

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
July 25, 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 3:20 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
Mark White, RCD Resources Management Planner
Katie Maloney, RCD Sr. Administrative Assistant
Bill Templin, North Fork American River Watershed Coordinator
Gregg Bates, Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Claudia Smith moved to approve the agenda as presented. Stan MacDonald seconded, motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Christina Abuelo, Foothills Farmers Market Association

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christina Abuelo thanked the Board for their \$1K contribution towards the printing the Foothill Farmers' Markets flyer and schedule for the current season and served a lovely fruit pie/tart while Chris Paull read the formal thank you note from the association.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of June 1, 2006 and the Regular Board Meeting of June 20, 2006 as presented. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the *Financial Statements for the Month Ended June 30, 2006* and the *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for June 2006*.

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the June 2006 financial statements and expense report. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously.

The Board and staff discussed a new format for summary reporting of RCD Program income and expenditures for the next fiscal year. Katie Maloney will format a new summary report for the Board's review next month.

BUSINESS

Old Business:

a) *Discussion Re: RCD 2005-2006 Goals and Accomplishments Matrix and 2005-2006 Active and Completed Watershed Projects and Other Successes Report:*

Rich Gresham reviewed the accomplishments matrix for the past fiscal year that directly tie to the actions identified for each of the program areas set forth in the '05-'06 Annual Plan and suggested using the matrix on a monthly basis in addition to the narrative activity reports as an enhanced review tool for the Board.

Mark White reviewed the additions made to his accomplishments report and noted the majority of his landowner requests for technical assistance result from Placer County Farm Bureau and UC Cooperative Extension referrals. Mark brought forth the RCD's historical stance not to compete with other agencies that provide specialized services in particular areas of expertise such a pasture management. The Board agreed the RCD should help in areas not already taken on by entities like UC Cooperative Extension.

Tom Wehri noted the RCD has done very well over the past year, but fell short in the area of accomplishing public outreach and education goals.

Board discussion revolved around how to do better in terms of outreach efforts including the distribution of more newsletters and press releases.

Stewart Feldman commended staff for formulating the matrix review tool and suggested using percentages to denote progress made towards completing RCD objectives.

The Board thanked Rich and staff for the efforts put forth during the current annual planning process.

b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Draft RCD 2006-2007 Annual Plan and Narrative:*

Rich noted the draft plan included in the Board Package was based in input previously garnered from the Board.

Rich noted the potential opportunity for the RCD to administer CA Forest Incentive Program (CFIP) funding on behalf of CDF.

Board discussion revolved around the concept and the need to define the responsibilities of each partner agency.

Rich noted the Board will have an opportunity to further review details before making any decisions.

Tom Wehri stressed the RCD's willingness to assist NRCS with their programs.

Mike Brenner responded the RCD can best assist NRCS in the area of promoting their cost share programs and workshops.

Board discussion revolved around the desire to assist more landowners and better promote local participation by students in the CARCD Speak-off contest and student environmental science events.

Rich noted he will add specific goals in the area of Education Activities to the matrix in order to track progress in those particular areas.

Discussion moved on to constraints in terms of staff and resources to accomplish every action outlined in the Annual Plan. Rich highlighted that while all the actions identified in the plan are important the first five will receive the highest implementation priority.

After further Board discussion, Tom Wehri moved to approve the draft RCD '06-'07 Annual Plan with minor language changes to reflect both the promotion and support of the CARCD Speak-off Contest, Range Camp, Nature Bowl & CA Envirothon along with the addition of specific goals in those particular areas to the matrix. Stan MacDonald seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Red Sesbania Control Project:*
Rich Gresham reviewed the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) request that the RCD administer a long term collaborative effort to continue the control of the invasive Red Sesbania in the Dry Creek watershed. He noted the background information and draft agreements to participate in the control effort between the RCD and SAFCA and subsequently the RCD and participating municipal partner, the City of Sacramento. Both agreements have been reviewed by partner entities' counsels as well as the County Counsel and given the green light as to language. Rich reviewed other participants considering participation in the program, targeted to begin in 2007, including the City of Roseville and Placer County then requested the Board consider approving execution of both documents as presented.

After Board discussion regarding the cost of RCD administration being included in the proposed budget, Tom moved to execute both the SAFCA and City of Sacramento agreements. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- d) *Update Re: NRCS/Central Sierra Region RCDs GIS Collaborative Sharing Agreement:*
Rich Gresham gave an update on the development of draft language for the GIS cooperative contribution agreement to provide a full time Geographic Information System (GIS) technician to share ½ time with NRCS. The participating RCDs will share the other ½ of a full-time technician's time between those RCDs that have chosen to participate in the agreement. So far, RCD objectives are focused on fuel load reduction and invasives mapping. Such mapping will help to identify data gaps and data rectification needs, support funding proposals to fill those gaps, and support implementation projects in areas targeted through such mapping efforts. The RCD has been selected to contract for the person on behalf of NRCS and the other participating RCDs with the understanding that all participating agencies will have a seat on the selection panel.

