

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
April 17, 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 3:23 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Chris Paull  
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.  
Claudia Smith  
Scott Harvey

Directors Absent: Stanley (Stan) MacDonald  
Thomas (Tom) Wehri  
Steve Garcia

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, American River Watershed Coordinator  
Gregg Bates, Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Scott Harvey moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 20, 2007 with a correction regarding the allocation of EQIP funding under Agency Reports. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the Financial Statements for the Month Ended February 28 and March 31, 2007 and the Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for February and March 2007 and solicited questions regarding the Monthly Grant Summary and/or the Monthly Program Summary.

Scott Harvey moved to approve the February and March 2007 financial statements and reports as presented. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

New Business:

- a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Annual Planning Session(s):*  
After consideration the Board decided to hold its annual planning session at the May Regular Board Meeting at the normal time of 3:15 p.m. in the USDA Conference Room.

Mark White reviewed with the Board the District's Annual Joint Work Program with Placer County for the current year that included planning protocol review and noted the focus of the coming year will move back to on-the-ground technical assistance and watershed group and

fire safe alliance support. The amount of funding available will be comparable with current funding levels even though expending the entire amount for the current year is not expected.

The Board gave Mark to go ahead to continue moving the Annual Joint Work Program forward as discussed.

- b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Board Subcommittees:*  
The Board reviewed its subcommittee structure and membership that resulted in the following:

Standing Committees

**Forestry and Fuels Management Committee:** *Stan MacDonald\** and Steve Garcia  
Mike Brenner and Doug Ferrier, Advisors

**Ag and Lands Committee:** *Bob Wiswell\**, Chris Paull, and Claudia Smith  
Mike Brenner, Advisor

**Fisheries and Wildlife Committee:** No Committee Chair  
Bill Templin and Gregg Bates, Advisors

**Education Committee:** *Claudia Smith\** and Chris Paull

**Legislative Committee:** *Tom Wehri\** and Scott Harvey  
Mark White, Advisor

**Operations Committee:** *Chris Paull\**, Tom Wehri, and Bob Wiswell  
Rich Gresham, Advisor

\* *Committee Chair*

Any further committee changes will be considered at the May Annual Planning Meeting

- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Review of New Grant Funding Proposals:*  
The Board received an update on numerous funding proposals being developed for submission in the current grants funding cycle. Funding proposals were reviewed by American River Watershed Coordinator Bill Templin gave an overview of his activities over the last month that focused on the development of funding proposals including an implementation grant to augment fuel load reduction efforts being conducted by the US Forest Service. Another proposal contains a watershed assessment component, an assessment of mercury in connection with historical gold mining, an assessment of trails within the Auburn State Recreation Area to identify appropriate Best Management Practices, and a small fish telemetry component.

The GIS Coordinator will be developing bullet points for cost sharing the GIS position for next year. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has indicated their intent to continue to participate in cost sharing the GIS position and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) might be a candidate to take over the fiscal contribution currently being made by the partner RCDs.

The County's Department of Facility Services is developing a proposal for SNC consideration to further their efforts to develop the new Hidden Falls Regional Park.

Board discussion revolved around additional RCD staffing support, grant writing, etc.

Rich reported the RCD website has been re-structured and encouraged Directors to check the site out at [placercountyrcd.org](http://placercountyrcd.org) and review and changes.

Chris Paull reviewed a project concept he would like to see Placer County Water Agency pursue in relation to their East Loomis Basin Canal Efficiency Study.

Chris encouraged the development of proposals appropriate for SNC funding that will soon be available.

Bill Templin closed by offering several potential project concepts including the continuation of the Watershed Coordinator positions, expansion of the existing Watershed Education Summit effort, fish telemetry and population assessments, and several public education concepts that included an Adopt-a-Display-Board and high school curriculum support for funding challenged programs like photography.

Old Business:

d) *Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council Update:*

Katie Maloney gave the Board an update on the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council (Council) and RCD administration of the Council's Prop 40 Fuels Reduction Program (Program) in partnership with CalFire. The first \$486,907 in Program funding has been allocated and a request for another \$500K has been submitted to CalFire.

Chris Paull closed by pointing out the potential of the Council to help address regional issues in the future.

e) *GIS Coordinator Project Update:*

Rich reported to the Board that Austin Mulder has completed the collection and compilation of baseline data layers on which he can begin to build data layers related to specific resources and issues. Austin has already begun to gather source data for invasive species plotting, water quality monitoring sites, fuel load reduction and healthy forest projects.

