

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
June 20, 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 3:17 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.  
Stanley (Stan) MacDonald  
Stewart Feldman  
Thomas (Tom) Wehri  
Claudia Smith  
Chris Paull

Directors Absent: Gregory (Greg) Nau

Others Present: Rich Gresham, RCD Manager  
Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist-Auburn Field Office  
Katie Maloney, RCD Sr. Administrative Assistant  
Bill Templin, North Fork American River Watershed Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Tom Wehri moved to approve the agenda as presented. Bob Wiswell seconded, motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 16, 2006 with a typo correction. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the May 2006 financial statements and expense report. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

New Business:

- a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Extension of Three Year Employment Agreement with Rich Gresham:*  
After Board discussion, Stewart Feldman moved to extend the current Employment Agreement for two months pending an employee evaluation, the '06-'07 Annual Plan, and a review of '05-'06 Accomplishments Report. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Execution of Annual Services Agreement with Katie Maloney:*

After a brief discussion, Tom Wehri moved to execute an '06-'07 services agreement for accounting and administration services with Katie Maloney as presented in the Board package. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Execution of Retainer Agreement with William Templin, Jr.:*

Rich Gresham reviewed the upcoming need for the RCD to acquire the services of a hydrologist, and proposed to retain such services from Bill Templin via a retainer modeled on the agreement used to retain the services of a Registered Professional Forester.

After board discussion, Stewart Feldman moved to approve the retainer agreement with Bill Templin as presented in the Board package. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously.

d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Execution of an Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RCD and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA):*

Rich reviewed the discussion instigated by SAFCA proposing the RCD administer a collaborative effort to continue the control of invasive Red Sesbania in the Dry Creek watershed. He reviewed the potential collaborators and draft workplan. Rich noted no Board action is needed as the documents included in the Board package are still in draft form.

After Board discussion, Stewart Feldman moved the RCD support the effort. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *RCD Forestry & Fuels Management Committee:*

Stan MacDonald reported the committee met on June 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed reviewed various projects. Board discussion revolved around the need to identify forestry issues that need to be addressed in the 2007 Farm Bill.

Rich Gresham noted he has been having discussions with Jeff Calvert regarding the potential for the RCD to administer CA Forest Incentive Program (CFIP) funding.

- *RCD Education Committee:*

Stewart Feldman reported he has received the committee's teacher survey forms from Linda Desai of the Placer Nature Center and will be tabulating their needs for further consideration by the committee.

- *RCD Ag and Lands Committee:*

Bob Wiswell reported crops are 3-4 weeks behind due to a wet spring.

Claudia Smith noted she would like the RCD to support the Ag Marketing position when it comes up on the Placer County Board of Supervisors agenda.

Bob Wiswell promoted the Placer County Fair being held this week and noted the local Farm Bureau is supporting the kids that raised animals for the fair.

Stewart Feldman suggested the CARCD Speak-off Contest be promoted at local fair events.

Rich Gresham reported the BBQ being sponsored by the Sutter and Placer RCDs is slated for July 29<sup>th</sup> at East Nicholas Park at 5 p.m. where conservation easements will be discussed and invited RCD Directors to attend.

- *RCD Operations Committee:*  
Chris Paull requested an alternative for committee member, Tom Wehri, as he has recently been otherwise occupied and asked Bob Wiswell to consider serving on the committee when Tom is unavailable.

Bob noted meetings will have to allow for his work schedule in order for him to participate.

## DIRECTORS' REPORTS

### *Stan MacDonald:*

- Stan reported attending the quarterly CARCD Forestry Subcommittees Meeting that included a 2006 Woods Tour of Edison Forestry that documented the re-habitation by plants and animals of an area clear cut in 1900 while allowing for concurrent recreational uses.

Rich noted the next meeting will include a tour of the Blodgett Forest and potential future CFIP project properties.

### *Stewart Feldman:*

- Stewart reported the 2006 Placer County Ag Tour enjoyed a great group of attendees and was another success. Attendees included several Sierra Nevada Conservancy members.
- Stewart attended the open house at the new Sierra Nevada Conservancy office in Auburn and promoted the RCD as a partner in their efforts.
- Stewart reported completing the layout for the 2005 RCD Annual Report and Katie Maloney handed out copies of the annual report to the Board.
- Stewart reported he is vying for the position of CA Visitor Center Executive Director and has made it to the short list of candidates.
- Stewart reported participating in a CARCD Policy Committee teleconference that addressed budget issues, CALFED issues, and Watershed Coordinator Program funding.

### *Claudia Smith:*

- Claudia reported the Annual Farm & Barn Tour will take place in October with twelve destinations that will be broken into community segments like, Lincoln, Loomis, and Auburn, in order to cover more area with the tour and make it more travel friendly for those primarily interested in their specific locale. Planning for the event is coming together nicely.
- Claudia reported the Auburn Foothill Farmers' Market has grown to 50 vendors and is close to capacity. The Farmers' Markets in other locales are also growing.
- Claudia noted 2006 Placer County Ag Tour participants voiced concerns about encroaching development and impacts on resources like water quality.
- Claudia will be serving as a Placer County Fair Judge.

### *Bob Wiswell:*

- Bob reported where he planted trees with the US Forest Service in 1962, there now stands a forest.

### *Tom Wehri:*

- Tom reported his activities over the last two months, including but were not limited to, serving as a judge for the statewide CA Envirothon, serving on NACD Forestry, Energy, and Research Committees, attending meetings to address 2007 Farm Bill issues, and working with the CARCD on a part-time basis.

