

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
December 19, 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: Chris Paull
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.
Stanley (Stan) MacDonald
Stewart Feldman
Claudia Smith
Thomas (Tom) Wehri
Gregory (Greg) Nau

Directors Absent: None

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
Gregg Bates, Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator
Austin Mulder, NRCS/RCD GIS Technician

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Tom Wehri moved to approve the agenda with the addition of the Election of RCD Board Officers for the next calendar year and allow NRCS to present the monthly report before New Business, as well as allow Claudia Smith give a Director Report before New Business. After determining the election of officers as being time sensitive due to the nature of numerous RCD projects in process, Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Dave Funk, RCD Director Candidate

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Tom Wehri moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 17, 2006 as presented. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the Financial Statements for the Months Ended October 31, 2006 and November 30, 2006 and the Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for October and November 2006.

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the October and November 2006 financial statements and expense reports as presented. Greg Nau seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

New Business:

Election of RCD Board Officers for calendar year 2007:

Chris Paull presided over the board's annual election of RCD Board officers for 2007. The election resulted in the same slate of officers:

- Chris Paull will continue to serve as Chair.
- Bob Wiswell will continue to serve as Vice Chair
- Tom Wehri will continue to serve a Secretary/Treasurer

The Board thanked Chris Paull for his service as Chair and complimented him on his efforts.

a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Resolution #06-03 for Endorsement and Adoption of Cosumnes-American-Bear-Yuba Rivers (CABY) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP):*

Chris Paull opened the floor to discussion by expressing reservations about adopting and endorsing the document.

Bill Templin gave a review of the CABY stakeholder driven planning process and identified participants that included not only himself, but also the Nevada County RCD, the El Dorado and Georgetown Divide RCDs, and all the water agencies located in the CABY region. He noted the document was a watershed resource management based plan as it addresses a wider scope of issues and is not solely based on water supply management and infrastructure issues.

Bill stressed future state funding will require projects be identified in an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan to be eligible for funds.

Tom Wehri recommended passing the resolution adding the state is beginning to mandate cooperation and collaboration on a wider scale.

Greg Nau brought up the non-binding nature of the planning document and made a motion to pass RCD Board Resolution #06-03 supporting the Cosumnes-American-Bear-Yuba Rivers Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously.

b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Website Design Changes and Maintenance Proposal:*

Stewart Feldman reported he recommended the services of Dorene Matney for the updating and maintenance of the RCD Website and briefly reviewed her experience and design expertise at creating a user-friendly interface and recommended her to the full board for consideration.

Rich Gresham reviewed the \$1,900 proposal, included in the Board Package, which will provide for the re-design and maintenance of the RCD website and recommended the Board approve contracting with Dorene as presented in her proposal to be funded from RCD Contingency Funds.

After Board discussion revolving around links, capturing the number of site hits, content, and potential website promotion opportunities, Stewart moved to approve the proposal and authorize Rich Gresham to execute a contract to implement the proposal. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) Dues:*

Rich Gresham reported due to the increased cost of CSDA membership, up from \$158 for 2006 to \$720 for 2007, he felt it appropriate to bring the expenditure before the Board for further consideration.

After a short discussion revolving around the 450% increase, the Board requested Rich contact CSDA and see if they will send a representative to address the Board and discuss the benefits of membership before considering further.

- d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Sponsorship of a Public Outreach Program for the Development of Program Timber Harvest Plans for Fuel Load Reduction:* Chris Paull noted Director Stan MacDonald having reviewed the Program Timberland Harvest Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR) that provides environmental documentation for private landowners in the community of Meadow Vista to harvest saw-logs as a way to defray costs of maintaining defensible space as defined by the state. is recommending the RCD consider sponsoring an outreach program in order market the option to those eligible for the program coverage and help encourage the investment in defensible space maintenance. There are only three such programs in the state and Stan wants the RCD to promote the use of the PTEIR to the community for which it was developed.

Rich Gresham added the RCD Forestry & Fuels Management Committee is making the recommendation to pursue an outreach program as being in line with the RCD objective of encouraging fuel load reduction efforts and briefly reviewed the costs estimate prepared by RCD Registered Professional Forester, Doug Ferrier, for consideration by the Board.

After Board discussion regarding the influx of new residents living within *Wildland/Urban Interface* areas, CEQA timeframes, the development of a promotional program, and PTEIR parameters, requirements, and costs, Tom Wehri moved Rich move forward with the development of an RCD promotional program for the Meadow Vista community. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- e) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Attendance of NACD Conference:* Chris Paull announced the NACD Annual Conference and Meeting is slated for February 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th then solicited interest from the Board. He noted the CARCD is offering a \$1K stipend for RCD Directors that have never attended in the past to help defray the costs of attendance.

