

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
January 17, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Placer County Resource Conservation District Board was called to order by RCD Board Chair Chris Paull at 3:15 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

Directors Absent: One Vacancy

Others Present: Rich Gresham, RCD Manager
Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist
Mark White, RCD Resource Management Planner
Katie Maloney, RCD Sr. Administrative Assistant
Bill Templin, North American River Watershed Coordinator
Gregg Bates, Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the agenda as presented. Greg Nau seconded, motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Claudia Smith, Blossom Hill Farm
Bill Myers, Certified Public Accountant
David Lake, Citizen

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 19, 2005 with two minor corrections. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the *Financial Statements for the Month Ended December 31, 2005*, the *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for December 2005*, and revised *Financial Statements for July, August, September, October, and November 2005* reflecting the final numbers post audit to account for 2004-2005 depreciation expense.

Tom Wehri noted the program allocations need to be reviewed as the bottom line did not foot correctly.

Katie noted she will review her formulas and make any corrections needed on the revised statements.

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the *Financial Statement* and the *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for the Month ended December 31, 2005* along with the final statements for the

prior months with any needed corrections incorporated. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Katie Maloney reminded the board she distributed the *RCD Financial Statements and Required Supplementary Information for the Year ended June 30, 2005* at the last meeting for board review and introduced Bill Myers, the RCD's CPA.

Mr. Myers briefly reviewed the 2004-2005 Financial Statements and noted net assets are up 24% and has been consistently showing an upwards trend in terms of increasing net assets. He fielded board questions and discussion revolved around the RCD's Defined Pension/Benefit Plan options. It was determined the Operations Committee should review plan options and potentially make future recommendations to the board.

BUSINESS

Old Business:

a) *RCD Board Subcommittee Review:*

After the board reviewed their standing committee structure, Greg Nau moved to adopt the following structure for the 2006 calendar year. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Placer County Resource Conservation District Board

Standing Committees

1-17-06

Forestry and Fuels Management Committee: Stan MacDonald* and Stewart Feldman
Mike Brenner, Robin Yonash, and Doug Ferrier, Advisors

Ag and Lands Committee: Bob Wiswell*, Chris Paull, and Claudia Smith
Whitney Nicholas and Mike Brenner, Advisors

Fisheries and Wildlife Committee: Greg Nau
Bill Templin and Gregg Bates, Advisors

Education Committee: Stewart Feldman*, Chris Paull, and Claudia Smith

Legislative Committee: Tom Wehri* and Stewart Feldman
Mark White and Whitney Nicholas, Advisors

Operations Committee: Chris Paull*, Tom Wehri, and Greg Nau
Rich Gresham, Advisor

**Committee Chair*

b) *Update Re: Direct Marketing Signage:*

Claudia Smith reported meeting with Placer County Agricultural Commissioner Christine Turner regarding recommendations being made to the Placer County Planning Commission regarding signage for small ag producers. She presented the potential signage allowances under consideration.

Board discussion revolved around permitting issues and potential signage parameters.

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Placer Nature Center Funding Request:*

It was reported that no committee meeting has yet been held to address the request for the annual Nature Bowl event, but one is being planned.

Tom Wehri moved to send the request to the Education Committee for further consideration and potential funding recommendation. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Grant Funding Proposals:*

- *CA Fire Safe Council Consolidated Proposal to provide for maintenance of shaded fuel breaks and demonstration sites.*

Rich reported CDF has requested the RCD postpone funding proposal submission until the next funding cycle, so the proposal has been tabled for now.

- *NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant proposal to provide for the compilation of a GIS based map of the CARCD Central Sierra Region.*

Chris Paull reviewed the funding proposal concept to would fund a GIS-based map for the CARCD Central Sierra Region and provide a tool for regional management efforts.

The board reviewed Mike Brenner's GIS-based maps reflecting NRCS projects in Nevada County. Discussion revolved around the types of data layers that would be useful for the proposed mapping effort.

Mike Brenner noted he will be developing a similar map for Placer County separately from this mapping proposal being considered.

CARCD has expressed an interest in the regional mapping proposal and offered to assist in proposal development. This year's CARCD theme revolves around partnerships and believes the map can help promote partnerships and information sharing between RCDs within regional boundaries.

The board liked the concept and discussed the benefits and uses of having GIS based information compiled on a regional basis. They further discussed potential costs, time allocations, and potential information contacts.

Tom Wehri moved to approve further development of a funding proposal. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously.

e) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Letter of Support for Nevada Irrigation District (NID) NOAA Fisheries Open Rivers Initiative Grant Funding Proposal:*

Rich reviewed the request for a letter of support for the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) funding proposal that will provide for NID diversion and structure improvement to provide for better fish passage. The letter would also provide an RCD commitment for \$1K in match consisting of in-kind services related to watershed planning and/or technical assistance to the county and NID regarding project implementation for the fiscal year 2006-2007.

After board discussion, Tom Wehri moved to send a letter of support and match commitment for the NID proposal. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RCD Forestry and Fuels Management Committee:

The committee met post CARCD committee phone conference. No action was taken, but updates on area projects were received.

RCD Fisheries & Wildlife Committee:

Greg Nau reported meeting with Bill Templin regarding the formation of a foundation focused on the Upper American River Watershed.

Bill added there is a \$250 application fee to begin the 501(c)(3) process.

Bill handed out copies of an article he wrote for *Fish Sniffer* magazine detailing his efforts as coordinator and broaching the idea of forming a foundation to the sports fishing community.

RCD Education Committee:

Stewart Feldman polled committee members and scheduled a meeting for January 23rd.

