD Board Meeting.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom reported he is working with the CARCD on watershed issues and further clarified the third year funding for watershed coordination has a good chance of staying in place and that the CARCD is doing their job to support continued funding for the program through conversations with our legislators.

Greg Nau:

- Greg reported he has been invited to serve of the Henry's Fork Foundation Board that serves as the fund raising arm for watershed support. He noted the potential benefits of getting sportsmens' organizations involved in watershed issues locally and noted the lack of non-profit support to local watershed efforts.

STAFF REPORTS

RCD Report:

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

- Rich Gresham reported PG&E's Bob Fratini will begin working with watershed groups and fire safe councils on a state wide basis and has precipitated his interest in further potential partnership with the RCD.
- Rich noted he will be asking if the Bear River Watershed Group is interested in pursuing non-profit status.
- Rich noted the potential to arrange for a joint retreat for the RCD and Placer County Water Agency board members. No objections to the idea were raised.
- Katie noted 200 RCD Annual Reports have been mailed out and 100 more have been ordered for dissemination at public events.
- Mark White invited board members to attend the '05 Annual Ag Tour slated for June 9th.
- Mark reviewed and passed around *Day in the Capitol* materials.
- Mark reported working on a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.
- Mark noted he will not be present at the next board meeting as he will be on vacation.
- Bill Templin handed out copies of his activity report dated May 17th and briefly reviewed his activities in terms of the American River Watershed Conference held in April.
- Bill passed around a State of the Lower American River Watershed brochure and noted his interest in developing a similar brochure for the upper watershed.
- Bill announced the WET event to take place at Lake Natomas June 5th and solicited prizes for the public outreach event to be focused on regional watershed efforts.

AGENCY REPORTS

- Cliff Heitz reviewed EQIP contracts and noted a request for more funding for forestry applications has been submitted.
- Cliff noted the receipt of three Conservation Security Program (CSP) applications and noted the number of applications for the program is lower than expected and suggested development pressures are affecting the program.

Curtis Tarver added the CSP is complicated and issues cropping up in CA may instigate further refinement of the program.
- Curtis also reported Ed Burton has impacted CA NRCS services in a positive manner and the state will be lucky if he were to fill the State Conservationist position.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated May 2, 2005 soliciting notification of pending forestry contracts and Requests for Proposals that the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance may disseminate.
- Copy of letter to Central Sierra RCDs from John James II soliciting support for appointment to the position of CARCD Vice-President.
- Copy of letter dated May 11, 2005 to Ms. Linda Aeschliman, Senior Planner for Placer County Transportation Agency from CA Dept. of Conservation regarding Notice of Preparation for the 2027 Regional Transportation Plan Supplemental Environmental Impact Report SCH #2001052072.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission agenda for May 9th and minutes of April 11th meeting.

- Sierra Nevada Alliance 12th Annual Conference program and registration packet.
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) publication, *Forestry Notes*, for April 2005.
- USDA Forest Service publication, *Connecting Forestry to People in 2006*.
- Riverside-Corona RCD publication, *Resource Update*, for spring 2005.
- CA ReLeaf publication, *CA Trees*, for spring 2005.
- High Ranch Nursery newsletter, *HRN News*, for May 2005.
- Central Valley Joint Venture publication, *Valley Ventures*, for spring 2005.
- CA Public Employees' Retirement System publication, *Employer News*, for spring 2005.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- RCD '05-'06 Annual Planning
- Annual Services Agreement with Katie Maloney
- Facility Services Agreement

ADJOURNMENT

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

Board Chair Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.