

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
February 21, 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  
Claudia Smith  
Whitney Nicholas, Associate Director

Others Present: Rich Gresham, RCD Manager  
Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist  
Kay Joy, High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Area (HSRC&D) Coordinator  
Katie Maloney, RCD Sr. Administrative Assistant  
Bill Templin, North American River Watershed Coordinator  
Gregg Bates, Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Tom Wehri moved to approve the agenda as presented. Stan MacDonald seconded, motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Tom Wehri moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 17, 2006 as presented. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the *Financial Statements for the Month Ended January 31, 2006*, the *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for January 2006*.

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the *Financial Statement* and the *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for the Month ended January 31, 2006* as presented. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Board discussion revolved around the posting of property tax revenues and requested an explanation regarding the source of the intergovernmental revenue posted to the RCD.

Katie noted she will check with district CPA, Bill Myers for a review of this revenue item and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

## BUSINESS

### Old Business:

- a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Placer Nature Center Funding Request:* Stewart Feldman reported on the January meeting of the Education Committee where a proposed 2006 Education Committee Budget was developed for Board review and input. He noted the committee was interested in assisting school children and determined a teacher survey would best help the committee determine community needs in that area. The committee reviewed goals and objectives as outlined in the RCD Annual Plan.

Tom Wehri moved to approve the proposed 2006 Education Budget and the \$1K funding request from the Placer Nature Center.

The board reviewed the proposed budget and discussed process in terms of approving the proposed Education Budget in total outside of the regular RCD budgeting process and/or approving funding requests as they present themselves.

After discussion, Tom Wehri amended his motion to approve the Placer Nature Center \$1K funding request with any additional funding requests to be reviewed and approved by the board when presented.

Greg Nau seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Additional discussion highlighted potential continued support the Foothill Farmers' Market effort with funding assistance for the 2006 market brochures.

Claudia noted she will check with the Farmers' Market to assess current needs in regards to 2006 brochure.

- b) *Update Re: Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP) Meeting of February 7, 2006:* Greg Nau briefly reviewed the PCCP effort to address population growth on a regional basis vs. on a piecemeal basis in order to better mitigate growth impacts on natural resources.

The agricultural, development, and environmental communities have been involved in PCCP discussions. These communities have a vested interest in how their communities will be developed in the face of unprecedented growth in the Phase I western portion of Placer County.

As part of the PCCP effort the county is working with regulatory agencies to develop a streamlined permitting effort to allow the county to directly oversee the regulatory permitting process. To further this goal the county has developed numerous GIS-based maps reflecting existing natural resources in conjunction with the development of land use maps. Regulatory agencies have embraced the concept, depending on the final version of the land use maps and an assessment of expected impacts to resources dependant on those land use designations.

It is expected the maps will undergo further refinement before going before the Placer County Board of Supervisors (BOS) for action. The PCCP draft document is currently undergoing administrative review.

Under discussion is the potential formation of a Joint Powers Authority to provide organizational structure for administration of the program.

Greg noted the PCCP effort is in line with RCD goals and objectives especially in terms of providing open space and a viable Ag community while allowing for the expansion of city boundaries. He noted the PCCP effort is not the first of its kind and has proven to be a successful program in other jurisdictions.

Greg indicated the meeting of February 7<sup>th</sup> provided an informal forum with informational booths where attendees could gather information of specific interest and have access to county staff. Greg noted his perception, the Ag community wants to be involved in the process, but is not opposed to the PCCP in concept.

Rich Gresham added other local jurisdictions are also exploring the pursuit of similar processes.

Board discussion revolved around the need to wait and see the refined product that shakes out.

Rich noted he has received inquiries from individual Ag community members regarding what kind of conservation easement might be best for them.

Greg noted it is imperative that individuals educate themselves in order to make informed decisions on issues that personally impact them, but noted "what ifs" need to be acknowledged in that process and suggested the RCD act on what they know, not innuendo, and encouraged the RCD to take a position on the issue.

Stewart Feldman noted Supervisor Kranz has voiced concerns with the cost of administering the program.

Tom noted if you don't do the planning it affects the quality of life, resources, etc. as development will occur with or without a PCCP.

Greg stressed the importance of sharing perspectives with elected officials and noted he will obtain the PCCP Executive Summary from Loren Clark and have Katie forward it to the board for further review.