Claudia Smith expressed an interest in attending.

Tom Wehri noted he will be attending on behalf of the CARCD.

Chris Paull also expressed an interest in attending for a second year.

After a brief discussion, Stewart Feldman moved the RCD send Chris as the RCD Delegate and Claudia as the Alternate. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried with Chris Paull abstaining.

Katie Maloney will apply for the CARCD stipend on behalf of the RCD to defray the costs of Claudia's attendance.

- f) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Board Recommendations to the Placer County Board of Supervisors (BOS) on BOS Appointments to Fill RCD Board Vacancies:* Stewart Feldman indicated the last time around a small selection committee was charged with conducting candidate interviews and making recommendation back to the Board for consideration before the Board takes action on making an appointment recommendation to the Placer County Board of Supervisors (BOS).

Tom Wehri recommended establishing a Selection Committee to review applications and suggested setting an application deadline of January 5th to move the process along in a timely manner. The Board concurred and Chris, Claudia, and Tom where appointed to serve on the committee

Chris Paull invited Dave Funk, RCD Board Applicant, to tell the Board about himself.

Dave Funk took the opportunity to give the Board a brief overview of his background, experience, and expertise then fielded questions from the Board.

Chris closed the discussion by stating he will call a Selection Committee meeting after the January 5th application deadline has passed.

Bob Wiswell moved the Board authorize the Selection Committee to determine the appropriate recommendation to the BOS on behalf of the Board. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried.

Rich Gresham noted County Executive Office Representative Mike Boyle has offered to sit with the Selection Committee during the interview process and the Board concurred Rich should invite him to participate.

Old Business:

g) CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Conference and Annual Meeting Update:

Comments from participants reflected that the event was one of the best. Highlights included the following:

- A great CARCD Forestry Committee Tour of the Jenner Headlands Project kicked the event off.
- CARCD is working hard to provide effective support to state RCDs.
- We will be hosting the CARCD Central Sierra Spring Meeting. Katie and Claudia will explore meeting venues for Board consideration.

Bob Wiswell noted the Placer County Farm Bureau used the Mark Adams Winery for an event and were pleased with the results.

- The 2007 CARCD Conference and Annual Meeting is expected to take place in the local foothills and will provide an opportunity to get Placer GROWN and local producers involved to promote area agriculture and possibly highlighting the growing establishment of vineyards in the foothills.
- Discovery of new funding opportunities and programs.
- Chris Paull successfully shepherded both proposed CARCD Resolutions submitted by the Board through the committee process and successful CARCD adoption. Chris noted he is looking to continuing to move them forward at the NACD Conference.
- The JPA meeting briefly revolved around the resolution of a representation issue among a member RCD and resulted in the Prop 40 Program being approved in concept while details are worked through. The contracting process will continue to move forward with another meeting to be slated once the agreement language has been further refined.

All those that participated, staff and board, felt it was a great conference and are looking forward to next year as it looks like it will be help in the local area.

h) Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Update on NRCS Project Signage Program: Mike Brenner reported before the Business portion of the agenda, he has gotten some local bids for signage and will begin to approach EQIP Cooperators regarding the display of educational/informational signage on project sites. He may also be presenting to the Board a cost share proposal in May or June for consideration. He also noted that 5-6 of the EQIP applicants this year saw the ad in the newspaper promoting the cost share program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *RCD Forestry & Fuels Management Committee:*
Stan MacDonald reported the last meeting revolved around promotion of the PTEIR and resulted in the committee making recommendation to the Board to support a promotion effort to market the program to Meadow Vista residents.

Stan reported the committee continues to represent the Board at the CA Fire Safe Council.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia reported before the Business portion of the agenda, and indicated the CARCD Conference was very informative. She participated in the CARCD Education Committee meeting and was impressed with the CA Envirothon promotional materials she acquired on behalf of the RCD and proposed sending the promotional Envirothon CD to local schools and more actively promoting the program to area teachers.

Stewart suggested Claudia consider serving as the new Chair of the RCD Education Committee and the Board voiced no objections to the idea.

- Claudia noted she and her husband continue to farm and be involved in the Foothills Farmers' Market Association, currently undergoing a policy review.
- Greg reminded the Board of Lincoln High School, teacher, Mark Fowler, and their proactive programs that teach resource conservation and suggested the Envirothon CD be passed on to Mark Fowler for review.
- Greg identified the Sportsmens Legacy Foundation as a potential funding source for students conducting conservation projects and solicited potential project sites.

