

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
July 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 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  
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.  
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

Tom Wehri requested a change to the agenda order addressing agenda item c) before item b). Chris Paull moved to approve the agenda with the changes requested. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Kirk Scilacci, Chairman of the Placer-Nevada-So. Sutter-No. Sacramento Subwatershed Group  
Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist - Nevada County  
Christian Carleton, Foothill Associates

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Greg Nau moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 21, 2005 as presented. Chris Paull seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

Board discussion revolved around the rate of return on RCD funds invested along with the Placer County funds and possible options to improve the rate of return as reflected on the Placer County Treasurer's Report for May 2005.

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

## BUSINESS

### Old Business:

a) *Update Regarding Ag Waiver Program:*

Kirk Scilacci, Chairman of the Placer-Nevada-So. Sutter-No. Sacramento Subwatershed Group was welcomed by the board.

Kirk gave the board an update on the group's progress that included preparation of the Preliminary 2005-2006 \$33K budget based on producer fees of twelve cents an acre. Approximately 200 new members have signed up with the group in the last 45 days for a total of approximately 1,300 members overall.

Kirk noted the regional board is looking to pin down the number of irrigated acreage in the subwatershed counties and is estimating the number at 82K acres, not including acreage in rice production. Kirk noted the group thinks the estimate is too high.

Board and staff discussion revolved around how to best meet the challenge of accurately determining the acreage using photos and maps and contact information was shared.

Kirk noted discouragement regarding the regional board's decision not to have local Ag Commissioners involved in the program and necessitating the hiring of additional staff to make up the difference.

Kirk noted concern that some subwatershed groups are voluntarily sending their regional boards a letter of commitment to extend their program for five years and raising concerns about setting a precedent regarding no harm/no foul issues when the CA Farm Bureau still has a lawsuit pending.

Kirk noted the group will develop a program to address issues, if any, once the data is compiled and reviewed.

Tom Wehri offered RCD assistance and thanked Kirk for his time and update.

### New Business:

b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Draft '05-'06 RCD Annual Plan:*

Rich Gresham reviewed the draft plan language that consists of goal statements with subsequent strategies and identified deliverables. He noted the quantification of the stated goals were estimates and constructed from the best data available as well as discussions with Mark and Cliff. Rich solicited feedback and comments regarding the draft language.

Rich collected feedback that included the suggestion of language correlating fuel load reduction and healthy forest land and the inclusion of language regarding how board committees might be involved in implementing the plan.

Chris Paull moved to approve the draft with the clarifications requested. Cherie Schiavone seconded; motion carried unanimously.

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator:*

Tom Wehri gave an overview of the Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator selection process that included the review of seven applicants that have been narrowed down to the top three candidates. References of the top candidates are now in the process of being checked. Conflict of interest issues are also being explored. The selection committee will be meeting again to make the final selection and make an offer to the top candidate.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee meetings were held during the month.

## DIRECTORS' REPORTS

### *Bob Wiswell:*

- Bob reported the High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council's (HSRC&D's) Sierra Beef Marketing Program is moving forward with positive results, funding to address Auburn Lake Trails water quality issues is being pursued, the transfer of \$10K from the HSRC&D to the RCD for fire safe inspections adjacent to BLM lands is in process, funds to provide for a Wolf Mountain lookout has been acquired, a goat raising project is in process, and various fuel load reduction projects are being implemented.

### *Cherie Schiavone:*

- Cherie reported visiting the Lake County area where she was raised and noted the increasing number of vineyards and efforts to improve the clarity of Clear Lake.

### *Stewart Feldman:*

- Stewart reported participating on the planning committee for this year's Farm & Barn Tour, attending the American River Watershed Group meeting, and participating on the Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator Selection Committee.
- Stewart passed out copies of the updated National Association of Conservation District's logo he ran across in his effort to provide the Farmers Market with the RCD logo for the new brochures the RCD has helped to sponsor.
- Stewart noted he is working with Rich on the next RCD Newsletter.

### *Chris Paull:*

- Chris reported traveling most of Alaska over the last month including the Denali National Park.
- Chris reported working on the irrigation problem being experienced at the Franklin School pumpkin patch.

### *Greg Nau:*

- Greg requested a meeting with Bill Templin to continue the watershed group sustainability discussion.

### *Tom Wehri:*

- Tom reported attending the Farm Bill Forum event to discuss 2007 Farm Bill components and noted the Conservation Security Program will instigate ongoing discussion and may gain some additional support.

### *Whitney Nicholas:*

- Whitney reported spending a week in France and reviewed their efforts to protect water quality and conserve resources. He also reviewed French economic statistics.