RCD Legislative Committee:

Tom Wehri noted in the next two weeks the legislature will be handling pending conservation related legislation.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Stewart Feldman:

- Stewart reported participating on the CARCD Policy Committee. He also noted CARCD funding and staffing are major issues to be addressed.
- Stewart noted the Sierra Nevada Alliance has acknowledged RCDs as a resource and shared a Bickford Ranch development news article and an article about biomass.

Bob Wiswell:

- Bob noted he will be attending the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council meeting January 20th.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom reported the CARCD Executive Director has been placed on administrative leave while a \$50K shortfall is addressed. CARCD income has been down and costs have increased resulting in the shortfall. As a result Tom has been drafted to serve as Acting Executive Director until May 2006 while issues are worked through. The next meeting set for February 9th will be devoted to next steps, budgeting, grants, etc. Tom indicated he will be involved with legislative matters and management.

Chris Paull:

- Chris met with the Principal of Franklin Elementary School about the continuation of an ag program.
- Chris met with Rich to discuss the GIS mapping proposal. Chris also met with Mark Egbert about the regional mapping effort.
- Chris noted the loss of officers in the Placer Chapter of CSDA with the departure of ARD's General Manager and his subsequent resignation from the chapter and the resignation from the post of Treasurer/Secretary, has resulted in both the Chair and Secretary/Treasurer positions being vacant. He suggested there may be a role for the RCD to provide support in the interim.

The next meeting is being planned for March 1, 2006 at 6 p.m. with Supervisor Bruce Kranz to address FERC Re-licensing issues.

Whitney Nicholas:

- Whitney noted he is looking forward to serving on the RCD Ag & Lands Committee.
- Whitney announced he is a new grandfather. The board congratulated Whitney on the new addition to his family.

STAFF REPORTS

RCD Report:

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

- Rich reported meeting with Gus Thompson, reporter for the Auburn Journal to explore the RCD's options for conducting public relations through the newspaper. The discussion highlighted the following options:
 - pay per inch for NRCS/RCD articles
 - internet articles
 - potential column potentially a *Conservation Corner*
 - press releases

Greg thought there may be potential for businesses to sponsor related articles.

- Rich announced an evening meeting will take place on February 7th at the McBean Pavilion in Lincoln that will give the ag community an opportunity to discuss the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP) with county staff and others.
- Rich reported the American Basin Working Group has been meeting to develop a Statement of Purpose and gather members.
- Mark White reported holding an erosion control workshop in the Lincoln area for contractors.

Stewart suggested Loomis might need some erosion assistance and Mark indicated he would make contact.

- Mark reported the Farm & Barn Tour will have RCD representation with both himself and Claudia involved in planning this year's event.
- Foresthill High School has requested Mark give a soils presentation and it is slated for next week.
- Mark took a preliminary poll regarding board interest in participating in the Day in the Capitol event in May and offered to provide coordination as usual.

The board took Mark up on his offer.

- Katie reported distribution of the 2005 1099's last week.
- Katie briefly reviewed the *Budget Variance Report for the Six Months Ending December 31, 2005* and noted the district is right on track.
- Katie reported continued work on the RCD tri-fold brochure and plans on focusing on the website this next month.
- Gregg Bates handed out copies of his activity report, reviewed his activities, and fielded board questions.

Discussion revolved around the flooding impacts in the Dry Creek Watershed from the December 31st storm event. Gregg reviewed conditions at sites where he collected photo documentation of the impacts from the event.

- Bill Templin added that he also collected photo documentation of conditions in the North Fork American River watershed while he handed out copies of his activity report and passed around photographs of the storm event's erosion and sediment impacts.
- Bill reviewed his activities and solicited photographs and pamphlets for the watershed display being developed for Canyon View Community Room.
- Bill noted he continues his effort to collect and catalog water quality monitoring and solicited information. Whitney Nicholas noted he was lacking the magic password to water data in his efforts at helping Bill to collect information.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike Brenner reviewed the NRCS activity report sent out in the board package.
- Mike reported meeting the new American River District Ranger, Jan Cutts, that resulted in information sharing.
- Mike reported NRCS is trying to generate more interest in the Conservation Security Program (CSP).
- Mike announced the hiring of Marie Bankus to assist with Farm Services Agency (FSA) administrative work. There are three offices in the territory she will cover.
- Mike announced the new Grass Valley District Conservationist is Jason Jackson.
- Mike handed out his letter to the editor and a parcel analysis he developed. Mike noted the analysis can be refined depending on desired parameters.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated December 14th from PlacerGROWN soliciting sponsorship of the Annual Farm Conference.
- Email from Chris Aguirre to Rich regarding a Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2030 Update.
- CARCD letter soliciting 2006 membership including quota worksheet, directory update, meeting schedules, etc.
- Notice of filing from Placer Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) regarding the Dissolution of the Placer Consolidated Fire Protection District.
- Foothill Marketing newsletter, *Information for Local Ag Producers*, fall 2005.
- High Ranch Nursery newsletter, *HRN News*, January 2006.
- CA Forest Stewardship Program newsletter, *Forestland Stewardship*, fall 2005.
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee revised meeting schedule for 2006.
- NACD newsletter, *Forestry Notes*, for December 2005 with Special Report, *What's New with the Forest Stewardship Program?*
- Great Valley Center publication, *Assessing the Region Via Indicators – The Environment 2000-2005*.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following items will be on the January agenda:

- Education Committee: Placer Nature Center Funding Request
- NACD Spring Legislative Conference
- Update Re: Placer County Conservation Plan Event

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Tom Wehri moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously. Chair Chris Paull adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.