Further Board discussion highlighted numerous questions will remain in play until the land use maps are finalized.

Chris Paull closed discussion by encouraging the RCD to identify a potential role, should the PCCP move forward.

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Representation at the 2006 National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Legislative Conference:*

Chris Paull opened discussion that revolved around RCD representation on future policy issues pertaining to the upcoming Farm Bill and potential partnerships.

Tom Wehri reviewed past events and current issues that included a proposed reduction in NRCS staff of 2,000 nationwide, Endangered Species Act (ESA) issues, and water issues.

Tom noted how difficult it has been to talk directly to US Representative Doolittle on issues and encouraged board members to attend the conference, if able, especially if they have not done so in the past.

Rich Gresham solicited interest in attending the conference and Chris Paull noted he will check his schedule to see if he can get away to attend the conference.

Greg Nau made a motion for the RCD to cover costs of attending the conference over and above the \$1K CARCD scholarship. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously with Chris Paull abstaining.

New Business:

- d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Joint RCDs Hosting the Central Sierra Regional CA Association of RCDs (CARCD) Spring Meeting:*  
Chris Paull opened discussion by encouraging the board to jointly host the CARCD Central Sierra Regional Spring Meeting in collaboration with the El Dorado County/Georgetown Divide RCD slated for April.

After a brief discussion, Tom Wehri moved to jointly host the spring regional meeting. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Stewart Feldman suggested acquiring raffle items in advance to contribute to the spring meeting.

Claudia Smith offered to see if she might be able to acquire a framed print of the current Farmers' Market poster by a popular local artist for a raffle prize.

- e) *Update Re: CARCD Central Sierra Region Mapping Grant Proposal:*  
Rich Gresham reported the concept is coming together with concept development and the gathering of data and support. He reviewed all the agencies and entities contacted about the proposal. He indicated he will continue to pursue the concept proposal and explore appropriate funding sources for the mapping effort.

Rich noted the existence of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that could be expanded to include all the RCDs in the Central Sierra region and potentially be used as a vehicle for grants on a regional basis. The concept will be presented at the regional spring meeting in April.

Chris encouraged board support for the concept and indicated data regarding fire history, risk, etc. would be a good place to start in terms of data gathering for the mapping effort.

Board discussion revolved around potential data layers for the mapping effort, private land issues, distribution of information, and the data search effort.

Mike Brenner encouraged the board to keep the mapping effort at a manageable level by focusing on specific data vs. trying to develop a map that would be all things to all users.

Mike also suggested if the mapping effort is focused on private lands you would not need to include the entire area of the national forests in the region, but only the edges of those forest boundaries.

Stewart Feldman closed discussion by noting the Watershed Information Model (WIM) is a user friendly product and encouraged the development of a product equally user friendly.

- f) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Alternate RCD Representative to the High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Area (HSRC&D):*  
Rich Gresham noted the RCD has received a request to provide an alternate representative for the HSRC&D for when the RCD's primary representative, Bob Wiswell, is unable to attend.

Bob Wiswell clarified the HSRC&D has been experiencing meeting attendance problems, instigating the request from all council members for an alternate.

Tom Wehri volunteered to serve as the alternate.

Stewart Feldman moved to approve Tom Wehri as the RCD alternate. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

g) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) - Placer Chapter Interim Support:*

Chris Paull reviewed the current status regarding officer vacancies of the CSDA Placer Chapter that include the Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. He requested, as CSDA Placer Chapter Vice Chair, the RCD provide interim support for the next two meetings, including the annual meeting, in order to allow the chapter time to regroup and select new officers. He noted the chapter will need support in terms of agendas, minutes, and the arranging of meeting details.

After Board discussion that revolved around Katie Maloney's time allocations, Greg Nau moved to provide interim assistance as requested. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously with Chris Paull abstaining.

h) *Discussion Re: RCD 2006-2007 Annual Planning Process:*

Chris Paull opened discussion by noting the RCD has been refining their annual planning process over the last few years and asked the board's pleasure regarding this year's planning effort for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Board discussion revolved around potential RCD roles, outreach to community partners to further refine potential roles, the five year plan already in place, the need to strategically plan in terms of the RCD's evolution and potential services for the next ten year timeframe.

Further discussion revolved around the topics of FERC re-licensing, outreach, programs, and capacity building.

