

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
February 20, 2007**

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 3:19 p.m.

Chris welcomed the new Board Members appointed by the Placer County Board of Supervisors, at the RCD Board's request, Steve Garcia and Scott Harvey.

Rich Gresham administered the oaths of office.

RCD Board members, NRCS District Conservationist Mike Brenner, and staff introduced themselves and each gave a brief overview of their background and experience.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Chris Paull  
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.  
Stanley (Stan) MacDonald  
Claudia Smith  
Thomas (Tom) Wehri  
Scott Harvey  
Steve Garcia

Directors Absent: None

Others Present: Rich Gresham, RCD Manager  
Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist-Auburn Field Office  
Katie Maloney, RCD Sr. Administrative Assistant  
Austin Mulder, GIS Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Claudia Smith moved to approve the agenda as presented, Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Dan Macon, Nevada Land Trust  
Christian Carleton, Foothill Associates Hydrologist

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Stan MacDonald moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 16, 2007 as presented. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried with Scott Harvey and Steve Garcia abstaining.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the Financial Statements for the Month Ended January 31, 2007 and the Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for January 2007. She solicited any comments or questions about the Monthly Grant Summary and/or the Monthly Program Summary.

Claudia Smith moved to approve the January 2007 financial statements and reports as presented. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Katie presented a Budget Variance Report for the seven months ending January 31, 2007. After Katie fielded Board questions, Scott Harvey moved to approve the report. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Katie reported the RCD will need to interview Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) as current CPA Bill Myers is retiring from providing audit services.

The RCD Operations Committee will take up the matter.

## BUSINESS

### New Business:

a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Board Resolution #07-01:*

Chris reviewed the request from CalFire (formerly CDF) asking the RCD to consider continued administration of the Placer County Chipper and Fire Safe Inspection Programs and formally resolve to accept \$300K in WUI funding grant for the continuation of both programs.

Rich Gresham noted the issue of insuring the chipper crew supervisors and fire safe inspectors as well as the cost of using a temp agency to employ the crews became issues resulting in the request that the RCD consider approving the execution of a new agreement with CDF to administer the WUI funding for both programs.

After reviewing RCD Board Resolution #07-01, Tom moved to pass Resolution #07-01 as presented. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried, with Steve Garcia abstaining.

b) *Discussion and Possible Action Re: Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council:*

Rich Gresham gave the Board an update, reported the Agreement has been executed by both parties and will provide \$2M for the Prop 40 funded Fuels Reduction Program (Program) for a fifteen county area that encompasses seven CalFire Units of which four Units were allocated program funding by CalFire for this Program fiscal year. Rich reviewed details of the Program for the benefit of the new Directors and noted he has arranged for the Program to be promoted through the CARCD Website that now provides a link to the CalFire website where Program details and applications can be found. A Council bank account is in the process of being set up and three applications have been received so far, one from Placer County and two from Plumas County.

Rich reviewed a letter received from Georgetown Divide RCD Board President Sid Davis regarding issues pertaining directly to the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council that was directed to Rich.

The Board discussed the letter and concurred the Council Chair is the appropriate person to address issues pertaining directly to the Council and not the RCD. It was clarified, however, that the RCD is the appropriate entity to deal with any issues that pertain directly to the administration of the CDF Agreement and Fuels Reduction Program.

It was acknowledged there is still some confusion regarding the role of the RCD as the Council's Program Administrator as well as legal and liability issues. These issues are in the process of being addressed and it is hoped that once these issues are further clarified the comfort level of the Georgetown Divide RCD, in particular, should increase.

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Sutter/Placer RCD Public Outreach BBQ Expenses:*

Chris Paull reported receipt of a letter informing the RCD that the American Basin Working Landscapes Project has been approved for full funding of \$1,860,898. A second public outreach BBQ is being planned to present Sutter and Placer County ag producers with the opportunities the grant may provide and to promote sustainability of working landscapes within the project area.

At the BBQ promotion of the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) will be included as one option in the ag producers' toolbox along with conservation easements, and management practices.

Rich reported budget details are being refined in preparation for the grant contracting process.

Chris requested the Board approve cost sharing the expense of the BBQ held in partnership with Sutter County RCD. Tom Wehri moved to approve cost sharing the BBQ in the amount of \$300. Claudia seconded; motion carried unanimously

d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Sponsorship of a Mobile Poultry Processing Facility for the Sierra Nevada Foothills:*

Chris Paull introduced Dan Macon, former Coordinator of the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council, now working with the Nevada Land Trust.

Dan gave an overview of the pilot project that will provide a mobile processing facility to poultry producers that process less than twenty thousand birds a year. He reviewed the project budget that depends on finding cash sponsors in order to move the pilot project ahead. Producers have already committed \$4,500 in funding and Dan presented the Board with the opportunity to sponsor the project in exchange for recognition that will come from sponsor logos to be placed on the mobile processing facility and readily viewable by both the public and producers.

