

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
July 15, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Placer County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Board was called to order by RCD Board Chair Tom Wehri at 4:02 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present:

Thomas (Tom) Wehri  
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.  
Stanley (Stan) MacDonald  
Claudia Smith  
Scott Harvey  
Andrew (Dave) Funk  
Steven (Steve) Garcia

Directors Absent:       None

Others Present:

Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist-Auburn Field Office  
Rich Gresham, RCD Manager  
Katie Maloney, RCD Programs Manager  
Ryan Bellanca, RCD/NRCS GIS Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Scott Harvey moved to approve the agenda as presented. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Claudia Smith moved to approve the minutes of May 19, 2008 RCD Board Meeting as presented. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously with Scott Harvey abstaining due to his absence at the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the Financial Statements and the Grants and Programs Summaries for the months ending May 31, 2008 and June 30, 2008

Bob Wiswell moved to approve the financial statements and reports as presented. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Katie Maloney reviewed a Budget Variance Report for the Twelve Months ending June 30, 2008.

Tom Wehri reviewed RCD Program balances and noted the District's reduction in the General Fund balance at year end is directly related to the reduction in the Chipper Program fund balance as of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Rich Gresham updated the Board on the new arrangement with Placer County to provide the Chipper Program with fuel at county rates for gasoline and diesel. Each Chipper Supervisor has a fuel card that has tracking capabilities in terms of fuels use associated with each chipper vehicle and unit. This arrangement addresses the loss of fuel for the program previously provided through a grant funded CalFire operations budget that is no longer in place.

Katie Maloney reported the current MOU with Placer County providing \$50K in Chipper Program support have been fully invoiced and should provide program funding thru mid- September. This will hopefully keep the program in operation until the expected \$200K from CalFire is in place.

Tom Wehri clarified the RCD Board's position that the Chipper Program is a self sustaining program and if funding is ever fully depleted, chipping operations will be suspended until funding can be acquired. The Board concurred.

Steve Garcia reported meetings regarding Chipper Program sustainability are being held and discussion is taking place.

The Board acknowledged the success and ongoing need for the Chipper Program and positively acknowledged Steve and Rich's pursuit of program sustainability into the future.

## BUSINESS

### New Business:

a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD 2008-2009 Annual Plan and Staff Allocation:*

Tom Wehri reviewed a staffing proposal that addresses current conditions in terms of staffing, the potential loss of key personnel with Rich Gresham's impending retirement and the need to ensure continuity in resource management expertise to landowners, agencies, and local jurisdictions. Tom's proposal included the pursuit of a two year contribution agreement with NRCS to share the costs of trainee soil conservation/erosion control specialist under the RCD's current Resource Management Planner, Mark White. Tom indicated preliminary discussions with NRCS has garnered positive response and recommended the Board pursue an agreement with NRCS over the next few months in hopes of acquiring a funding partner. The Board concurred that Tom and staff should pursue an NRCS partnership.

Rich reported current staffing levels will be maintained with the continuation of support from funding partners at current levels for the next fiscal year.

Rich reviewed the revised Draft RCD 2008-2009 Annual Plan and Staff Allocations that incorporated board feedback during the annual planning session and gathered additional input that included additional emphasis on promoting water quality goals and objectives in terms of landowner assistance and additional verbiage linking fuel load reduction efforts to a reduction in greenhouse gases.

Scott Harvey moved to approve both the 2008-2009 Annual Plan and the Staff Allocations with the noted changes. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Draft RCD Budget 2008-2009:*

Katie Maloney reviewed the proposed RCD Budget for 2008-2009 with the Board. The proposed budget reflects an 8% reduction in tax revenues, should the state hold back tax revenue to special districts as they have in the past to balance the state budget.

After discussion that revolved around staffing needs and potential sources of income including the potential for grant funding, Tom Wehri recommended the Board consider transferring \$15K from the Unrestricted Fund Balance to the Restricted Fund Balance to increase the Building Fund.

After Board discussion, Bob Wiswell moved to transfer \$12K from the Unrestricted Fund Balance to the Restricted Fund Balance to increase the Building Fund. Claudia Smith seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Tom then recommended approving the proposed budget with a reduction in salaries and associated expense categories by \$30K for Rich's Salary to reflect his plan to retire before

next fiscal year end and a 25% reduction in funding allocated to the trainee position to reflect an expected time lag in adding staff.

Stan MacDonald moved to approve the budget with the recommended reductions in Salaries and associated expenses like payroll taxes and benefits. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Services Agreement with Katie Maloney:* Rich Gresham recommended the Board execute a new Services Agreement with Katie Maloney for administrative services and programs management for next fiscal year. The agreement reflects an \$5 hourly rate increase to \$30 an hour for RCD administrative work. \$23,400 has been specifically allocated for RCD administrative work in addition to grant/agreement administration as stipulated in individual grant/agreements at a rate of \$45 per hour.