Greg Nau:

- Greg thanked the Board for all their efforts and apologized for his schedule making him unavailable for meetings, as he has found serving on the Board to be a pleasure. He complimented both the Board and staff for their accomplishments both as an RCD and as individuals and expressed his regret at not being able to continue serving on the Board.

Tom Wehri thanked Greg for his time and effort and Rich Gresham presented him with a token of the Board's appreciation.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom has been visiting family in Massachusetts, attended a CARCD Policy Meeting, and worked on developing a bill to provide RCD support in the state budget.
- CARCD expects a *Continuing Resolution* in terms of the NRCS budget that usually provide for the same level of funding for the upcoming year, but may face a \$80 M budget reduction nationwide that would roughly translate to \$3.5M reduction to CA programs.

Stewart Feldman:

- Stewart thanked the Board and his many mentors. He noted he has learned much along the way. He announced he has thrown his hat in the ring to provide CARCD with educational and promotional materials on a statewide level and urged Directors to get involved outside of the Board Room.
- Stewart offered his assistance with the 2006 RCD Annual Report even though he will no longer be a Director.

Tom expressed the hope that both Stewart and Greg will consider serving as Associate Directors and Rich presented Stewart with the token of appreciation on behalf of the Board.

Bob Wiswell:

- Bob noted he is now serving as Chair of the High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council (HSRC&D).
- The HSRC&D will oversee a mobile chicken processing plant pilot project.
- Bob thanked both Greg and Stewart for their services to the RCD and wished them both well.

Chris Paull:

- Chris reported the Placer County Water Agency East Canal Efficiency Study will wrap up soon.
- Chris reported the JPA/Council approved the Prop 40 Program in concept with details being worked out. He indicated he sees a nexus between the Prop 40 effort and the GIS effort that provides an opportunity for collaboration on future development of projects in the second year of administration, and an opportunity for RCDs to be of assistance to CDF on a larger regional level.
- RCD collaboration with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is still in development with roles and opportunities still to be defined.
- Chris welcomed Austin on the Board's behalf and reported working to define Austin's workplan and identify specific deliverables in collaboration with our GIS cost share partners.

Greg Nau brought up the issue of the Board reviewing the Draft Placer County Conservation Plan and make a determination to support and/or provide recommendations to BOS in terms of the proposed alternative and recommended the Board support the conservation plan and make recommendation to BOS to support the plan and promoted an RCD presence in support of the plan.

Katie Maloney reported the PCCP will go before BOS again at their second meeting in January.

Greg asked the Board to consider RCD support of the PCCP at the next meeting in order to provide timely recommendations to the BOS.

STAFF REPORTS

RCD Report:

In addition to the written activity reports for the month of October and November, submitted in the Board Package, the following points were discussed:

- Gregg Bates reported the Annual Salmon survey numbers are very low this year, experts have indicated survey numbers seem to be down overall and are uncertain if it is a cyclical dip or not.
- Greg gave an overview of 319(h) grant activity and the continued search for funding opportunities including environmental assessment funding.

Tom Wehri inquired about a search for continued watershed coordinator funding and Rich indicated that while the DOC has acquired a funding source there will be a funding gap that may result in the loss of coordinators as they move on to funded positions.

Board discussion revolved around potential funding sources and their funding timeframes.

Greg Nau suggested the RCD spearhead an effort to put together a coalition of local stakeholders to provide stop gap funding. The time to start such an effort would be now and should include the county and water agencies.

Rich solicited Board participation in such an effort and Greg offered to present the benefits of continued coordination to potential coalition members.

- Bill Templin thanked Greg for his support, but noted many watershed coordinators already have other irons in the fire due to the expected funding gap.
- Bill handed out his monthly report and covered the highlights including attending the Sierra Business Council's 12th Annual Conference at Yosemite with Robert Kennedy, Jr. as key speaker.
- Bill reviewed American River Watershed Group (ARWG) meeting topics, SMUD's FERC relicensing progress, and the purchase of high quality water quality testing equipment under the DOC grant.
- Bill noted the Granite Bay Flycasters have to make their donation to the Upper American River Foundation through a 501(c)(3).

Tom Wehri suggested approaching CARCD as they have 501(c)(3) status can may be able to accept funds on behalf of the fledgling Foundation.

- The ARWG Sediment Dynamics Study will be completed around May and the Technical Advisory Committee will begin to consider next steps.
- Rich Gresham directed Bill to pursue the development of a report on *The State of the Upper American River Watershed* and modeled on *The State of the Lower American River Watershed* report.
- Austin Mulder reported working to identify needs and projects parameters of the multi-objective collaborative effort. He will begin by mapping current fuels load reduction projects and has begun to gather data layers for the map. He is looking forward to identifying specific deliverables.

