

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
September 18, 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 4:00 p.m.

Chris introduced Jane Keillor, selected to fill the Administrative Assistant position to the Board.

Jane gave the Board an brief overview of her experience and interests.

The Board welcomed Jane to the staff and thanked her for coming to meet them.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

Directors Absent: Scott Harvey

Others Present: Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist-Auburn Field Office
Katie Maloney, Sr. Administrative Assistant
Jane Keillor, Administrative Assistant
Bill Templin, N. Fork American River Watershed Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Tom Wehri moved to approve the agenda as presented. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Garcia, as a member of the public, reported he was personally contacted by Supervisor Bruce Kranz regarding proposed changes to the Placer County Tree Ordinance in terms of fuels management on private property in regards to restriction on harvesting trees.

Board discussion revolved around the benefits of private landowners being able to sell saw logs resulting from fuels management activities to defray defensible space compliance costs. Steve reported CALFIRE is in the process of reviewing the ordinance to identify any conflicts with defensible space requirements.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Stan MacDonald moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 17, 2007 with a correction identifying Rich Gresham as the presenter of the Tahoe to the San Francisco Bay Watershed Initiative and the addition of Bill Templin's monthly report. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney asked the Board to defer the Financial Statements for July and August to the next Board Meeting, due to her having to allocate her time to the annual year end reconciliation, budgeting, and CPA selection process; now completed.

BUSINESS

Old Business:

a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Final '07-'08 RCD Budget:*

Katie Maloney presented the proposed Final '07-'08 RCD Budget and made a point that the RCD is on a cusp, where in the private sector, would signal a need for additional capital to fund unforeseen needs that growth tends to stimulate. She requested the Board's approval of the proposed budget and recommended the Board consider an annual transfer of funds from the Unrestricted Fund to the Restricted Fund while keeping the RCD's growth in mind.

Tom Wehri concurred with Katie's assessment that the Board should be prepared if unexpected needs and associated expenses present themselves in the next year. After discussion related to the Board's option of tapping Restricted Funds if it is determined they are needed for unforeseen expenses, Tom Wehri moved to transfer \$60K from the General Fund to the Restricted Fund with \$50K to be designated to the Building Acquisition Fund and the remaining \$10K to be added to undesignated Restricted Fund. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Tom Wehri moved to accept the proposed Final '07-'08 Budget as presented. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Board Resolution #07-04 :*

Chris Paull briefly reviewed American Basin Working Landscapes Project and RCD Board Resolution #07-04 approving the execution of the American Basin Working Landscapes Project Agreement #E0720019 for \$1,860,898 with CA Dept. of Fish & Game.

Tom Wehri made a motion to pass RCD Board Resolution #07-04 as presented. After Bob Wiswell briefly reviewed the history of flooding along Coon Creek, located in the project area, Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Draft CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Resolution Recommending the Reinstatement of the State Resource Conservation Commission:*

Chris Paull reviewed discussions at the CARCD level regarding the reinstatement of the State Resource Conservation Commission that formerly operated under the Dept .of Conservation (DOC) and provided oversight to RCDs statewide.

Tom Wehri reviewed the history of the former Commission and indicated discussions at many levels hope the re-instatement of the Commission will re-energize RCDs statewide. Tom recommended the Board submit the Draft Resolution to reinstate the State Resource Conservation Commission for consideration by the CARCD membership at the CARCD Annual Meeting.

Bo Wiswell moved to submit the CARCD Draft Resolution as presented. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Draft CARCD Resolution to Address Forestry & Fuels Management Issues:*

Chris Paull reviewed the Draft CARCD Resolution recommending the State select a technical team to address future loss from wildland fire as recommended by the CARCD Forestry & Fuels Management Committee.

Tom Wehri moved to submit the CARCD Draft Resolution as presented. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- e) *Update and Discussion Re: Central Sierra Crest to the San Francisco Bay Watershed Initiative:*
Chris Paull reviewed the changes in the refined regional proposal, the name change, and the scope of work that will move objectives of three RCDS forward. He noted the Prop 40 funded CFIP Program is being used as match and will help establish the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council as a regional entity.

Chris reported the proposal will be submitted to CALFIRE, to be submitted by CALFIRE, along with two other proposals, to US Forest Service for funding consideration.