Rich noted a detailed workplan still needs to be worked out between the participating RCDs.

Mike Brenner brought forth the issue of adequate office space to house the technician and noted the Auburn office would need to be re-worked in order to accommodate another person and highlighting the fact that many details still need to be worked out.

Rich closed by acknowledging that many details including a workplan still need to be worked out.

Claudia Smith made a motion that Rich continue to move the effort forward. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *RCD Education Committee:*
Stewart Feldman handed out a draft agenda of the next committee meeting and suggested August 8th at 5:30 p.m. as a meeting date and time and requested the RCD provide pizza for the dinner hour meeting.
- *RCD Ag and Lands Committee:*
Chris Paull reported attending Representative John T. Doolittle's N. CA Agriculture Summit with US Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns reviewing an analysis of USDA rural development programs.

Bob Wiswell reported a Small Farm Equipment event is being planned for October 20th at the Loma Rica Ranch in Grass Valley.

Rich Gresham suggested the RCD support the event in the amount of \$300 and Bob Wiswell followed by making an Ag & Lands Committee recommendation that the RCD make a \$300 contribution to support the event. The Board concurred the item should be placed on the next agenda for formal approval.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Stewart Feldman:

- Stewart also attended the meeting with the US Secretary of Agriculture as well as the Placer Land Trust's 15 year anniversary with the commemoration of their newest acquisition Shutamul Bear River Preserve.
- Stewart reported taking a more active role in the Farm & Barn event being planned for October and solicited RCD support for the event.

Bob Wiswell:

- Bob reported attending the Placer Farm Bureau meeting, and two High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council meetings including an Executive Meeting. Bob noted Rich presented a good overview of the RCD's activities to the RC&D.

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia reported harvest is in full swing at Blossom Hill Farm in addition to playing host to 20 farmers from Egypt.
- A Farm & Barn host meeting is slated for tomorrow night at the Beard Ranch as planning for the event moves forward.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom reported he has spent the last three weeks in Virginia.
- Tom continues to serve on NACD committees addressing 2007 Farm Bill issues via teleconference to develop conceptual policy positions reflecting nationwide views in terms of forestry and energy issues as well as pushing for continued research.
- Tom continues to follow and promote the potential to develop local senior citizen watershed activities in partnership with The Bay Institute.

Stan MacDonald:

- Stan reported vacationing and weedeating over the past month.

Chris Paull:

- Chris reported working on the farm's irrigation systems.
- Chris took time to review the RCD Goals and Accomplishments Matrix with Rich Gresham.
- Chris will be attending the upcoming East Loomis Basin Canal Efficiency Study meeting.

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 conducting a field visit of the RCD's Atwood Conservation Easement with a biologist in preparation for the development of the annual report that will be available for Board review before long.

- Rich reported the Placer/Sutter RCDs and Ducks Unlimited Working Landscapes funding proposal was awarded \$100K vs. the \$1.8M requested, necessitating the total re-working of the project proposal.
- Rich reported he and Tom Wehri met with The Bay Institute to further explore a potential partnership between The Bay Institute, the RCD, and Roseville senior citizens in water quality monitoring and riparian restoration efforts.
- Rich reported attending the Hidden Falls Regional Park ground breaking ceremony.
- Mark White reported discussions between the RCD and NRCS about the RCD potentially contributing to training costs for NRCS staff as the NRCS training budget is tight.

Rich recommended the RCD consider fiscally contributing training costs and the Board consented to place the item on the next agenda for formal approval.

- Mark reported receiving a request from the County to review the RCD/County outfall survey task already allocated as a task to Bill Templin. Mark reported there may be an opportunity to add GPS data to the survey on a jurisdictionally cooperative level.

Rich reported he has requested a follow-up meeting to discuss proceeding with the task with Bob Costa.

- Katie Maloney reported after meeting with the Webmaster and working through technical difficulties with the software to access the site for further development, she was able to post agenda and minutes to the site: www.placercountyrccd.org. Additional content will be added on an on-going basis.
- Katie reported she is also developing an RCD tri-fold newsletter to update the public about RCD activities and announce new NRCS leadership for the Auburn Field Office.
- Gregg Bates handed out his monthly report and reviewed his activities that included the facilitating the transition of three separate watershed groups; the Dry Creek Watershed Council, the Auburn Ravine/Coon Creek Watershed Group, and Pleasant Grove/Curry Creek Watershed Group into the American Basin Council of Watersheds with the first formal meeting taking place in July. He noted the Dept. of Conservation (DOC), funding his position of Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator through SAFCA and the RCD, is okay with the morphing of the three groups including the Dry Creek Watershed Council into one more regional group.