## STAFF REPORTS

### *RCD Report:*

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

- Rich Gresham reported continuing his encouragement to Facility Services to have the language for the \$30K agreement between Facility Services and the RCD developed. The Board of Supervisors approved the agreement on June 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Rich reported working with Paul Lake on GIS for the Bear Valley efforts in concert with the Nevada County RCD. A field trip to Bear Valley is also being planned for the CARCD Forestry and Fuels Management Committee as well as a tour of CA Forest Improvement Program projects located along the HWY. 20 corridor.

- Rich reported a sealed bid procedure will be used to purchase the new tow vehicle for the Placer County Chipper Program with WUI funding the RCD oversees.
  - Mark White reported visiting North Dakota while on vacation last month.
  - Mark reported this year's Ag Tour garnered the best attendance in the history of the event and went very well.
  - Mark noted a verbal agreement between the RCD and Facility Services for the RCD to provide Storm Water Pollution Prevent Plans (SWPPPs) for three county parks. He noted the Didion/Spears plan has already been completed. He noted the North American River Trial SWPPP will be re-visited again shortly.
  - Mark noted the Gold Country Fair will take place from September 8<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup> and solicited participation from staff and board to assist with staffing the USDA Service Center/RCD Booth.
  - Katie Maloney reported Placer County Planning is planning to contribute \$2K towards the re-printing of the Placer Tree Partners (PTP) Treasured Tree Walking Tour Map and Guide. She noted planning is also considering spending \$17-21K for the design and printing of four different tree care brochures and one booklet on native trees. It is expected the RCD will serve as the conduit for funding between the county and the PTP effort.
  - Bill Templin handed out copies of his monthly activity report dated July 18<sup>th</sup> and the agenda for the July 21<sup>st</sup> American River Watershed Group meeting along with a tri-fold brochure detailing his three year workplan and contact information.
  - Bill reported conversations with Cliff Heitz highlighted his concerns about the preservation of farm land in Placer County.
  - Bill reported the PG&E Stewardship Council will be holding a meeting in Nevada City on July 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - Bill noted his quarterly report to the Dept. of Conservation (DOC) is being developed and reviewed the management tool DOC uses to oversee the progress on the workplan.
- Katie noted both documents will be included in the board package next month along with other quarterly grant progress reports.
- Bill passed around an updated contact list and solicited review and input.
  - Bill reported a Draft Rubicon Trail Master Plan and two water quality samplings on the Rubicon Trail have been completed.

#### AGENCY REPORTS

- Cliff Heitz passed out his June activity report and reviewed progress on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) that includes completion of this year's ranking process for further review by the Area Conservationist and completion checks for projects already implemented.
- Cliff reported five Conservation Security Program (CSP) contracts have been completed. The lower American and Bear Rivers will be included in next year's program area.
- Cliff noted Ducks Unlimited (DU) is conducting a resource inventory in Western Placer and Easter Sutter Counties. NRCS has agreed to provide wildlife habitat information for the American Basin. DU currently has funding for projects in Sutter County and it is hoped they will also acquire funding for projects in Placer County.

- Cliff reported working with HSRC&D on the Serene Lakes fuel reduction and healthy forest demonstration project.
- Cliff ended his report by announcing his retirement the first part of next month after serving as District Conservationist for 22 years.

The board gave Cliff a big hand and discussion revolved around all the changes that are taking place in the county with the retirement of key agency and county personnel.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of letter of support dated July 15<sup>th</sup> to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA for their continued support of the partnership between the Sacramento River Watershed Program and News 10 for their promotional campaign regarding watershed education, pollution prevention, and resource conservation.
- Placer County Planning Dept. Development Review Committee Agenda for the proposed dividing of Winchester Development's Phase 4 into three sub-phases along with the letter of request and proposed sub-phase map.
- Placer County Auditor Controller Notice of Apportionment for 2005-2006 Mandated LAFCO Fees.
- Copy of DOC comment letter dated June 30<sup>th</sup> to Rodney Campbell, Director of Lincoln Community Development Dept. re: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Nader Property Project SCH# 2005062001.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission Agenda for July 11<sup>th</sup> and minutes of June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Placer County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Agenda for July 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Placer County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee Agenda for July 7<sup>th</sup> and minutes of April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- US Dept. of Interior letter dated June 27<sup>th</sup> re: Critical Habitat for 15 Vernal Pool Species – Draft Economic Analysis and Reopening of Comment Period until July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- High Ranch Nursery newsletter, *HRN News*, for July 2005.
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) publication, *News & Views*, for May/June 2005.
- National Park Service brochure explaining the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program's National Park Service Community Assistance Program.
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District publication, *The Confluence*, for spring 2005.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Draft RCD '05-'06 Budget
- Facility Services Agreement

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

Board Chair Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.