- f) *Update and Discussion Re: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Scope of Work:*
Chris Paull apprised the Board of the July meeting with SNC staff that resulted in the Proposed Scope of Work for the 2 year \$50K Agreement between the RCD and SNC.

Chris solicited input on the Draft Scope of Work included in the Board package for review and comment.

Board discussion revolved around the need to meeting expectations and deliver a useful product to all partners involved in the regionally based GIS effort with data sets that will meet everyone's needs not the least of which is NRCS.

Challenges brought forth included the need to address of space needs in terms of housing the new Coordinator in house, the potential danger of exceeding staff capacity with the responsibility of delivering numerous deliverable driven by funding partners with different objectives, and the challenge of providing access to GIS data generated to all funding partners.

- g) *Update and Discussion Re: "08-'09 Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Grant Proposal:*
Katie Maloney reported CALFIRE is submitting a WUI Grant funding proposal to provide \$285.3K for the continuation of the Placer County Chipper and 4291 Fire Safe Inspection Programs for the '08-'09 fiscal year if awarded funding. Katie indicated the Board will be kept updated.

- h) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: CARCD Central Sierra Fall Meeting:*
Chris Paull reviewed the regional fall meeting agenda and Katie Maloney made a note of who was interested and able to attend the October 5th meeting in South Lake Tahoe. Six board and staff members expressed an interest in attending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committees met during the last two months.

Claudia Smith gave an update of the Poultry Processing Trailer project where equipment is being selected and purchased. The project continues to move forward.

Chris Paull updated the Board on the Franklin School garden expansion project. He reviewed a letter received from Franklin Elementary School Principal thanking the RCD for the \$1K contribution and detailing the Garden program's expansion plans.

Claudia Smith suggested the students may be able to use the Foothill Farmers' Market as an avenue to sell pumpkins from the school garden and offered to explore those options.

Chris noted he will pass the offer on to the school for their follow-up.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Chris Paull:

- Chris reported serving on the final Administrative Assistant Selection Committee. He noted Jane's interest in education and indicated she has her teaching credential

- Chris reported the East Basin Canal Efficiency Study now winding up did not look at the issue of ditch water providing a water source for firefighters in the larger scope of things.
- Chris reported two out of three GIS Coordinator candidates have been interviewed with a third interview pending.

Steve Garcia suggested the RCD consider hiring a professional firm to move the effort forward should the candidate pool be deemed too small to yield an appropriate candidate.

Bob Wiswell:

- Bob updated the Board on upcoming events including the High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Executive Committee meeting, Small Farm Progress Days in mid October, and the Annual Farm Bureau Hoedown slated for Oct. 27th at Mount Pleasant Hall.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom reported he just returned from a trip to the mid-west; traveling 7,100 miles and visiting 13 states from Tennessee to the Dakotas in 5 weeks.
- Tom noted he intends to begin interviews in terms of exploring the development of an Ag Resource Center in October.

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia reported farming and working on this year's Farm & Barn event. She solicited volunteers for the event.

Steve Garcia:

- Steve reported reviewing the Placer County Tree Ordinance, working on a SNC grant proposal that carries the potential for either CALFIRE or the RCD to serve as lead agency, more discussion with the Unit Chief needs to take place before making that determination.

STAFF REPORTS

RCD Report:

In addition to the written activity reports for the months of July and August, submitted in the Board Package, the following points were discussed:

- Katie Maloney handed out Gregg Bates' activity report on his behalf for Board perusal.
- Bill Templin passed out and reviewed his monthly activity report after reporting to the Board his acceptance of a job offer with the Regional Water Quality Control Board. He will continue to tie up loose ends and his State of the Watershed summary. He stressed he is planning to continue his involvement with the Upper American River Watershed Foundation if his new employer has no objections.

The Board thanked Bill for all his efforts over the last three years and wished him luck in his new position.

