

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
October 23, 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 4:04 p.m.

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
Rich Gresham, District Manager
Katie Maloney, Programs Manager

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Bob Wiswell moved to approve the agenda as presented. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Bob Wiswell moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 18, 2007 with the correction of a typo. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the Financial Statements, Grants, and Programs Summaries for the months of July, August, and September. After Katie fielded Board inquiries, Stan MacDonald moved to approve the financial statements as presented. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

Old Business:

- a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Selection of Delegate and Alternate to the CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Annual Meeting:*
After a short discussion, Tom Wehri moved to designate Claudia Smith as Delegate and Chris Paull as Alternate for the CARCD Annual Conference and Meeting. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried with Chris Paull abstaining.
- b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: CARCD Draft Resolutions:*
Chris Paull reported Draft CARCD Resolutions #07-001 and #07-002 approved and submitted by the RCD for consideration at the CARCD Annual Conference and Meeting were approved at the Central Sierra Regional Fall Meeting.

The Board reviewed Draft Resolution #07-003 submitted by the Shasta Valley RCD to work to change the practice of retaining 10% of state grant funding pending final project completion due to the financial burden it places on RCDs dependent upon grant funding to implement projects. After discussion, Tom Wehri moved to support Resolution #07-003, Bob Wiswell seconded, motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed Draft Resolution #07-005 submitted by the Mendocino County RCD advocating for a coordinated permitting process on a regional and statewide basis. After discussion Tom Wehri moved to support the Resolution #07-005, Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Cosumnes-American-Bear-Yuba (CABY) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):*
Rich Gresham gave a brief review of the CABY Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) effort including the RCD Board's past support of the effort including the District's participation in the Planning Committee along with the Nevada County, El Dorado County, and Georgetown Divide RCDs, among others.

The MOU before the Board outlines the roles and responsibilities of the MOU signatories, the structure for exchange information, and a general workplan for the implementation of the IRWMP.

After discussion, Tom Wehri moved to execute the MOU with the appointment of a Director as District Representative that will participate in the Planning Committee along with Rich, to be determined later. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD/Dept of Facility Service County- Parks Division Contract:*
Rich reviewed the Agreement for \$30K with Dept of Facility Services for vegetation management, water pollution, and grant writing consultation services. He noted additional language has been added to extend the Agreement from one to multiple years not to exceed a four year term and \$120K..

Rich reviewed his efforts to provide a role for the RCD in conjunction with the County in terms of the FERC opportunities, serving as a mechanism to get projects on the ground.

Claudia Smith moved to approve execution of the Agreement. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- e) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Annual Cost of Living Adjustment:*
Rich reviewed the Cost of Living Adjustment rate for Placer County, NRCS, and Placer County Water Agency.

After Board discussion, Bob Wiswell moved to grant a 2.63% cost of living adjustment, mirroring the NRCS adjustment rate, to employee retroactive to July 1, 2007. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- f) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Dept of Conservation (DOC) Watershed Coordinator/Grant Writer Selection Process:*
Rich reviewed a strategy to hire a contractor using an abbreviated process due to the short time frame, to finish out the current grant and facilitate the American River Watershed Group's development of a proposal for the next round of funding for the new Watershed Coordinator Program.

After Board discussion, Bob Wiswell moved to approve Rich's hiring a consultant to serve as interim Watershed Coordinator to complete the current contract and facilitate the development of a new proposal for continued Watershed Coordination for the American River Watershed Group. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Forestry & Fuels Management Committee: Stan MacDonald reported a committee meeting was held and focused on presenting Meadow Vista residents with the opportunities the PTEIR presents in terms of fuel load reduction within the community. The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for December 10th.
- Legislative Committee: No meeting was held, but Tom Wehri gave the Board an update on the Farm Bill's progress.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Bob Wiswell

- Bob updated the Board on upcoming events including the High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Executive Committee meeting that had been cancelled and rescheduled for November 16th at the SEDD office and the Annual Farm Bureau Hoedown slated for Oct. 27th at Mount Pleasant Hall.
- Bob reported he is unable to attend an upcoming Placer Ag Future Planning Meeting on November 3rd from 1-5 p.m. at the DeWitt Center with Ray Ledgerwood and solicited another representative to attend in his place. Tom Wehri and Claudia Smith both volunteered to attend.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom reported attending the CARCD Regional Fall Meeting.

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia reported the Farm & Barn event garnered approximately 2500 participants and thanked Board members that volunteered.
- Claudia reported equipment for the Mobile Poultry Processing Trailer has been ordered, but the trailer itself needs to be re-configured due to weight issues. February 2008 is the target for having the processing facility operational.