Tom Wehri suggested board committees meet to identify issues and how to address those issues within a 2006-2007 Annual Plan that fits within the RCD Five Year Plan.

Further Board discussion resulted in the selection of June 1, 2006 from 3-7 p.m. at a place to be determined, for the RCD Annual Planning Meeting. Board committees are to meet before then to determine priorities and provide input into the planning process. Individual Board members encouraged to compile a list identifying their top five issues for the next four years.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### *RCD Education Committee:*

Chris Paull reported the Education Committee meeting highlighted the desire to beef-up recruitment efforts for the annual speak-off contest with the Future Farmers of America and 4H, additional participation at local fairs and events, and the development of potential partnerships with entities like Placer Nature Center.

Board discussion revolved around the need to outline a process for the speak-off contest from the local to state levels.

## DIRECTORS' REPORTS

### *Stan MacDonald:*

- Stan reported attending the CA Fire Safe Council meeting.

Rich added the council meeting revolved around Clearinghouse grant responses, individual fire safe council presentations, and the increase in defensible space requirement to 100 feet. The CDF website details how the agency is dealing with the increased requirements through education and encouragement before moving forward with any enforcement efforts.

### *Stewart Feldman:*

- Stewart reported attending the CARCD Board meeting. He announced Brian Leahy is no longer Executive Director and Tom Wehri has been drafted to serve as Interim Executive Director for the next few months. Stewart stressed CARCD staff continues to do a great job.

- Stewart reported participating on the CARCD Policy Committee that negotiated a reduced cost for the CARCD Legislative Advocate due to financial circumstances.
- Stewart noted attending the Sierra Nevada Alliance meeting.
- Stewart reported developing a media presentation on the Colfax Shaded Fuel Break Project.
- Stewart reported required Director Ethics Training is up in the air as no training curriculum has yet been developed and there is no funding for enforcement. He noted CARCD continues to work on the issue.

*Bob Wiswell:*

- Bob announced the HSRC&D has hired a new Coordinator, Kay Joy, then added Congress has proposed a 50% reduction in RC&D funding and requested RCD support for the maintenance of current funding levels.

*Tom Wehri:*

- Tom confirmed he has agreed to serve as CARCD Acting Executive Director until May 2006. H noted he is encouraged with the new CARCD Board members and the staff currently in place.
- Tom reported attended Partners in Forestry that highlighted the US Forest Service (USFS) and the fact that they are looking to collaborate with others in order to deal with budget constraints. Each National Forest now has a Partnership Collaboration Leader that will explore how best to leverage USFS resources. Tom recommended the RCD make contact with the local collaboration leaders.
- Tom highlighted discussions taking place regarding privacy issues and State Water Resources Control Board requirements to provide information, if awarded certain grants, and the stand that RCDs will no longer enter into these kinds of grant agreements where privacy is an issue. CARCD and UC Davis have also taken a similar stand in regards to providing private information regulatory agencies.
- Tom noted the national issue of watershed funding and the issue of where do we go from here. The CARCD will continue to represent local needs.

*Claudia Smith:*

- Claudia reported attending the Annual PlacerGROWN Farm Conference that included Supervisor Robert Weygandt's brief overview of the PCCP effort. The conference was good with a variety of speakers and good participation.
- Claudia attended the CA Certified Organic Farmers meeting and toured four farms in the Woodland/Winters area that highlighted conservation practices being implemented.
- Claudia participated in the RCD Board Education Committee meeting.

*Chris Paull:*

- Chris also participated in the RCD Board Education Committee meeting.
- Chris also attended the CARCD Policy Committee negotiating a reduced cost for the CARCD Legislative Advocate from \$20K to \$2,400 per year.
- Chris met with Rich to discuss the CARCD Regional Spring Meeting, CSDA-Placer Chapter interim support, and the regional mapping concept.
- Chris took a tour pertaining to the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) East Basin Canal Efficiency Study where PG&E canal maintenance issues were discussed.

- Chris encouraged attendance of the CDSA-Placer Chapter meeting slated for March 1<sup>st</sup> that will include a presentation by Supervisor Kranz on the Middle Fork Project.

