

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
June 21, 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  
Stewart Feldman  
Chris Paull  
Cherie Schiavone  
Thomas (Tom) Wehri  
Gregory (Greg) Nau

Directors Absent: Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the agenda as presented. Chris Paull seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Christian Carleton, Foothill Associates

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 17, 2005 and the Special Board Meeting of June 6, 2005 as presented. Cherie Schiavone seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

Board discussion revolved around billing grants for overhead as allowed for in individual grant agreements, the interest rate being earned on RCD funds being invested by the county along with county funds, and the intention of Katie to begin design on a new grant summary report for this fiscal year end.

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

## BUSINESS

### Old Business:

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

Tom Wehri opened discussion by indicating his encouragement to see the prioritization exercise results reflect board concurrence in regards to the prioritization of RCD activities. Tom noted that although the hourly allocations were not reflected in the final prioritization results he felt staff has received great input from the board in terms of prioritizing activities for the coming year and should be able to appropriately allocate hours available to accomplish the tasks set forth by the board.

Stewart Feldman suggested a mid-year evaluation of hours spent of tasks.

Tom stressed that staff should manage their own hours in order to both meet RCD commitments and continue to move forward with newly identified RCD tasks. He encouraged the board not to micro-manage staff.

Stewart asked Rich if a mid-year review would be a helpful tool.

Rich clarified that he does not look at components of the annual plan separately, but as a whole. He stressed the helpfulness of the board's input regarding the identification of board priorities and noted the complexity of the RCD programs. He acknowledged NRCS and their part in fulfilling the provision of landowner assistance with their programs.

Tom agreed the board needs to look at the whole picture including efforts conducted in concert with RCD partners.

Tom briefly reviewed the prioritization results and discussion revolved around the value provided in administering programs that provide services like the Chipper Program and how it translates to on the ground results by enabling RCD partners by providing them with program administration services.

Greg Nau noted the RCD Board's job is governance, oversight, and policy development. He indicated staff should manage their time and effort expended towards accomplishing board priorities identified including RCD commitments.

Stewart noted the priorities do not reflect the pursuit of grants to accomplish tasks.

Tom noted he felt funding issues such as grant writing is inherent in each of the priorities.

Greg noted priorities give the staff a tool to use for guidance and program consistency.

Board discussion moved onto the mechanics of the prioritization exercise and overall board members felt it was a worthwhile exercise.

Tom suggested staff should be able to write an annual plan with goals and objectives outlined along with measurable deliverables. He stressed the importance of keeping it short and simple.

Stan MacDonald noted the need for the annual plan to recognize standing RCD obligations and commitments, seasonal events, and new goals and objectives.

Tom closed discussion by again noting the board's concurrence regarding to RCD activities priorities.

Rich and Tom will work on draft annual plan language for future board review and input.

New Business:

b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD/SAFCA Agreement:*

Rich Gresham reviewed the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) agreement being proposed between the agency and the RCD to hire and oversee a Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator in the wake of the county relinquishing their effort to hire and house the coordinator at the planning department.

Rich reviewed the history of the SAFCA grant effort that resulted in an award to provide for a coordinator that will participate in the Dry Creek Watershed Council and will focus on Dry Creek watershed issues and include a low-impact-development component. He noted the agreement language was included in the board package for review and noted that both the county and SAFCA counsels have reviewed and approved the agreement language.

Rich handed out updated copies of the workplan and budget modified to reflect the shortened grant funding time period left. He reviewed different options for the housing of the coordinator and noted SAFCA prefers the coordinator is housed in Placer County. Options included sharing an office with the American River Watershed Coordinator, Bill Templin.

Rich noted the RCD and county are encouraging the consolidation of watershed groups where appropriate while continuing to address individual watershed issues of concern. He noted the fact that many watershed issues cross smaller watershed boundaries and are better addressed on a larger watershed scale as serving as a way to have the different groups interact with one another to find common goals and objectives by holding collaborative meetings on common watershed issues.

Stewart Feldman noted the 15% administration fee for the RCD is not specifically noted in the agreement language nor is the part time assistant with the EPA included in the agreement.

Rich clarified the part time assistant falls outside the purview of this agreement and is being addressed by SAFCA separately.