*Chris Paull:*

- Chris reported he was unable to attend the Ag Tour as it was his daughter's birthday and noted he seems to be coaching softball 24/7.

## 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 reported submitting a Draft Hidden Falls Range Management Plan and a Draft Squaw Valley Fuel Load Reduction Plan to the county for review and comment.
- Rich reported the potential for the RCD to administer CFIP cost share program funds to assist landowners selected for funding.
- Rich reported draft language has been submitted to Curtis Tarver regarding the collaborative sharing of GIS expertise for his review and comment. He noted both Nevada County RCD and El Dorado County/Georgetown Divide RCDs are considering participation in the cooperative effort and Rich continues to move the concept forward quickly in order to meet the September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline as outlined by Curtis Tarver.

Board discussion revealed the preference of having the GIS position be a contract vs. employee position.

- Rich reported he and Tom Wehri will be meeting with the Bay Institute to further explore a potential partnership involving homeowners' associations and water quality monitoring and riparian restoration efforts.
- Rich reported the county has again decided they will be applying for the 2007 WUI grant funds to continue the Placer County Chipper Program.
- Rich reported the RCD has received \$5K in pass thru grant funds from PG&E on behalf of the Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council.
- Katie Maloney reported the completion, printing, and mailing of the RCD 2005 Annual Report to almost 1,500 Placer County residents and thanked Stewart Feldman for his assistance with the layout design. About 500 extra copies have been printed for distribution at local events.
- Katie reported she will be meeting with the RCD Webmaster to acquire newer software to better develop the RCD website.
- Katie passed out Gregg Bates' activity report as per his request as he is on vacation.
- Bill Templin handed out copies of his activity report and reviewed his activities that included continued participation in the CABY process, promotion of a watershed approach to resource issues, attendance of two "Day in the Capitol" events, Sierra Nevada Conservancy's open house, a FERC re-licensing meeting, and a Water Forum Successor meeting.
- Bill reported the Upper American River Watershed Foundation effort continues to move forward and has garnered eight volunteers to serve on the foundation's board. The filing for non-profit status is also moving forward. He noted he will be approaching the Placer County Water Agency about the foundation.

## AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike Brenner reported receiving guidance on the canceling and terminating of delinquent Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts.

- Mike reported staff continues to conduct field surveys, completion checks, and engineering and irrigation design projects.
- Mike reported the execution of one Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) contract that will provide for riparian habitat restoration with star thistle and non-native blackberry management.
- Mike reviewed the numerous meetings and events he attended in the last month including “Day in the Capitol” and the Ag Tour.
- Mike distributed an EQIP promotional handout.
- Mike thanked Chris Paull for making himself available to the Civil Rights Review Team via teleconference as requested.
- Mike announced former Auburn Field Office Engineer Paul Lake has accepted the job of Toolbox Coordinator vacated by Kay Joy Barger upon her acceptance of the High Sierra RC&D Coordinator post.
- Mike handed out the 2005-2010 NRCS Strategy and stressed the need to re-define timber as an agricultural product at the national level.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- US Dept. of the Interior Fish & Wildlife Service Notice dated June 1, 2006 regarding the “12-Month Petition Finding on the CA Spotted Owl”. The negative finding means the subspecies will not be proposed for listing.
- Invitation dated June 9<sup>th</sup> from the Placer County Elections Division to a Candidate Workshop.
- Thank you letter from Placer High School Principal and Drafting and Technology teacher for the donation of HP Design 750 Plus Color Plotter to their drafting program.
- Thank you letter from Placer High School Principal and Science Chair for the donation of a large format aerial photograph of Placer High School and the surrounding neighborhood on behalf of Placer students working on urban forestry issues.
- Letter dated May 25<sup>th</sup> from the Placer County Auditor regarding the Northstar Highlands Annexation to the Northstar Community Services District.
- Copy of Placer Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) Official Ballot mailed May 17<sup>th</sup> reflecting Chris Paull as the RCD choice to serve as LAFCo Special District representative.
- Letter dated May 18<sup>th</sup> from Foresthill Public Utilities District lobbying for the selection of Duane L. Frink as LAFCo Special District representative.
- Letter dated June 12<sup>th</sup> from LAFCo announcing the selection of Pauline Roccucci as the Special District representative on LAFCo with Anthony Wright serving as alternate.
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting agenda for June 7<sup>th</sup> and the agenda for the June 12<sup>th</sup> Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Board Meeting.
- Rural Lincoln Municipal Advisory Council regular meeting agenda for June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.

- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) publication, *NACD News & Views*, for May/June 2006.
- High Ranch Nursery newsletter, *HRN News*, for June 2006.
- CA Forest Stewardship Program publication, *Forest Stewardship*, for winter 2006.
- CA Forestry Association publication, *California Forests*, for summer 2006.
- CA State Parks publication, *Auburn State Recreation Area-Planning for the Future*, for May 2006.
- CA ReLeaf publication, *California Trees*, for spring 2006.
- Placer County's Placer Legacy publication.
- National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program-Pacific West Region brochure.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

After board discussion regarding scheduling conflicts, the July regular board meeting was moved to July 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 p.m. The following items will be on the agenda:

- RCD 2005-2006 Goals and Accomplishments Report
- Draft 2006-2007 Annual Plan and Narrative
- Draft SAFCA and City of Sacramento Red Sesbania Control Project Agreements
- NRCS/RCDs Collaborative GIS Update

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Stewart Feldman moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously. Chair Chris Paull adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.