## STAFF REPORTS

### *RCD Report:*

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

- Katie handed out copies of the revised Treasured Tree Walking Tour Guide and Map for perusal and noted the Placer Tree Partners continue to work on educational materials and development of a website.
- Rich added Katie continues to work on the RCD tri-fold brochure, website development, annual report and the RCD Mid-year Accomplishment Report.
- Rich reported working on the development of a draft county contract proposal for the next fiscal year. Appointments with the current Placer County Supervisors and county staff are being scheduled to identify issues that Supervisors and the County CEO office might want the RCD to focus on in the coming fiscal year.
- Rich reported receiving a verbal commitment from PG&E to provide \$20K to support the American River Watershed Coordinator.
- Work on the development of the Hidden Falls Vegetation Management Plan continues.
- The Army Corps of Engineers is still reviewing the Atwood Conservation Easement Agreement for final approval.
- The Placer Land Trust has requested the RCD provide recommendations on Yellow Star Thistle management.
- Bill Templin handed out copies of his activity report and reviewed regional issues including FERC re-licensing and the approval of funding for the development of a Cosumnes-American-Bear-Yuba (CABY) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) to be completed within a short one year timeframe.
- Bill continues to develop a project matrix in anticipation of an American River Watershed Group (ARWG) prioritization exercise. The ARWG will also be holding discussions to clarify policy on the ARWG decision making process.
- Bill reported finding a willing underwriter for the 501(c)3 application process for the formation of an Upper American River Watershed Foundation. The ARWG continues to discuss the idea and Bill continues to solidify support.
- Gregg Bates handed out copies of his activity report and reviewed his activities including continued grant proposal development and refinement, planning annual creek week activities, the development of a Red Sesbania management jurisdictional cooperative, and the promotion of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques to local developers, consultants, and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). Gregg fielded Board questions.
- Gregg reported the Dry Creek Watershed Council received a presentation about PCWA's East Basin Canal Efficiency Study and agreed to participate with the county in the development of a Dry Creek watershed brochure.
- Gregg announced receipt of an invitation to present a full proposal on the development of an American Basin non-profit organization concept and a funding award from REI for a Rocklin Springview Park project.

## AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike Brenner reviewed the NRCS activity report sent out in the board package including an overview of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) application review progress. He noted 10 applications for the program were received requesting only 70% of the funding available, leaving \$114.4K in program funding to be reallocated to other regions. Six of the ten applications were for forestry practices and four were for irrigation assistance.
- Mike reported an 11<sup>th</sup> hour Conservation Security Program (CSP) pull back from Placer County. Staff organized an information event about the program, but no producers attended.
- Site visits, surveys, and checks were conducted for several NRCS programs.
- Staff has been engineering '05-'06 EQIP projects, assisting consulting firms with air photos, and attended the Farm Conference with an information booth, among other activities.
- Mike reported giving a presentation to the Auburn Chamber of Commerce-Meddlers Group and his meeting with Supervisor Weygandt resulted in a request for a BOS presentation.
- Mike handed out copies of a newspaper article he wrote and submitted to promote NRCS programs.

## COMMUNICATIONS

- CARCD \$1K Scholarship Offer to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Conference or Spring Legislative Conference.
- NACD cover letter and brochure about renewable energy issues.
- Placer County letter dated January 31, 2006 re: Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) annexation of property into the Truckee Fire Protection District.
- Placer County letter dated February 3, 2006 re: LAFCo annexation of property into the Newcastle Sanitary District.
- Invitation to PCWA's Middle Fork Project re-licensing Introductory Stakeholders Meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission Meeting Agenda for February 13<sup>th</sup>.
- High Ranch Nursery newsletter, *HRN News*, February 2006 and 2006 plant and price list.
- CA Fire Safe Council Meeting Agenda for January 26<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.
- A White Paper, *The Case for Reauthorizing PL 106-393 The Secure Rural School and Communities Self Determination Act of 2000*.
- NACD newsletter, *Forestry Notes*, for January 2006.
- NACD newsletter, *Buffer Notes*, for January 2006.
- USDA Forest Service publication, *Forests on the Edge-Housing Development of America's Private Forests*.
- CalPERS publication, *Employer News*, for winter 2006.
- National Bioenergy and Wood Products Conference materials for March 14-16<sup>th</sup>.

### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following items will be on the March agenda:

- RCD Annual Planning Meeting Discussion
- Mid-year Accomplishment Report
- Update Re: CARCD Central Sierra Region Spring Meeting
- Foothill Farmers' Market Funding Request

### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Tom Wehri moved to adjourn the meeting. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously. Chair Chris Paull adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.