Stan MacDonald:

- Stan reported attending both the RCD Forestry & Fuels Management Committee meeting and the CARCD Regional Fall Meeting.

Steve Garcia:

- Steve reported visiting Wyoming and indicated the review of the Placer County Tree Ordinance is underway.

Chris Paull:

- Chris reported participating in both rounds of the GIS Coordinator selection process where Leah Phillips, with a background with CalFire's FRAP Unit, was chosen for the position.
- Chris chaired the CARCD Regional Fall Meeting and participated in the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council meeting the same day where the Board approved administering an additional \$2M in Prop 40 funds for the CA Forest Improvement Plan (CFIP) Program.

STAFF REPORTS

RCD Report:

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

- Katie Maloney reported the District's State Transaction Report was filed in a timely manner, she has submitted the year end reconciliation to the new CPA, with the initial annual audit field visit slated for later in the month.
- Katie continues to mentor Jane, attending meetings, and editing initial note transcriptions.
- Katie reported she continues manage RCD programs.
- Katie reported attending the Placer Nature Center 15th Anniversary Celebration and dedication of their Giving Tree, where the RCD is publicly acknowledged as a significant supporter.
- Katie reported the Prop 40 CFIP Program continues to run smoothly and is awaiting its fourth \$500K advance, another \$2M is expected to follow the final allocation of the fourth advance.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike reported sixteen EQIP applications are being processed, six irrigation projects and ten forestry projects. Only \$274K, a 42% decrease from last year, has been allocated to Placer County EQIP.
- Conservation Security Program payments for Fiscal year '08 have been approved by the State Office.
- Mike reviewed current staffing challenges in light of the fact they were not allowed to replace Paul Lake's position.
- Mike reported there have been recent instances of NRCS vehicle vandalism in connection with concurrent gasoline thefts and that cameras have now been installed as a deterrent to future problems.

COMMUNICATIONS

- RCD letter of support dated September 27th for support of the Environmental Benefits of Grazing Educational Tour and Video Projects for Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grants Program funding consideration.
- Thank you letter dated October 1st from the High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council for \$1,900 in support of the Mobile Poultry Processor Unit.
- Letter dated October 5, 2007 from Placer County Clerk-Recorder Elections regarding approaching elections, election services, and elections calendar.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy save the date notice of the December 5th symposium on *Climate Change in the Sierra Nevada*
- Placer Nature Center 15th Anniversary celebration and *Giving Tree* dedication invitation
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Notice of Public Hearing for Cemex/Patterson Sand & Gravel Mine Expansion Project/Mine Reclamation Plan/Rezoning/ Development Agreement,/ Final Environmental Impact Report.
- Placer County Agricultural Crop Report 2006
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee Agenda for October 4th meeting with minutes of August 9th and Board of Directors Meeting minutes for October 15th meeting.

- Special District and Local Government Institute *Governance Seminar* materials for February 2008
- *Great Valley News* for Fall 2007
- Placer Land Trust *Placer Harvest Festival* materials
- Sierra Business Council *Vision 2020 Awards Celebration* materials
- Save the Date for February 2008 *CA Small Farm Conference* in Visalia
- National Association of Conservation Districts letter with raffle tickets
- National Association of Conservation Districts publications, *Forestry Notes*, October 2007 and *NACD News & Views*, for September/October 2007
- Farm Service Agency newsletter, *FSA County News*, for September 2007
- Placer Grown newsletter, *Growers Gazette*, for Fall 2007
- CA Special Districts Association publication for September-October 2007
- Pipeline Association for Public Awareness newsletter, *Pipeline Awareness*, for Fall 2007
- Sample copy of *Land and Water*, Magazine of Natural Resource Management and Restoration
- Riverside-Corona RCD newsletter, *Resources Update*, Volume 22, Issue 2, 2007
- Placer/Nevada/South Sutter/North Sacramento Subwatershed Group newsletter, *PNSSNS Subwatershed Group News*, for Summer/Fall 2007
- Sunset magazine, *Water-Wise Gardening for CA*

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

After a short discussion about the holidays and the regularly scheduled November and December meetings, the Board decided to hold a joint November/December Board meeting on December 11th. The following items will be on the December 11th agenda:

- RCD Board Election of Officers for 2008
- CABY Representative Selection
- Conservation Easement Update
- 2008 Annual Planning & Staffing Discussion

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Stan MacDonald moved for adjournment. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously. Chris Paull adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.