After a short discussion, Claudia Smith moved to approve the Services Agreement as presented. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Services Agreement with Dorene Matney:* Rich Gresham recommended the Board execute the \$4,800 Services Agreement with Dorene Matney for webmaster services for next fiscal year.

Scott Harvey moved to approve the Service Agreement as presented. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- e) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Contract for Draft Strategy Review for DFG American Basin Working Landscapes Project:*

Rich Gresham reviewed the American Basin Working Group's request that the RCD contract with Richard Harris to assist with the review and facilitation of numerous meetings to gather stakeholder input for the American Basin Working Landscapes Strategy. He recommended the Board approve entering into an agreement with Richard Harris as requested.

Steve Garcia moved to approve the request as presented. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously.

#### RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Forestry & Fuels Management Committee: Stan MacDonald reported the Committee met and reviewed their budget needs determined to be \$5-7K for the fiscal year. Grant funding opportunities are also being explored.
- Education Committee: Claudia reported meeting with Rich to discuss a subcommittee budget request of \$5K to continue supporting various efforts throughout the fiscal year.
- Legislative Committee: Rich reported forward movement in terms of setting up the State Resources Advisory Committee.

#### DIRECTORS' REPORTS

*Tom Wehri:*

- Tom Wehri reviewed new 404 permitting parameters as published in the Federal Register as related to mitigation banking in lieu of mitigation fees.

Board discussion revolved around Barry Anderson's recommendation that the RCD explore the development of a watershed based mitigation banking program.

Dave Funk stressed the need for the RCD to explore the idea thoroughly and recommended working with potential partners to identify constraints and opportunities.

Tom recommended moving forward with the exploratory phase and asked for Board approval. The Board concurred.

*Claudia Smith:*

- Claudia reported the Mobile Poultry Processing Facility is moving forward.

*Steve Garcia:*

- Steve reported spending the last 24 days on the American River Complex Fire.

#### RCD STAFF REPORTS

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

- Rich Gresham reported he has begun coordinating a field trip that will showcase on-the-ground projects including healthy forest and fuel load reduction, invasives control and eradication, and vegetation management projects.
- Rich reported he will be attending the October 11<sup>th</sup> *Annual Wildfire on the Divide* event to promote a stewardship approach to land management and the CA Forest Improvement Plan (CFIP) cost share program.
- Rich reported John Moberly has been selected as the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) Special District representative.
- Katie Maloney reported she continues to conduct her normal monthly duties and has provided the CPA with her comments regarding the draft financial statement for last fiscal year.
- Ryan Bellanca handed out his Annual Report.
- Ryan reported GIS mapping is coming along fairly well now that several equipment failures are behind him.
- Ryan noted his desire to pursue a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) designation. Rich is working with Ryan to develop a programmatic approach that will provide Ryan with the hours needed to obtain RPF status. The Board was supportive of Ryan's current efforts and future plans.

#### AGENCY REPORTS

In addition to the written activity reports for May and June, submitted in the Board Package, the following points were discussed.

- Mike briefly reviewed his activity reports and noted 18 application packages have been sent out to interested cooperators.
- Mike reported being informed that Marie Bankus' current position will no longer be funded after September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Mike reported the promotion of conservation planning and outreach to landowners adjacent to established EQIP cooperators.
- Mike reported the new Farm Bill includes increased conservation funding; the parameters are currently being developed.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated April 11<sup>th</sup> from Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) regarding the shift in principal county status for the Donner Summit Public Utility District from Nevada County to Placer County.

- Letter dated May 14<sup>th</sup> acknowledging receipt of the funding proposal for a North Fork American River Watershed Coordinator and expressing regret that the proposal was not selected for funding.
- Letter dated May 21<sup>st</sup> from Placer County LAFCo announcing John Moberly as the Special District Representative and Bill Schumacher as Alternate.
- PlacerGROWN invitation dated April 16<sup>th</sup> to their Annual Membership Meeting slated for May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Cover letter dated July 8<sup>th</sup> from the Nevada County RCD with their 2007 Annual Report.
- CA Invasive Plant Council 2008 Symposium registration materials slated for October 2-4, 2008.
- Sacramento, Amador, Placer, El Dorado FSA County News for June 2008
- National Park Service - Pacific West Regional Newsletter related to their Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.
- Riverside-Corona RCD newsletter, *Resources Update*, for 2008
- CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) publication, *CA Special District*, for May/June 2008, Education Programs Catalog, and Annual Conference registration materials
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) newsletters, *Forestry Notes*, for May and June 2008
- NACD newsletter, *News & Views*, for March/April and May/June 2008
- Placer County Arts Council magazine, *Perspectives*, for July/August 2008
- Wildlife Supply Catalog for 2008

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The August agenda will include the following items:

- Chipper Program Funding Update
- Annual Cost of Living Adjustment
- Regional Red Sesbania Eradication Effort
- Placer Land Trust Funding Request

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Claudia Smith moved for adjournment. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously. Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.