

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
September 16, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Placer County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Board was called to order by RCD Board Vice Chair Steve Garcia at 4:03 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

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

Claudia Smith moved to approve the agenda as presented. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Brenda Dabovich, Foresthill resident and prospective RCD volunteer

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Stan MacDonald moved to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2008 RCD Board Meeting with the correction of typographical errors. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the Financial Statements and the Grants and Programs Summaries for the month ending August 31, 2008

Stan MacDonald moved to approve the financial statements and reports as presented. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

Old Business:

- a) *Board Update: Review of Grant Funding Proposal Submissions :*
The Board reviewed grant funding proposals previously approved for submission to the grantors for funding consideration. Ryan Bellanca reviewed minor changes made to the draft proposals and fielded questions from the Board.
- b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: NRCS/RCD GIS Project Cost Sharing Partnership Agreements:*
Rich Gresham reviewed pending cost share agreements for the NRCS/RCD GIS Project including the \$30K NRCS and the \$5K El Dorado County RCD Contribution Agreements. Rich reviewed the GIS Coordinator budget that prospectively includes another \$10K from the Nevada County RCD, \$5K from the Georgetown Divide RCD, and \$15K from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Agreement.

After a short discussion, Tom Wehri moved to approve the execution of the NRCS Contribution Agreement for \$30K. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Claudia Smith moved to approve the El Dorado County RCD Contribution Agreement for \$5K. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: American Basin Council of Watersheds Funding Request:*
Rich Gresham reviewed the \$100 funding request to help defray the costs of a Low Impact Development (LID) Conference being conducted by the American Basin Council of Watersheds (ABCW).

After a short discussion revolving around the efforts of the ABCW to promote low impact development in Placer County, Dave Funk moved to approve the contribution of \$100 to support ABCW's LID Conference. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- d) *Update Re: Conservation Easement Discussions:*
Dave Funk updated the Board on the meetings that took place over the last month with both Barry Anderson of North Fork Associates and Jeff Darlington of the Placer Land Trust (PLT). The meetings highlighted a need for riparian restoration, continued discussion to identify partnership opportunities, and an exchange of GIS data for incorporation into the RCD GIS database. It was suggested the best avenue of developing a role for the RCD in conservation easements may be through non-profits vs. developers. The Board concurred regarding the need to continue discussions to develop a prospective conservation easement management role for the RCD.

RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Forestry and Fuels Management Committee: Rich Gresham reported the committee met and reviewed the Squaw Valley fuels reduction project and made plans for continued participation in the CA Stewardship Coordinating Committee and CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts Forestry and Fuels Management Subcommittee upon Stan MacDonald's impending retirement from the RCD Board.

The Board acknowledged Stan's ongoing contributions to state forestry efforts during his years of service on the RCD Board.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Tom Wehri:

- Tom reported on his attendance of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Regional Meeting where he networked with the CA State Conservationist and other regional representatives. He noted a topic of discussion at the regional meeting revolved around cost accounting and indirect expenses. The NACD Annual meeting will be held in New Orleans this year and Tom recommended the RCD put in for the NACD award for the collaboration and partnership and volunteered to draft the submittal on behalf of the Board. After Board discussion that revolved around the need to promote the RCD, the Board accepted his offer to prepare a submittal to the NACD for the award due September 21st.

Dave Funk:

- Dave reported he had the opportunity to travel through the central west over the last month and noted signage he observed during the trip that identified individual RCD jurisdictions. Board discussion revolved around previous signage efforts and constraints regarding the placement of signage that currently exists in California.

Bob Wiswell:

- Bob reported on fires the Lincoln area experienced over the last month and the fact that landowners mobilized to help fight fires. Board discussion revolved around how locals can better help fire fighters, not necessarily from the area in which they are fighting fires, and how local knowledge of unmarked access points can assist fire fighters in their efforts.

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia reported being busy with harvest and Farmer's Market activities.

Stan MacDonald:

- Stan confirmed he will be retiring from the RCD Board when his current term is up, therefore a new representative to the state subcommittees will need to be identified so the RCD continues to have an active role at the state level in forestry issues and oversight of Forest Legacy projects. After a brief discussion, Steve Garcia suggested Dave Funk as the new RCD representative to state level committees, the Board concurred, and Dave accepted the responsibility.

Steve Garcia:

- Steve reported he has been accepted for additional law enforcement training thru CalFire and indicated that training may place constraints on his RCD Board activities in the first six months of 2009. He asked for Board guidance regarding how they wish to handle the anticipated reduction in his participation including his possible resignation, should the Board desire to have a more active member for those six months. After a short discussion revolving around Steve's contributions to the RCD, the Board concurred on riding it out and requested Steve remain on the Board during his training and wished him luck in his new endeavor.

RCD STAFF REPORTS

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

- Rich Gresham reviewed Directors' terms and asked if Claudia, Bob, and Tom wished to be recommended for a new term. All three confirmed their commitment to the RCD and asked Rich to send a letter to the Placer County Board of Supervisors requesting they be renewed for another term. Rich reviewed the process that will be followed to replace Stan's position on the Board.
- Katie requested a headcount for the CARCD Annual Meeting and Conference in November and noted those interested in participating.
- Katie Maloney reported she is still waiting for the CPA to complete the 6-30-07 Financial Statements and expressed frustration with their delay in completing the report in a timely manner.
- Ryan Bellanca reported giving a presentation at the NACD Regional Meeting.
- Ryan reported he staffed the booth at the Gold Country Fair and purchased a RCD banner to better promote the RCD at the fair and other public events.

AGENCY REPORTS

In addition to the written activity report for August/September, submitted in the Board Package, the following points were discussed.

- Mike reported the Local Working Group met today to provide guidance on the 2009 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) allocations.
- Mike reviewed his activity report reflecting the completion of 14 2009 EQIP applications and field checks/site visits conducted.
- Mike reported Auburn Field Office Engineer Kirsten Losse has begun serving the Jackson Field Office.
- Mike reported he has submitted a new office space floor plan to USDA for review and approval.

COMMUNICATIONS

- RCD letter of support dated August 22nd for American, Bear, & Yuba watersheds signage project proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- RCD letter of support dated August 26th for the City of Rocklin's Open Space Fire Prevention and Vegetation Management Prescribed Grazing Project in the Pleasant Grove and Dry Creek watersheds
- Letter dated August 21st from the CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) soliciting CSDA Committee participation for 2009
- CSDA Annual Conference and Exhibitor Showcase registration materials
- PG&E and NID Comments on Drum-Spauling Project FERC Project No. 2310-1 Scoping Document #1
- SMUD letter dated August 22nd noticing the Availability of Final CEQA Supplement to FERC/USFS Final EIS; Upper American River Project (FRC Project No. 2101-084)
- Placer County Agricultural Commission agenda for the September 8th meeting
- Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Range Management Advisory Committee agenda for September 23rd
- Thank you card from UC Berkeley Chancellor for contribution to FRAP Unit
- Community Volunteer Day notice for Squaw Valley Park on October 11th
- Placer County Air Pollution Control District memo dated September 9th regarding Agricultural Burning Procedures - Fall 2008 Program
- NACD newsletter, *Forestry Notes*, for September 2008
- Farm Service Agency newsletter, *FSA County News*, for September 2008
- Protect American River Canyons newsletter, *The Confluence*, for summer 2008
- Placer Arts publication, *Perspectives*, for September/October 2008

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The October RCD Board Meeting Agenda will include the following items:

- CARCD Annual Meeting Delegate Selection
- CARCD Resolution Review
- Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council Second Alternate Selection

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Tom Wehri moved for adjournment. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously. Steve Garcia adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.