

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
June 19, 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 3:20 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

Directors Absent: Scott Harvey
Stanley (Stan) MacDonald

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

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

Tom Wehri moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 15, 2007 with two minor changes. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

Bob Wiswell moved to approve the May 2007 financial statements and reports as presented. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

Old Business:

- a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD 2007-2008 Annual Plan:*
Rich Gresham reviewed the Board recommended changes to the Draft RCD 2007-2008 Annual Plan that will direct the District's efforts for the next fiscal year. The changes included the pursuit of an Ag Resources Center and assistance to the Franklin Elementary School in terms of their Ag program.

After Board discussion that revolved around targets in terms of landowner assistance goals, the challenge of incorporating RCD efforts into the NRCS assistance tracking system, and partner support; Tom moved to approve the Draft RCD 2007-2008 Annual Plan. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD/Placer County Joint Annual Work Program:*
Chris Paull reported the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the RCD/Placer County 2007-2008 Joint Annual Work Program as presented at the last Board Meeting

After Mark White reviewed the county process for requesting RCD assistance, Tom Wehri moved to approve the RCD/Placer County 2007-2008 Joint Annual Work Program as reviewed last month and approved by the BOS. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Draft RCD Budget 2007-2008:*
Katie Maloney presented the Draft RCD Budget 2007-2008 recommended by the RCD Operations Committee, reviewed a three year budget projection thru Fiscal Year 2009-2010, and a three year Grant/Contract Revenue/Cost Analysis projection.

After Katie fielded Board questions, Bob Wiswell moved to approve the Draft 2007-2008 RCD Budget as recommended by the RCD Operations Committee. Tom Wehri seconded, motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: 6 Month GIS Status Report:*
Rich Gresham handed out the six-month progress report on the collaborative GIS effort from GIS Coordinator Austin Mulder. Austin, attending a GIS Conference, was unable to attend and the Board deferred further discussion to next month.

- e) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Employment Agreement with Richard Gresham:*
After Board review of the proposed agreement, with the compensation amount to be determined, Tom Wehri moved to execute the Employment Agreement with Rich Gresham to provide District Management for next fiscal year with the understanding compensation will be determined later in the meeting under Agenda Item f). Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- f) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Employee Merit Increases:*
After the Board reviewed past merit and cost of living increases, Tom Wehri moved to approve a five percent employee merit increase for Rich Gresham and Mark White effective July 1, 2007. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously. Rich's Employment Agreement approved under Agenda Item e) will reflect the increase as approved.

Rich recommended Austin Mulder be placed on Permanent Full Time status. The Board concurred. The Board came to the conclusion that consideration of a merit increase for Austin Mulder would be premature and could be considered at calendar year end when his Employment Agreement comes up for renewal.

- g) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Services Agreement with Katie Maloney:*
After Board review, Bob Wiswell moved to approve executing a Services Agreement with Katie Maloney for administrative services for the next fiscal year with the same terms as last year. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- h) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Services Agreement with Dorene Matney:*
Rich reviewed the new Scope of Work for the next year that includes a GIS integration component. After Board discussion, Claudia Smith moved to approve executing a Services Agreement with Dorene Matney for webmaster services for next fiscal year. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- i) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: GIS Workplan Integration with Sierra Nevada Conservancy Needs:*

Rich reviewed the first request from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) drawing on the \$49.9K SNC Agreement to create a data layer mapping projects proposals by SNC region. Further workplan refinement will take place as the SNC continues to identify their GIS needs.

Board discussion revolved around potential regional opportunities and partnerships,

- j) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Ag Resource Center:*

Board discussion revolved around how to best explore developing an Ag Resource Center for Placer County. Chris Paull recommended the formation of an ad hoc subcommittee to develop a plan to move forward with the concept, identify potential partners, garner input, and explore options. He named Tom Wehri as Ag Resource Center Committee Chair, indicated he would like to sit on the committee on a consistent basis and suggested a third Board seat be expertise driven. The Board concurred; Tom and Chris will serve on a consistent basis with the third Board seat to be filled by Claudia Smith or Steve Garcia depending on what kind of expertise is needed. Rich Gresham and Mike Brenner will also participate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Education Committee: Committee Chair Claudia Smith reported the committee met and reviewed a \$14.5K budget proposal that included funding for the Annual Ag Tour, newsletter. Speak off contest, Range Camp, CA Envirothon, RCD Website maintenance, Public event displays, invasive species education, several annual events, and Placer Nature Center and Franklin School Ag program support.

Board discussion revolved around future opportunities, RCD recognition, and elementary school Ag program development.

- Forestry & Fuels Management Committee: Committee member Steven Garcia reviewed CalFire's GIS data gap analysis effort. Austin has been asked to incorporate Timber Harvest Plan information into a GIS data layer to help identify gaps in services and areas for future fuel load reduction efforts on a parcel level. Austin will assist with the update of the Fire Threat data layer in collaboration with CalFire's GIS unit by incorporating fire safe activities.

Rich reviewed a *Tahoe to the Bay* concept proposal that resulted from attending a meeting with US Forest Service's Jim Geiger who has an upcoming opportunity to pitch the concept to legislators in Washington, D.C. Rich and Jim are further refining the concept further.

- Operations Committee: Committee Chair Tom Wehri reported the committee met and reviewed a three year budget projection, staffing options, and refined the draft budget for recommendation to the full Board.
- Legislative Committee: Committee Chair Tom Wehri reported that while the committee did not meet, he continues to work with the CA Association of RCDs (CARCD) on legislative issues and noted it looks like the Watershed Coordinator Program will be extended thru December 2007 with Prop 50 funding.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia reported she attended the Ag Tour, chaired the Education Committee, and continues to farm and participate in the Farmers' Market Association.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom indicated he worked with CARCD on legislative issues and chaired the Operations Committee meeting.

Bob Wiswell:

- Bob reported the High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council (HSRC&D) Executive Committee is slated for July 2nd with the next regular meeting slated to take place in conjunction with the Small Farm Progress Days on October 19th at the Loma Rica Ranch.

Chris Paull:

- Chris attended the Operations and Education Committee meetings.
- Chris also worked with Rich to develop the *Tahoe to the Bay* concept.

STAFF REPORTS

RCD Report:

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

- Katie Maloney reported she will be requesting the third allocation of \$500K for the Prop 40 CFIP Program on behalf of the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike briefly reviewed his activity report including Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) progress with three out of seven forestry projects already completed. 2008 EQIP applications for the program are being distributed to those interested.
- Mike reported the statewide Conservation Planning Initiative is in progress with five landowners currently interested in completing plans.
- Mike indicated the NRCS website is under revision/development.

COMMUNICATIONS

- RCD Letter of Authorization dated May 25th from Rich Gresham to the CA Dept. of Water Resources regarding the RCD's commitment to accept Prop 50 funding should the *Sediment Studies for the North Fork American River Watershed Phase II* project be awarded funding.
- RCD letter dated June 1st from Rich Gresham to the CA Dept. of Water Resources indicating the RCD's support for and intent to participate in the *Bridging Schools and Communities in the CABY Watershed* Project.
- Cover Letter and \$55 tuition assistance check from the CA Association of RCDs (CARCD) to kick off implementation of marketing in the local watershed.
- Letter dated June 4th from Placer County Elections and quick reference draft calendar for February 5th 2008 Presidential Primary Election.
- Placer County Flood Control & Water Conservation District June 11th meeting cancellation notice, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting agenda for June 7th, and April 5th TAC meeting minutes.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission meeting agenda for June 11th.
- Placer Nature Center letter dated May 24th announcing the 3rd Annual Friday Lecture Series, sponsorship solicitation, and newsletter.
- CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) Board of Directors Call for Nominations and Annual Conference postcard.
- Sierra Business Council 2007 Annual Conference postcard.

- Pacific Southwest Region Cooperative Forestry National Program Review materials.
- Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection Initial Statement of Reasons re: Fire Hazard Severity Zones 2007 and related materials.
- Economic Resource Service, *E.RS Report Summary*, May 2007.
- Placer/Nevada/South Sutter/ North Sacramento Subwatershed Newsletter re: Water Monitoring Results, June 2007.
- National Association of Conservation Districts publication, *Forestry Notes*, May 2007.
- CA Interagency Noxious & Invasives Plant Communities newsletter, *Noxious Times*, spring 2007.
- Placer Land Trust solicitation for funding assistance.
- National Parks Service newsletter re: Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.
- Stewardship Council Land Conservation Plan Update.
- Cover letter from State Conservationist Burton and NRCS Booklet, Trends in Conservation.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- 6 Month GIS Status Report
- RCD Board Education Committee Budget Approval
- Approving Additional Administrative Assistant Position

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Tom Wehri moved for adjournment. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously. Chris Paull adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.