He noted the 15% administration fee has been agreed to verbally.

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the agreement contingent on the addition of language clarifying the 15% administration fee for the RCD. Chris Paull seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Tom reviewed a proposed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process that included a target date of August 1 for the Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator to start.

Rich reviewed the selection committee members.

Tom closed discussion by indicated the RCD is providing the community a valuable service by moving this task along quickly.

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD/HSRC&D Agreement:*

Rich Gresham reviewed the agreement meant to serve as a mechanism to move Bureau of Land Management (BLM) funds from the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council to the RCD. The funding will provide additional fire safe inspections on private lands adjacent to BLM lands within Placer County through the RCD/CDF inspection program.

Stewart noted a missing exhibit reflected in the agreement was not included in the board package along with the proposed RCD/HSRC&D Agreement.

Katie apologized for the oversight and noted the missing exhibit is the HSRC&D Annual Plan.

Board discussion revolved around opportunities currently being presented and potential future opportunities.

Tom noted the RCD is stepping up to the plate by serving as the implementing agency.

Chris Paull moved to approve the agreement as presented. Cherie Schiavone seconded; motion carried unanimously. Bob Wiswell, a HSRC&D Director and RCD Director was not present and therefore not involved in the discussion or decision to approve the agreement.

Board discussion moved on the potential need to develop policy in the areas of fee for services, the handling of private donations to the RCD, and direct competition with private sector issues.

d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Regarding Execution of a Service Contract with Katie Maloney for fiscal year '05-'06:*

Rich Gresham noted the proposed services contract with Katie Maloney is the same as last year with the same billings rates and amount of the services agreement of \$19,500 for RCD services at the rate of \$25 per hour. The billing rate for county contract reimbursable work will continue to be \$35 per hour and the rate for grant administration reimbursable work remains at \$40 per hour.

Greg Nau moved to approve the services contract for Katie Maloney's accounting and business administration services as presented. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Forestry & Fuel Management Committee:* The committee met on June 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss ongoing efforts including the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP) effort and the development of an agreement with Placer County Facility Services that will provide funding for the development of conservation plans for the Spears/Didion properties.

The committee also discussed the CARCD Forestry & Fuels Management Committee meeting to be held in June that will focus on a strategic planning effort, both Stewart and Stan plan to attend along with Rich.

It was noted that a provision for the production of a Sierra Nevada Conservancy vanity license plate was approved and a pre-order quota must be met before the plates will go into production. Folks were encouraged to pre-order.

An Applegate/Crother Hills fuel load reduction effort and the use Peer Court volunteers to create a Senior/Disabled Assistance Program were also reviewed.

*Operations Committee:* No meetings were held.

*Fisheries & Wildlife Committee:* No meetings were held, but Greg Nau noted the Henry's Fork Foundation will be conducting a study to quantify the economic benefits of recreational fishing on the local economy. He stressed it is hard to argue with science and/or economic based values.

*Information & Education Committee:* No meetings were held, but Chris Paull noted he has been busy with the Franklin School's 8K square foot pumpkin patch and expressed hope that the project will sell enough pumpkins and starter plants to fund an Ag based program into the future. Kindergarteners thru 7<sup>th</sup> graders are involved in the project.

#### DIRECTORS' REPORTS

*Cherie Schiavone:*

- Cherie reported attending the Ag Tour and the Get WET events. She noted both events were well attended.

*Chris Paull:*

- Chris reported promoting the Franklin School pumpkin patch at the Ag Tour.

*Stewart Feldman:*

- Stewart reported attending the Ag Tour, the American River Confluence Festival, and Meadow Vista's Pioneer Day.
- Stewart announced the second meeting of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy slated for June 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Stan MacDonald:*

- Stan reported he also attended the Ag Tour.

*Greg Nau:*

- Greg reviewed the efforts of the Idaho-Montana Foundation and proposed their successful efforts were in due in large to being well capitalized and highly collaborative with recreational user associations. He stressed Placer County has a collective watershed well worth protecting and enhancing and also contains potential partners in the form of recreational users. He proposed all of the county watershed groups would benefit from an over arching non-profit that could pursue funding, capacity building, and sustainability. Greg proposed the watershed groups hold a collaborative meeting to discuss this kind of option and potential partners and opportunities. Greg noted the opportunity for the RCD to be instrumental in the formation of such an entity.