- Katie reported the Prop 40 CFIP Program is running smoothly; with \$1.349M allocated to date. A reallocation of \$220K has been equally split between two units with projects ready to fund. Monthly CALFIRE CFIP conference call meetings have been providing positive feedback from both CALFIRE Unit Foresters and their landowners in terms of responsiveness with quick turnaround for projects approvals and the reimbursement of implementation costs.
- Katie reported she vetted approximately 100 responses to the Administrative Assistant posting and participated in preliminary interviews with Rich to narrow the field to two for the final selection committee. She researched and purchased a laptop computer for Jane's use and has spent time mentoring her to be sure she is comfortable in her new position with the RCD. Katie noted she is very pleased with the selection made

- Katie reported posting the Certified Public Accountant Request for Proposals to conduct the RCD Annual Audit and the subsequent selection of the firm Blomberg & Griffin to conduct an audit in compliance with OMB Circular A-133.
- Katie continues to provide watershed group and Fire Safe Alliance support and will continue to do so until Jane is comfortable taking the task over completely.
- Katie reported she continues to administer RCD Programs and provided updated information for posting to the RCD website.
- Katie reported the DOC has approved the interim American River Watershed Coordinator developing the grant proposal for the new program funding expected around year end. A field trip to the Placer Nature Center is slated for the next ARWG meeting.
- Katie indicated the agenda for next month will include a new \$30K RCD/Dept. of Facility Services Agreement and the CABY MOU for approval consideration.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

- 18 EQIP applications for the next funding year have been received; five irrigation projects and 13 forestry practices projects.
- Mike reported a Press Release for promoting EQIP has been distributed to the Farm Bureau, the Fire Safe Alliance, and others for next year's program.
- 40 contracts not in project compliance are being processed for not performing as agreed.
- The Local Working Group met to establish screening guidelines for the application process.

COMMUNICATIONS

- RCD cover letter dated August 1st to Auburn Recreation District Manager Kahl Muscott for the Atwood Conservation Easement Property Inspection Sheets for 2007.
- Thank you letter dated August 29th from PlacerGROWN for the 2007-2008 fiscal year,
- Thank you letter dated August 18th from the Placer Nature Center for the RCD's support for the Annual Nature Bowl event.
- Letter received August 31st from the US Dept of Interior calling for funding proposals for fiscal year 2008.
- Copy of RCD letters of rate change for Mark White's services sent to the City of Lincoln, The City of Roseville, and the City of Auburn.
- Placer County Water Agency invitation to their 50th Anniversary Open House
- Various CALPERS Circular Letters on various subjects and two CALPERS Board of Administration Committee agendas for August 10th meetings.
- State Technical Advisory Committee Agenda for July 31st meeting with meeting materials
- Placer County Agricultural Commission August 13th and September 10th meeting agendas
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Agenda for August 9th Technical Advisory Committee with minutes of June 7th meeting and Board of Directors agenda for August 13th meeting

- CA Special Districts Association materials for 2008 Board Elections and Committee Appointments
- Great Valley Center materials for October 25th Sacramento Valley Forum
- CA Invasive Plant Council announcement for 2007 Symposium and availability of outreach materials on aquatic invasive plants
- Fiscal Impact Report from Placer County Auditor Controller in terms of the Auburn Amended Redevelopment Project
- CA Special District Association publication, *CA Special District*, July/August 2007 and Conference registration materials for October 1-4' 2007
- National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Program 2007 Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone Training Workshops brochure
- Protect American River Canyons newsletter, PARC, for Indian Summer 2007
- National Association of Conservation Districts publication, *N.A.C.D. News & Views*, July/August 2007
- National Association of Conservation Districts publications, *Forestry Notes*, June, July, and August 2007
- Placer Land Trust newsletter, *Land Lines*, July 2007
- CA Association of Resource Conservation & Development Council Annual Conference registration flyer
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District's newsletter, *The Confluence*, Summer 2007
- Dept of Water Resources newsletter, *Water Conservation News*, Spring/Summer 2007
- Placer County Air Pollution Control District newsletter, *Compliance News*, August 2007
- State Compensation Insurance Fund newsletter, *Safety News*, Issue Three 2007
- National Woodland Owners Association magazine, *National Woodlands*, Summer 2007
- Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Executive Summary
- Arts Council of Placer County magazines, *Perspectives*, July/August and September/October 2007

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Tom Wehri requested the Board push the October Board meeting back a week to October 23rd. No objections were raised. The following items will be on the October 23rd agenda:

- RCD/DFS \$30K Agreement Approval
- CABY MOU Approval
- DOC Watershed Coordinator/Grant Writer Selection Process
- CARCD Conference Delegate and Alternate Selection

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Claudia Smith moved for adjournment. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously. Chris Paull adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.