Rich closed by reporting the computer being provided by NRCS will be used in next year's GIS effort and noted Austin continues to use the El Dorado computer to do his mapping work.

f) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: CA Envirothon Support:*

The Board considered a request for financial assistance with the cost of transportation to and from the event for the RCD sponsored Foresthill High School CA Envirothon Team. Claudia Smith moved to support the Team up to \$200 in transportation costs. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Rich reported Tom Wehri has received an invitation to serve on the CA Envirothon Board representing the District at the state level of the national program and has requested Board approval to represent the District at the state level by accepting the seat. Scott Harvey moved to approve Tom's acceptance of the invitation. Claudia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No RCD Committees met.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

*Bob Wiswell:*

- Bob announced the time and date for the next High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council (HSRC&D) meeting.

*Claudia Smith:*

- Claudia reported while traveling over the last month she couldn't help but notice a significant amount of natural resource related signage along the way.
- Claudia attended the CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Spring Regional Meeting and toured the North American River Watershed with Bill Templin that encompassed fire, fishery, and sediment issues. She encouraged the new Directors to arrange to get out in the watershed and observe the issues firsthand.

- Claudia reported a CA Certified Organic Farmers website is under development for the Sierra Gold Chapter. The Board expressed a desire for a link to the RCD website. Claudia will explore the option.
- Claudia reported a Community Supported Ag Program is being developed in conjunction with a Certified Kitchen available for the production of food products.

*Scott Harvey:*

Scott reported serving on the Waste Management Advisory Board made him aware of potential grant opportunities for tire abatement programs, etc. and instigated a discussion of hazardous waste disposal issues.

Mark White gave the Board a brief overview of the District's past efforts in terms of focused collection efforts that have included tires.

- Scott expressed an interest in taking watershed tours as Claudia had suggested.

*Chris Paull:*

- Chris reported Chairing the Placer Chapter of CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) meeting that provided a forum for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to inform Special Districts on the Conservancy's efforts and introduce their upcoming programs.
- Chris reported Chairing the CARCD Spring Regional Meeting that also included a presentation by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and helped promote a significant role for RCDs on a more regional level.
- Chris continues to serve on the East Loomis Basin Canal Efficiency Study Group and solicited an alternate to take his place at the next meeting as he will be unable to attend. Directors will check their calendars.
- Chris attended the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council meeting and reported it appears that issues the Georgetown Divide RCD may have had were addressed to their satisfaction at the meeting.
- Chris announced he will be going on a vacation to Scotland in the coming month and is looking forward to exploring how they address resource issues.

STAFF REPORTS

*RCD Report:*

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

- Mark White announced the 2007 Placer County Ag Tour will take place on May 30<sup>th</sup> and will begin and end in Auburn starting at the Natural Trading Company and ending at a flower farm.
- Mark announced Day in the Capitol will be May 16<sup>th</sup> and solicited a head count for attendees so he can make the appropriate arrangements for the day. Chris, Claudia, Scott, Rich, and Bill expressed an interest in attending.
- Mark reported he will be making a presentation as part of a team that will address stormwater management issues at the American River Watershed Conference.
- Rich Gresham reported on the Weed Management Area meeting and requested the Board consider the opportunity for the District to contribute to a weed abatement effort in June by purchasing a simple lunch for the volunteer weed abatement team; approximately a \$200 expenditure.

Rich also reported although the budget to re-develop the District website was based on a front-loaded workplan, the effort is already working on the May allocation and will run out of funds before fiscal year end. He asked the Board to consider allocating another \$500 to the effort to begin the exploration of including a GIS based component to the website.

After a short discussion that revolved around the Board's desire to link the District website to the Farm Bureau, Placer GROWN, and the Farmer's Market Association websites; Claudia Smith moved to approve the \$500 request for continued website development and approve providing lunch and refreshments for the weed abatement team, not to exceed \$200. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- Katie Maloney reported that in addition to her normal monthly activities she made the arrangements for the CARCD Regional Meeting hosted by the District, the CSDA Program meeting, and gave away 150 Japanese Maple trees to the public at the Farmers' Market, and administered the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council as reported in Agenda item d).
- Gregg Bates reviewed his activity report and highlighted his efforts to develop funding proposals to integrate watershed management plans into regional planning efforts.
- Gregg reported the Watershed Coordinator Program funding will be extended and will help deal with the expected funding gap between funding sources.
- Gregg reported the City of Roseville will mirror Placer County's effort to place resource related signage at creek crossings within their jurisdiction.
- Gregg reported the \$200K to potentially address fish passage issues on Auburn Ravine has been withdrawn and is no longer available to the Dry Creek Conservancy (DCC) as the parties involved were not able to negotiate terms agreeable to everyone.
- Gregg reported another DCC project in partnership with Placer County to place 50 root wads into the stream to provide fish habitat has also fallen apart due another component of the grant that re-connected the floodplain not being able to adequately quantify the flood control benefits of that particular project component.
- Gregg reported the water quality monitoring data collected by DCC over the years is in the process of being compiled into a report by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment/CA EPA.

#### AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike Brenner reported he has acquired additional 2007 EQIP funding that will bring the Placer County allocation to \$482.3K+ and will fund ten projects; seven projects are focused forestry and three on irrigation. Application funding ceilings continue to be considered in order to allocate available funding to a greater number of applicants.
- Mike reviewed field visits conducted, engineering and technical assistance provided over the last month, and training sessions and meetings attended.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- RCD letters dated February 20, 2007 to Senator Feinstein and Congressman Doolittle in support of continued funding for the HSRC&D and asking them to oppose the President's proposed budget cuts that will negatively impact RC&Ds.
- RCD letters dated February 26, 2007 to Jan Cutts, US Forest Service; Harry Hickman, American River Watershed Institute; informing them of RCD Board action to voluntarily terminate the lease agreement for the French Meadows Dam Keepers House.

- RCD letters dated February 28<sup>th</sup> to the individual RCD Directorship applicants thanking them for their interest and informing them of the BOS appointments to the RCD Board.
- RCD letter of intent to participate in the Placer County Dry Creek Watershed Projects to Placer County Planning Dept.'s Edmund Sullivan.
- US Forest Service letter dated February 21<sup>st</sup> soliciting interest in participating in a planning effort to develop a Management Indicator Species list.
- HSRC&D Sponsorship Package including the approved '06-'07 Budget and '05-'06 Annual Report.
- CSDA letter giving the District log on access to the Members Section of the CSDA website.
- Placer County Notice of Tax Defaulted Land Sale.
- Letter from Sierra College EcoStudents announcing their Earth Day activities in April.
- PG&E letter dated March 26<sup>th</sup> requesting staffing information; Katie faxed statistical employment information as requested.
- RCD letter dated March 26<sup>th</sup> to the Placer County Office of Education recommending Stewart Feldman for the position of Outreach Coordinator for the ROP Program in Placer and Nevada Counties.
- US Department of Labor request for staffing information; Katie returned requested information.
- Copy of letter dated March 8<sup>th</sup> from Placer County Auditor-Controller to the Newcastle Sanitary District regarding the Brinkman Annexation.
- Placer County Elections Calendar for 2007-2008.
- US Forest Service letter from Forest Supervisor Steve Eubanks dated April 9<sup>th</sup> acknowledging their receipt and acceptance of the Final Report for the Grant funding the Placer County Chipper and Fire Safe Inspection Program.
- Letter dated March 9<sup>th</sup> giving notice of a joint public hearing on the proposed Amended and Restated Redevelopment Plan for the Auburn Redevelopment Project and the Environmental Impact Report.
- Copy of letter from Placer County Auditor-Controller to the City of Auburn with attached Fiscal Impact Report for the Auburn Amended Redevelopment Project.
- Placer Local Agency Formation Commission meeting agenda for March 14<sup>th</sup> and the proposed '07-'08 Budget.
- Placer County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee meeting agenda for April 5<sup>th</sup>, the minutes of the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Draft Short Term Workplan, and Final Long Term Workplan.
- Placer County Flood Control & Water Conservation District meeting agenda for March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- American River Authority meeting agenda for March 19<sup>th</sup> and the minutes of the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission meeting agenda for March 12<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup>.

- The Placer Chapter-CSDA Program Meeting Agenda for March 12<sup>th</sup> and the minutes of the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting.
- Great Valley Center Annual Conference postcard.
- Sutter County RCD newsletter, *Conservation Quarterly*, winter 2007.
- Protect American River Canyons newsletter, *The Confluence*, spring 2007.
- Sacramento River Watershed Program newsletter, *Waterways*, February 2007.
- CSDA publications, *CA Special District*, January/February and March-April 2007.
- NACD publication, *Forestry Notes*, February and March 2007.
- CA Forest Stewardship Program publication, *Forestland Steward*, fall 2006.
- CA Interagency Noxious & Invasive Plant Committee publication, *Noxious Times*, winter 2007.
- Truckee River Watershed Council newsletter, *Truckee River Currents*, winter 2006.
- ESRI publication, *Environmental Observer*, winter 2007.
- Department of Water Resources publication, *Water Conservation News*, fall 2006/winter 2007.
- National Watershed Coalition Tenth National Watershed Conference registration materials.
- Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative newsletter, *GLCI News*, January-February 2007.
- CSDA Special Legislative Days registration materials.
- Placer County Planning Dept. publication, *Placer Legacy*, winter 2007.
- Stewardship Council newsletter, *Update*, March 2007.
- Water Education Foundation newsletter, *The CA Runoff Rundown*, spring 2007.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- RCD Annual Planning Session

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Scott Harvey moved for adjournment. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously. Chris Paull adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.