Tom agreed the future direction of watershed groups is a worthy topic of additional discussion.

*Tom Wehri:*

- Tom reported he met with Rich and Katie regarding financial reporting and will result in enhanced grant and indirect expense reporting.

## STAFF REPORTS

*RCD Report:*

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

- Rich Gresham reported continuing work with the county to get a \$30K agreement in place between Facility Services and the RCD. The Board of Supervisors will be considering the agreement for approval on June 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Stewart reviewed potential newsletter topics in response to Rich's request for board input. Topics included updates on NRCS cost share programs, review of RCD programs being conducted in partnership with others, and update on watershed portals.

The board liked the topics discussed and Rich and Stewart will continue to work together on the newsletter.

September is being targeted for updating the RCD Consultant/Expertise Directory.

Continued discussion revolved around avenues for distribution.

- Rich reported he has been invited by Ducks Unlimited to participate in restoration and conservation activities. The board concurred the RCD should be involved.
- Rich reported Katie will be working with the Sacramento River Watershed Program Webmaster to develop an RCD website.
- Chris Paull brought up the topic of the RCD building or purchasing office space for the USDA Service Center and the RCD. A short timeframe before the current lease comes up for another 5 year renewal was noted. Farm Services Agency (FSA) is the lead agency for the

service center in terms of office space occupancy. The service center's current needs are approximately 4-5K square feet.

Board discussion revolved around the potential to position the RCD over the next five years to take over as landlord for the USDA Service Center in the future.

- Bill Templin handed out copies of his monthly activity report dated June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Bill reported he has been in contact with the Henry's Fork Foundation regarding how to set up a foundation and has been exploring potential opportunities and partners.
- Bill reviewed his activities that included working with the Sediment Dynamics Study (SDS) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), visiting the French Meadow Facility and gathering water quality samples for the annual testing as required by the lease agreement, attending a FERC workshop, and acting on the opportunity to quickly pull together a water quality monitoring effort for the Rubicon Trail that will monitor for oil, gas, and bacteria.

#### AGENCY REPORTS

- Cliff Heitz passed out his May activity report and announced the selection of straight-shooter, Ed Burton, as State Conservationist.
- Cliff reported two more EQIP contracts are in process and that additional funding has been acquired for five more forest land projects.
- Cliff noted the possibility of second year sign ups for the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Five CSP applications have been received for a total of approximately 2,500 acres.
- Cliff noted the weather has wrecked havoc on hay producers.
- Cliff noted NRCS has been invited to participate in the PCCP Ag Meetings.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated May 19<sup>th</sup> regarding the possibility of holding of a special election in November and the need for districts interested in placing items on the ballot to respond immediately.
- Placer County Contractors Association and Builder's Exchange grand opening announcement for June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Copy of *Sacramento Business Journal* article about study that reflects the potential for the population of the Sierra Nevada to triple in 35 years.
- May 2005 USDA FSA Updates for Placer and El Dorado Counties included producer reporting requirements and FSA program updates.
- US Dept. of the Interior notice regarding a *Positive 90-Day Finding for the CA spotted owl* to be published in the Federal Register in response to a petition to list the owl as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- CA Association of RCDs (CARCD) Update dated June 1, 2005.
- Announcement for CA Native Plant Society's *Vegetation and Habitat Rapid Assessment Public Workshop* slated for June.
- CA Biomass Collaborative publication, *Quarterly Newsletter*, for summer, 2005.
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) publication, *Forestry Notes*, for May 2005.
- International Erosion Control Association publication, *News to Use*, for June 2005.

- High Ranch Nursery newsletter, *HRN News*, for June 2005.
- CA Interagency Noxious Weed Coordinating Committee publication, *Noxious Times*, for spring 2005.
- Protect American River Canyons (PARC) newsletter, *Confluence*, for spring 2005.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Draft RCD '05-'06 Annual Plan
- Facility Services Agreement
- Ag Waivers Update

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

Board Chair Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.