Scott Harvey made a motion to sponsor the effort for \$3K, providing for two 4'x4' logos on each side of the mobile facility. Tom Wehri seconded. After board discussion revolving around the different choices for logo placement and budget constraints, Tom Wehri amended the motion to provide \$1,900 in sponsorship, allowing for an RCD 2' x2' logo on the back of the facility and a 4'x4' logo on the side of the facility with the door. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried with Claudia Smith abstaining.

e) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Termination of Lease Agreements with the US Forest Service and the American River Watershed Institute:*

Rich Gresham reviewed Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) request that the RCD Board consider termination of their leases pertaining to the French Meadows facility. Rich gave a brief overview of the leases and the facility that was rehabilitated by volunteer efforts to provide a watershed education facility for the American River Watershed Institute (Institute) through a lease agreement with the US Forest Service (USFS). Rich stressed PCWA intends to continue making the facility available to the Institute and taking over the USFS lease should the Board agree to terminate the leases to make way for PCWA to take them over.

Tom Wehri moved to terminate the leases as requested. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

f) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Colfax Shaded Fuel Break Project Signage:*  
Rich Gresham noted there is nothing new to report.

g) *CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Regional Spring Meeting Update:*

Rich Gresham reported he has arranged for both Placer County Supervisor Robert Weygandt, regional representative to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and SNC Executive Director Jim Branham to give an update on conservancy activities and facilitate an exploration of potential partnership opportunities for the region's RCDs.

Katie Maloney reported the winery that was being considered for the meeting venue was unavailable until warmer weather, so she has arranged for the meeting to take place in Auburn at the historic Pioneer United Methodist Church, the oldest church in Placer County.

The Fellowship Hall has kitchen facilities and plenty of free parking. The venue is within walking distance of both Old Town Auburn and Downtown Auburn. She reported she is currently working with the Placer/Nevada Cattlemen to provide catering for the event.

Katie requested Board permission to enter into a rental agreement with the Pioneer United Methodist Church and a catering agreement with the Placer/Nevada Cattlemen.

Bob Wiswell moved to approve entering into both agreements as requested. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

*h) GIS Coordinator Project Update:*

Austin Mulder briefed the Board on his efforts and reviewed the maps he has developed using the base (core) data he has collected, upon which he will compile more detailed maps using specific data sets of interest. He reviewed some of the challenges that go along with compiling data sets from different organizations including rectifying projections and standardizing data so different data sets can be effectively and accurately combined to map specific information. He reviewed the types of data he has gathered and their sources including USFS, CalFire, and Placer County.

Austin will continue to meet with many contacts over the next few weeks to acquire specialized data sets now that the base data has been mapped. Information and data sets for invasive species plotting, the locations of current water quality monitoring sites, locations of fuel load reduction and healthy forest projects from multiple agencies, and fire history information from CalFire are just some of the data sets being sought. He noted the additional information will provide for robust data sets from which to build maps focused on specific issues such as invasives control, water quality monitoring, fire risk reduction activities, etc.

The Board encouraged Austin in his efforts and suggested he develop a progress report for the partners in the GIS cost sharing effort at the project's six month point.

Rich Gresham noted Austin will be presenting his progress at the CARCD Central Sierra Region Spring Meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No RCD Committees met.

The next Forestry & Fuels Management Committee will meet March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Wehri reported he attended the Placer County Board of Supervisors (BOS) Meeting focused on the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP) as expected, and on the RCD Board's behalf expressed support for the PCCP and its forward movement without endorsing a specific Alternative Map. He made the point that agriculture must continue to be involved in developing solutions and encouraged the BOS to accept agriculture as an acceptable land use within those areas that are identified as mitigation areas.

The BOS took action to continue moving the PCCP forward with the further refinement of an Alternative Map, possibly a combination of Alternative #4 and Alternative #14. County negotiations with regulatory agencies with respect to the PCCP will continue.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

*Tom Wehri:*

- Tom apologized for missing the last meeting due to getting tied up in a traffic jam.
- Tom reported he continues to work for the CARCD promoting RCDs statewide.
- He reported the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is undergoing structural changes in response to fiscal pressures. He attended the NACD Annual Conference where it seemed attendance was down.

*Bob Wiswell:*

- Bob reported Yuma, AZ, where he recently visited, suffered a four day frost with minor damage.
- Bob indicated will not be able to attend the March Board meeting.

*Claudia Smith:*

- Claudia reported she attended the NACD Annual Meeting where she volunteered to serve on the Ag Committee that lacked CA representation and will serve as a representative for the small producer. She learned more about the Farm Bill that encompasses far more than just farming and attended a tour of the Los Angeles River Restoration Project and a tour of the Santa Monica Mountains watershed. She highlighted the need for better understanding of the benefits of watershed based coordination.
- Claudia announced several meeting dates including the Annual Farm Bureau Meeting and the Farmers' Market Association Annual Meeting.
- Claudia indicated she will not be able to attend the next Board meeting either, but will be attending the CARCD Regional Spring Meeting.