The Dry Creek Conservancy (DCC) is the potential recipient of \$200K in fines levied on a JMC Homes for non-compliance in terms of sediment discharges into Pleasant Grove Creek. The DCC Board is working to determine the best use of these funds including continued capacity building for DCC and the American Basin Council of Watersheds (ABCW), the development of the Dry Creek Watershed Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) into an action plan, support DCC education and outreach efforts including the annual Salmon Survey and Creek Week events while the DCC continues to explore a regional expansion to include the American Basin region and development of a broader mission and expanded board. It seems the time to address the potential to further develop the relationship between the ABCW and DCC that could potentially provide a higher level of coordination within the American Basin Region.

Board discussion revolved around the exploration of opportunities to expand the Red Sesbania effort beyond the Dry Creek watershed and the value of photo-documentation as a first step in gathering invasives information that could possibly be conducted in conjunction with other field reconnaissance efforts.

Gregg briefly reviewed grant activity including an REI \$5K grant award to add GPS data to the DCC's Salmon Survey, a potential award to provide for a Vaki Weir that passively gathers data on fish passage by capturing the silhouette of fish passing through it, and the potential of Prop 13 surplus funding to continue an Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment/Cal EPA (OEHHA) local impervious surface study.

- Bill Templin handed out copies of his activity report that included facilitating an US Forest Service (USFS) presentation to the American River Watershed Group (ARWG) about USFS pre and post fire monitoring results that suggest burn areas left alone, post fire, are recovering better environmentally than those burn areas where active management like timber harvesting took place, post fire.
- Bill supported continued funding for the Watershed Coordinator Program, Upper American River Watershed Foundation capacity building, participation in the CABY process, participated in the Bay Institute/RCD meeting and a Sediment Dynamics Study TAC meeting, and served on a Sierra Economic Development District (SEDD) panel exploring biomass generation and the potential to defray the costs of updating aging wastewater treatment plant infrastructure with the potential targeting of the Colfax area.
- Bill passed out pictures of the 4 lb. Brown Trout he caught in the American River watershed and noted he continues to document the fisheries resources in the watershed.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike Brenner reported 38 status letters were sent out to landowners with a good response in terms of extension requests to complete their practices where appropriate. Cancellation requests may still be granted with potential terminations for any non-responsive landowners with delinquent Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts.
- Mike reported attending a District Conservationist Meeting where the 2007 EQIP was a topic of discussion.
- Mike reported the need to hold a Local Working Group Meeting and set a tentative meeting date of August 30th.
- Mike reviewed the agency's ongoing National Resource Inventory (NRI) effort to collect resource data over many years across the nation. 96 sites within Placer County are slated for field inventory activities.
- Mike reviewed staff activities and training and additional meetings attended.

COMMUNICATIONS

- CA Special District Association (CSDA) Open, Ethical Leadership – AB 1234 Compliance Training registration form for required Director training. Training options are being explored as training must be completed by calendar year end.
- Invitation from Placer County Supervisors to the Hidden Falls Regional Park ground breaking ceremony.
- Announcement of US Representative John T. Doolittle's Northern CA Agriculture Summit with US Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns on July 7th at the Gold Country Fair Grounds.
- Letter dated June 14th from CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture Secretary A.F. Kawamura announcing 4 forums to gather 2007 Farm Bill input for the development of CA perspectives on the 2007 Farm Bill.

- Copy of RCD letter sent to Secretary of Resources Agency in support of continued funding for the DOC Watershed Coordinator Program.
- Copy of Dry Creek Watershed Council letter dated June 27th sent to Secretary of Resources Agency in support of continued funding for the DOC Watershed Coordinator Program.
- Copy of American River Watershed Group letter sent to Secretary of Resources Agency in support of continued funding for the DOC Watershed Coordinator Program.
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District memo announcing their new location and updated contact information.
- American River Authority Adjourned Board Meeting Agenda for July 17th and minutes of the May 15th meeting.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission July 10th meeting agenda.
- High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council Regular Council Meeting Package for July 21st.
- CA Invasive Plant Council registration materials for their *Research & Management: Bridging the Gap Conference*.
- Whole Earth spring 2001 article, *Solving for Pattern*, about a partnership between the Bay Institute and Bay area 4th grade students.
- Stewardship Council 2005 Annual Report and open house notice.
- City of Sacramento Dept of Parks and Recreation 2005 Annual Report.
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) publications, *Forestry Notes*, for May and June 2006.
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) publication, *Buffer Notes*, for May 2006 with Special Report: Forest Legacy Program.
- National Woodland Owners' Association publication, *National Woodlands*, for spring 2006.
- CA Special Districts Association publication, *CSDA News*, for July 2006.
- USFS publication, *Wildland Waters*, for spring 2006.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following items will be on the August Regular Board Meeting agenda:

- RCD 2006-2007 Final Budget Approval
- NRCS/RCDs Collaborative GIS Agreement Approval & RCD Participating Agreement & Workplan Development Discussion
- District Manager Employment Agreement Approval
- Small Farm Equipment Event Contribution Approval
- NRCS Training Contribution Approval
- RCD Education Committee '06-'07 Budget Approval
- Annual Cost of Living Adjustment Approval

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Tom Wehri moved to adjourn the meeting. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously. Chair Chris Paull adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.