

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
December 11, 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.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

Directors Absent: Steven Garcia

Others Present: Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist-Auburn Field Office
Rich Gresham, RCD Manager
Mark White, RCD Resource Management Planner
Jane Keillor, RCD Administrative Assistant

APPROVE THE AGENDA

A motion was made and seconded to approve an amendment to the agenda moving agenda item #7 to the first agenda item, allowing Mike Brenner to give his report for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The motion was carried unanimously and the agenda was approved as modified.

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Claudia Smith noted a correction to the minutes of October 23, 2007: Her report was changed to read 2500 participants attended the Farm & Barn event. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved with one abstention.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial reports were not submitted this month. They will be submitted at the January 2008 meeting.

NRCS REPORT

Mike Brenner gave an update of activities at NRCS. He reported that the EQIP program was a success for October, November and December of 2007 with all applicants being funded. Staff has been busy with on-site visits. Kirsten Losse went to Los Angeles to assist residents in erosion control in the aftermath of recent fires. Marie Bankus has become certified to approve contracts.

CLOSED SESSION

a) A closed session to consider Public Employment pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Position: District Manager. See below for the actions taken.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Tom Wehri summarized the outcome of this meeting:

1. The Board recommended that Rich Gresham be kept under contract as the District Manager of Placer County RCD through spring 2009, upon his retirement.
2. The Board recommended that Mark White assume the management position upon Rich Gresham's retirement. In the interim, Mark was asked to review the "scope of work" for the proposed grant for the American River Watershed Group and oversee the watershed coordinator. He was asked to assist the manager with other duties in preparation for the change in management.
3. Mark agreed to consider assuming the manager position in the future but could not commit at this time.
4. It was recommended that NRCS provide a training position for someone to learn the technical duties of Mark White's present position since technical assistance is a primary service of the PCRCD. We will work with NRCS to make this happen.

BUSINESS

Old Business:

- a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Representative Selection to the Cosumnes-American-Bear-Yuba (CABY) Planning Committee:* Chris Paull volunteered to assume the duties of representing the RCD at the quarterly meetings. The board approved this action with no discussion.

New-Business:

- b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Selection RCD Board Election of Officers for 2008:* The election was held and the new officers are: Tom Wehri- Chair, Steven Garcia, Vice Chair, Claudia Smith, Secretary/Treasurer.
- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action RE: Conservation/Mitigation Easements Opportunities Update:* Tom passed out a fact sheet about the Lincoln Bypass Rockwell Conservation Property. He believes Placer County RCD should manage this land. This would include preservation of vernal pools, grazing land plus working with small farmers who may have cattle. Tom noted agricultural activities could still occur on these lands even with mitigation. Other Resource Conservation Districts are currently managing these types of easements with great success.

A discussion followed about the feasibility of PCRCD managing conservation mitigation easements. Chris Paull voiced concerns about any liability especially since the district would be responsible in "perpetuity" for each project. Rich Gresham will obtain more information about this and will work with Tom to determine the feasibility of this mitigation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Forestry & Fuels Management Committee: Stan MacDonald reported no decisions were made this month. They will be working on the budget for next year. Rich Gresham added that a GIS map is being prepared by Leah Phillips showing the locations of current projects.
- Legislative Committee: Tom Wehri gave the Board an update on the progress of the Farm Bill and noted that former President Jimmy Carter is recommending approval of various facets of the bill.
- It was decided Mark and Rich could attend the National Associations of Conservation Districts (NACD) meeting in Reno from February 10-13, 2008. Tom Wehri volunteered to attend representing the Board. It was moved and seconded and approved for Tom to attend.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Bob Wiswell

- No report

Tom Wehri:

- The report of the annual CARCD meeting is on their website.
- Tom noted that the NACD has sent out a form for each RCD to complete on their activities. The task was deferred to Rich Gresham.
- Noting the loss of NACD President, Olin Sims, in a unanimous vote, it was decided that condolences will be sent to the NACD website on behalf of our RCD.
- Tom noted his contract with CARCD ends in February and that will conclude his activities.

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia reported her attendance at the CARCD annual convention.
- Claudia reported having attended the Ag Future Meetings. She is now serving on the marketing committee and the outreach committee. She will also be attending various farm conferences in the near future.

Stan MacDonald:

- Stan had no report.

Steve Garcia:

- Not present

Chris Paull:

- Chris reported attending the CARCD Convention. He noted that he would like to bring the State Commission back.

STAFF REPORTS

RCD Report:

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

- Mark White reported he has been busy with erosion control projects. He also has conducted 10 workshops on erosion control and storm water issues for the county.
- Mark just attended training in San Diego, sponsored by the Irrigation Association on irrigation/landscaping.
- Mark will present a 15 minute presentation on his projects at one of our meetings. Claudia asked for pictures of our completed projects and a suggestion was made for the Board to have field trips at future meetings to view some of the completed projects.
- Rich Gresham reported having met with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and Supervisor Weygandt.
- Rich is working on a possible enhancement of the RCD website by adding information on the watersheds.
- Rich will be meeting with Shelley Mathews to finalize the grant proposal for the American River Watershed Group. (ARWG) He would like a before and after analysis prepared by a biologist for the work to be done within this grant. The grant deadline is January 7, 2008.
- Rich reported that Gregg Bates, not Placer County RCD, will apply for the grant this time for the Dry Creek watershed.
- Rich reported the Red Sesbania project is continuing and we will be receiving money from 7 partners for this multi-year project.

- Jane Keillor announced the Fall Newsletter will be mailed out this month.

AGENCY REPORTS

Mike Brenner presented his NCRS report earlier in the agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated October 24th from the County of Placer regarding “Moses Annexation to Meadow Vista County Water District (LAFCO 2007-02)”
- Letter dated November 15, 2007 from Placer LAFCO regarding questionnaire
- Placer County Agricultural Commission Agenda, October 29, 2007
- Placer County Agricultural Commission Agenda, November 12, 2007
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for 2008, and Agenda for December 10, 2007 meeting
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee 2008 Meeting Schedule, and Agenda for December 6, 2007 meeting
- CARCD, *62nd Annual Conference News*, Rancho Cordova- Nov. 7-10, 2007
- California ReLeaf, *California Trees*, Fall 3007, Volume 17, No. 1
- California Forestry Association, *California Forests*, Fall 2007, Volume 11 Number 2
- California Special District Association, *California Special District*, Volume 2, Issue 6, Nov-Dec. 2007
- National Association of Conservation Districts publications, *Forestry Notes*, November 2007
- *Perspectives*- Arts Council of Placer Co., Arts Newsmagazine, November/December 2007
- Placer/Nevada/South Sutter/North Sacramento Subwatershed Group newsletter, *PNSSNS Subwatershed Group News for Winter 2007*
- State Compensation Insurance Fund, *Safety News*, Issue Four, 2007
- *Stewardship Council, Update*, October 2007

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- American River Watershed Coordinator Proposal
- Mark White Trainee update
- RCD Clothing Consideration
- Conservation Easement Management Update

ADJOURNMENT

New Chair, Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.