

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
November 10, 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 4:06 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

Directors Absent: Scott Harvey

Others Present: Rich Gresham, RCD Manager  
Katie Maloney, RCD Programs Manager  
Ryan Bellanca, RCD/NRCS GIS Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Tom Wehri requested the addition of an agenda item to allow discussion and possible action regarding sending representation to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting. He noted if the District wants to send a representative, they need to address it immediately to allow adequate time to make travel arrangements as the meeting takes place the end of January. Claudia Smith moved to approve the agenda with the additional item as requested. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Dr. Richard Harris

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Stan MacDonald moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2008 RCD Board Meeting as presented. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial reports were deferred to the December meeting.

BUSINESS

New Business:

a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: CALFED Watershed Riparian Buffer Project Funding Proposal:*

Rich Gresham introduced Dr. Richard Harris and indicated Dr. Harris' interest in having the Board consider acting as lead agency and administrator of the proposed \$500K CALFED funding proposal to develop a scientifically credible toolbox for determining appropriate riparian buffers for submission to the State Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Dr. Harris briefly reviewed his background and experience for the Board and reviewed his draft "Scope of Work" for the CALFED proposal included in the Board package for review prior to the meeting. Discussion revolved around the proposal's pragmatic approach to the issue of developing a scientifically credible toolbox of approaches to support land use planners in their efforts to determine appropriate riparian buffers in developing areas. Dr. Harris is familiar with the issue in terms of historical policy and many of the individuals involved with the issue.

After Board discussion revolving around the scope, budget, deliverables, and existing rules and regulations, Rich requested the Board approve the submission of the proposal to the State Regional Water Quality Control Board for funding consideration and administer the project should it be awarded funding.

Steve Garcia moved to approve the request. