

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

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

Directors Absent: Thomas (Tom) Wehri

Others Present: Rich Gresham, RCD Manager
Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist-Auburn Field Office
Katie Maloney, RCD Sr. Administrative Assistant
Bill Templin, N. Fork American River Watershed Coordinator
Austin Mulder, GIS Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Claudia Smith moved to approve the agenda with a change in order as requested. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Claudia Smith moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 19, 2007 as presented. Bo Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the Financial Statement for the Month ended June 30, 2007, Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for June 2007, the Monthly Grant Summary, and the Monthly Program Summary.

Scott Harvey moved to approve the June 2007 Financial Statement and reports as presented. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

Old Business:

- a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: 6 Month GIS Status Report:*
Chris Paull announced Austin Mulder, GIS Coordinator has given two week notice as he has accepted a position in Colorado.

Austin confirmed his decision to accept the new position was noted it was not an easy decision. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the GIS Coordinator.

Austin solicited Board questions about the GIS Status Report that was included in the Board Package for prior Board review.

In response to Board inquiries, Austin noted all sources of the GIS data used are noted in the simply structured database that includes a data dictionary. Austin will furnish his contact notes and tie up loose ends as much as possible before he leaves for his new job.

Austin added with the preliminary work he has completed, it would not take much additional effort to expand the GIS effort to cover the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council's (Council) area.

However, Austin suggested expansion to cover the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) region would likely require the assistance of a junior GIS technical position to assist with gathering and analyzing additional data needed to expand the GIS effort. Austin met with SNC and talked about mapping their region section by section; he recommended the RCD start any expansion effort with the mapping the Council area that incorporates six RCD regions within the CA Association of RCDs (CARCD) Central Sierra Region.

The Board requested Austin's input in terms of improving the current GIS effort.

Austin recommended GIS data sets be updated as new information becomes available and noted the task can be a challenge as there is no system for releasing new and/or updated information on a regional level and can only be accomplished by keeping your ear to the ground.

Steve Garcia will check for CALFIRE Chipper/4291 Inspection data sets that may be available for database incorporation.

Austin recommended establishing dedicated GIS Coordinator office space and adequate computer equipment before bringing on a new Coordinator,. He also recommended the development of a standardized work request in order to better clarify client data needs up front, eliminating the need to re-work GIS products after delivery.

The next round of GIS effort will be focused on the needs of NRCS with the new Farm Bill expected to be watershed oriented, Mike Brenner wants to be able to proceed on that basis in terms of GIS data.

.Austin gave a brief rundown of pending project components.

Chris Paull thanked Austin for his efforts and the Board discussed waiting for a period of time before seeking a new Coordinator to allow time to pin down next year's goals and the provision of an adequate computer system. Discussion revealed as this is a regional effort it should garner regional support in terms of providing for the needs of the Coordinator.

- b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Board Education Committee Budget:* Claudia Smith reported the RCD Board Education Committee met to consider the Education Committee Budget for the next fiscal year. Committee members reviewed the proposed budget as included in the Board Package for prior review.

After Board discussion, Scott Harvey moved to approve the proposed budget with the deletion of the proposed contribution to the Upper American River Foundation to be considered as a separate item and the addition of \$1K in support for the Master Gardner to steward the Franklin Elementary School Garden Program. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried, with Chris Paull abstaining.

Katie Maloney will incorporate the Education Committee Budget into the RCD Budget for the next fiscal year.

- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: New Administrative Assistant Position:*
After the Board held a short discussion to add a permanent 1,000 hour part-time Administrative Assistant to staff, Scott Harvey moved to approve the creation of the position as presented. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Placer County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):*
The Placer County/RCD MOU providing \$25K in funding for the 4291 Fire Safe Inspection Program for the next fiscal year from HR2389 funding was included in the Board Package for prior review. Scott Harvey moved to approve execution of the MOU. Claudia Smith seconded, motion carried, with Steve Garcia abstaining.
- e) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) Watershed Coordinator Program Extension Agreement:*
The SAFCA Extension Agreement was included in the Board Package for prior review. After a short discussion regarding potential RCD direction in terms of the new Watershed Coordinator Program if funding is provided for in the '07-'08 State Budget, Claudia Smith moved to execute the Agreement with SAFCA to extend the current Agreement through December 2007 or until new program funding is available. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- f) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Tahoe to the Bay Watershed Initiative:*
Rich Gresham reviewed the role of the CARCD Forestry and Fuels Management Committee in the development of the Tahoe to the Bay Watershed Initiative funding proposal. The proposal currently consists of five components to be refined over the next couple of weeks.

As envisioned the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council would serve as the applicant of behalf of the CARCD Committee, El Dorado County RCD is considering administration of the proposal if awarded funding. Rich turned the floor over to El Dorado RCD/Georgetown Divide RCD Manager Mark Egbert to review current details of the proposal, and the proposed advisory committee structure that will provide oversight for the project should it be awarded funding..

Rich reviewed the proposal components still under development, the identification of partners, potential partners, and matching funds..

The first component focuses on incorporating additional Geographical Information System (GIS) data to refine the CALFIRE Fire Threat dataset increasing accuracy at a local level.

The next component potentially expands the current I-80 corridor vegetation management project with the addition of an invasives control element.

The next component is focused on healthy forest practices, biomass utilization, and infrastructure improvement.

A research component could potentially focus on determining reasons for the low rate of private landowner participation in defensible space compliance and/or other pertinent research subjects..

The last component potentially focuses on grazing management and water quality monitoring on a multi county level.

Board discussion revolved around the identification of additional partners, connections between the upper and lower watersheds encompassed in the proposal, the identification of matching funds, and potential component revision per partner input.

The Board gave the proposal its informal support and Rich their permission to continue moving forward with development of the proposal on behalf of the CARCD Forestry Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committees met this last month. Rich noted the Operations Committee needs to meet and address the selection of a new CPA to perform the annual audit.

Claudia Smith moved to give staff authority to select a new CPA on behalf of the Board. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Bob Wiswell:

- Bob reported he would not be able to attend the Board meeting next month due to a scheduling conflict with a Farm Bureau event.

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia reported she is participating on the Annual Farm & Barn event planning committee and the harvest on Blossom Hill Farm is in progress.

Chris Paull:

- Chris reported working with Rich on regional efforts including the development of the *Tahoe to the Bay* concept.
- Chris asked the Board to consider changing the Regular Board Meeting time back to 4 p.m. as the 3:15 p.m. meeting time was implemented to accommodate a Director no longer serving on the Board and with fall approaching he will have time conflicts.

After a brief discussion, Scott moved to change the Regular RCD Board Meeting time back to 4:00 p.m. Stan McDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- Chris reported the East Basin Canal Efficiency Study being conducted by the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) is now winding up. He noted his suggestion to dredge Mammoth Reservoir to provide more storage is being pursued and asked the Board's permission to allow Rich to invest time in searching for a funding source. No objections were raised.

Steve Garcia:

- Steve reported he is working in the background on his CALFIRE Unit's acquisition of GIS data and the ability to tap high-powered expertise.

STAFF REPORTS

RCD Report:

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

- Katie Maloney reported the Prop 40 CFIP Program (Program) is running smoothly; the third allocation of \$500K has been submitted; and the Program is now in full swing with invoices for the development of management plans are beginning to come in for payment with on-the-ground implementation to follow.
- Katie requested Directors sign a new signature card for the approval of expenditures at the county's request for an annual update. Board members complied with Katie's request.
- Bill Templin reviewed his activity report and fielded questions from the Board.

AGENCY REPORTS

Mike Brenner handed out a written activity reports for June-July and briefly reviewed the report.

COMMUNICATIONS

- CalPERS Circular Letter dated June 20th introducing the launch of my/CalPERS Website for both employers and employees.
- CalPERS Notice of Regulatory Action proposing the amendment of the CalPERS Board of Administration Election regulations to clarify and provide public notice regarding certain Board Election procedures adopted pursuant to Government Code section 20096, which requires the Board to develop election procedures, including amendments to CA Code of Regulations, title 2, sections 554.2 and 554.3.
- Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission letter dated June 6, 2007 requesting updated district information for their records. Katie responded to the request.
- Letter dated June 27th from NRCS announcing CA State Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for July 31st at the State Office conference room at 2:30 p.m.
- Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection Title 14 Notice of Correction for Proposed Rulemaking that proposes an amendment of sections of Title 14 related to Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
- Copy of 22278 Federal Register / Vol. 72, No. 82 / Monday April 30, 2007/ Unified Agenda.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission July 9th meeting agenda.
- American River Authority Agenda for June 18th and minutes of March 19th meeting.
- Stewardship Council 2006 Annual Report.
- CA Resource Recovery Association Annual Conference & Tradeshow registration brochure.
- CA Special District Association publication, *CA Special District*, May-June 2007.
- National Association of Conservation Districts publication, *N.A.C.D. News & Views*, May/June 2007.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The possibility of foregoing the August Regular Board Meeting due to scheduling conflicts was discussed. Determination of a quorum will be assessed before posting the meeting. The following items may be on the next Regular Board Meeting agenda:

- RCD Support Watershed Education Summit Expansion to the North Fork American River Watershed
- RCD Draft '07-'08 Budget Approval
- Tahoe to Bay Watershed Initiative Update/Approval

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Claudia Smith moved for adjournment. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously. Chris Paull adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.