Chris Paull noted the need for NRCS to provide Austin with an adequate computer to conduct his GIS work has been communicated to the agency.

Bill noted a direct nexus between the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance's desire for a map reflecting projects and the RCD GIS efforts and stressed the importance of collaboration and cooperation to best make use of funding resources and a reduction in duplication of effort.

Austin agreed that information sharing facilitates valuable partnership building.

One deliverable that has been identified is the development of a Fire Threat Map reflecting the three county area and fire risk reduction projects across jurisdictional lines. Austin will begin to take stock of GIS data available for potential incorporation.

- Katie Maloney reported she continues to conduct her usual monthly activities in addition to continuing to facilitate JPA forward movement and conduct CSDA-Placer Chapter business as appropriate.
- Katie continues to provide support to watershed groups and the Sediment Dynamics Study Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Rich Gresham reported the American Basin Working Group/Ducks Unlimited \$1.8M proposal has been awarded full funding upon further review; contract language is in development. Two of the three potential cooperators in terms of the demonstration restoration projects are still interested in participating in proposed projects.

- Rich reported the JPA/CDF contract language is being refined and once a draft is ready for additional JPA review a meeting will be scheduled. He expects the Agreement to provide approximately \$2M per year for the next three years. He reported the JPA has elected to have the RCD administer the Prop 40 Program. He noted that out of the fifteen county area most of the applications originate from Placer, Nevada, and El Dorado Counties and noted CDF has already made the funding allocations per county for the first year that will provide guidance to the RCD in the administration of the Program.

AGENCY REPORTS

The written activity report for October-November and November-December with the following points discussed:

- Mike Brenner reported the highlights that included signing up new EQIP applicants and conducting the needs and feasibility studies.
- Mike reported conducting an activity based cost exercise highlighting NRCS core work products that was essentially a productivity and efficiency exercise.
- The number of EQIP applicants is up from 10 applicants last year at this time to 28/30 applicants this year. He expects to use all allocated funding and request additional funds for projects.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thank you letter dated November 1st from the Placer Land Trust for the \$250 contribution to support the Placer Harvest Celebration.
- Letter dated October 13th from the USFS Dept of Agriculture announcing the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) posting of Announcements for Proposals. The JFSP is an interagency research partnership focused in wildland fire and fuels management issues.
- CSDA memo dated October 10th soliciting subcommittee participation by Special Districts.
- Nevada County Local Agency Formation Commission letter dated November 1st regarding a Proposed Negative Declaration in terms of updating Nevada Irrigation District's sphere of influence.
- Placer County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee meeting agenda for December 7th and minutes of October 5th meeting.
- Placer County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee meeting schedule for 2007.
- Placer County Flood Control & Water Conservation District meeting schedule for 2007.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission meeting agenda for November 13th.
- American River Authority meeting agenda for November 13th and the minutes of July 17th meeting.
- Notice for Habitat Conservation Planning From Tahoe to the Bay Fourth Annual Workshop slated for December 6th.
- Dept. of Conservation (DOC) Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the 2050 Lincoln General Plan Update.
- University of CA Cooperative Extension registration materials for the Annual PlacerGROWN Farm Conference slated for February 3rd and.
- USDA Placer/Nevada/Eldorado FSA newsletter for October 2006.

- NRCS State Technical Advisory Meeting notice for November 21, 2006.
- Western Forestry & Conservation Association registration form for Ecosystem Services: Market Incentives for Land Stewardship.
- Western Forestry & Conservation Association registration materials for Understanding the Past, Creating Our Future conference.
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) publication, *News & Views*, for September/October 2006.
- International Erosion Control Association registration materials for Environmental Connection Conference slated for February 12-16 2007 in Reno.
- Sierra Business Council notice of 12th Annual Conference at Yosemite November 1-3rd.
- NACD publication, *Buffer Notes*, for September 2006.
- CA ReLeaf publication, *CA Trees*, for fall 2006.
- NACD publication, *Forestry Notes*, for October 2006.
- Bureau of Reclamation News Release regarding Folsom Dam Safety and Flood Damage Reduction Draft EIS/EIR Release for Public Review and Comment.
- CA Interagency Noxious & invasive Plant Committee publication, *Noxious Times*, for summer and fall 2006.
- Cover letter dated November 29th from Panta Rhea Foundation for enclosed report, *Las Vegas and The Groundwater Development Project*.
- Subscription solicitation for *Western City* magazine.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Placer County Conservation Plan Consideration
- Colfax Project Sign Update
- CA Special Districts Association Dues
- PTEIR Outreach & Promotion

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Greg Nau moved to adjourn the meeting. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously. Chair Chris Paull adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.