*Chris Paull:*

- Chris reported on his attendance of the NACD Annual Meeting that included being actively involved in the resolution process; continuing to promote the resolutions passed at the CARCD Annual Meeting that were appropriate for pursuit at the national level.
- Chris also attended the CARCD Board Meeting and reported the organization has been able to cover their funding shortages experienced last year.
- Chris continues to serve on the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council as Secretary/Treasurer on behalf of the RCD.
- Chris announced the Placer Chapter of CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) will be holding a program meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> that will provide a forum for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to inform Special Districts on conservancy efforts and introduce upcoming conservancy programs.

STAFF REPORTS

*RCD Report:*

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

- Katie Maloney handed out copies of the draft 2006 RCD Annual Report and solicited feedback from the Board. The draft will be going the printer and will be available at the CARCD Regional Spring Meeting.
- Katie reported that in addition to her normal monthly activities she has completed and delivered to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board the Final Report for the '02 319(h) Grant and noted she will include it in next month's Board Package.
- Katie noted she has been appointed by Board Chair and Placer Chapter CSDA Chair, Chris Paull to serve as the Chapter's Secretary/Treasurer and is making the arrangements for the Placer Chapter CSDA program meeting highlighting the SNC.
- Katie continues to move forward with opening a bank account for the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council in preparation of administering the Prop 40 Fuels Reduction Program.

- Rich Gresham reported sending letters of support for the continued full funding of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&Ds) including the High Sierra RC&D to area Representatives and Senators.

Tom Wehri gave a brief overview of the differences between RCDs and RC&Ds in terms of focus and structure.

- Rich noted the next CARCD subcommittees meeting that will take place later in the week.
- Rich reported he made a presentation to the SNC Board this month about RCDs and was invited to make a presentation at the next Regular SNC meeting in May. He has arranged for CARCD Executive Director Tacy Currey to participate in the presentation that should facilitate dialogue about potential opportunities for partnerships between RCDs and the SNC.
- Rich signed the RCD up as an interested party with the PG&E Stewardship Council in terms of the management of watershed properties; setting the stage for future partnerships.
- Rich reported he and Chris have held discussions regarding future transitions, staffing needs, and RCD direction.

Chris added it is time to think about holding the annual planning meetings to determine the RCD focus in terms of allocating time and resources over the next fiscal year. The Board discussed an April or May planning meeting and will address scheduling the planning session(s) at the next Board meeting.

#### AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike Brenner reported the 2007 EQIP funding allocation comes to \$862K+ and will only fund the top six projects. He noted he continues to search for additional funding and noted application funding ceilings are being considered in the future in order to allocate available funding to a greater number of applicants. 44% of the 2007 EQIP applicants applied for assistance with forestry projects and 56% applied for assistance with irrigation projects. Providing conservation planning without cost share funding is another option to help those that won't be awarded funding in order to continue move individual conservation efforts forward.
- Mike reviewed the Conservation Security Program, a program meant to recognize and reward good stewardship of the land and its resources. Mike also reviewed field visits conducted and engineering and technical assistance provided over the last month.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated December 30<sup>th</sup> from Georgetown Divide RCD Board President Sid Davis regarding issues pertaining to the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council directed to Rich as reported under agenda item b).
- Department of Fish & Game letter dated January 22, 2007 informing the RCD that the American Basin Working Landscapes Project has been approved for full funding of \$1,860,898 after extensive review and providing contact information to move forward with the contracting process.
- RCD letter dated February 5<sup>th</sup> to Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer, recommending three candidates for the two vacant RCD Directorships and requesting BOS appointment from those candidates as soon as feasible.
- Memo to BOS from Assistant County Executive Officer Mike Boyle requesting the BOS take action in the appointment of two RCD Directors from the field of RCD recommended candidates.

- Letter dated February 2<sup>nd</sup> from Provost & Prichard Engineering Group soliciting interest in their consulting services.
- Letter to the RCD Board announcing CPA Bill Myers impending retirement from providing auditing services.
- Local Agency Formation Commission letter dated January 25<sup>th</sup> regarding a call for nominations to fill the vacant Special Districts seat.
- USFS letter announcing the selection of Ed Hollenshead as the new Regional Director of Fire and Aviation Management.
- Placer County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee meeting agenda for February 1<sup>st</sup> and the minutes of the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- American River Authority meeting agenda for February 12<sup>th</sup> and the minutes of the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission meeting agenda for February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- National Watershed Coalition call for 2007 membership.
- Central Sierra Resource Conservation and Development 2006 Annual Report.
- Letter from Verizon Wireless announcing a rate change effective March 2007.
- Tahoe RCD 2006 Annual Report.
- Soil and Water Conservation Society CA Chapter newsletter, *Runoff*, for winter 2007.
- NACD publication, *NACD News & Views*, for January/February 2007.
- NACD publication, *Forestry Notes*, for January 2007.
- UC Davis Extension Professional and Continuing Education Catalog of available courses for spring 2007.
- National Woodland Owners Association publication, *National Woodlands*, for winter 2007.
- Sacramento River Watershed Program, *Monitoring Program Summary*, December 2006.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- RCD Annual Planning Session(s) Discussion
- RCD Board Subcommittee Review
- Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council Update
- CARCD Central Sierra Region Spring Meeting Update
- GIS Coordinator Update

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Tom Wehri moved for adjournment. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously. Chris Paull adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.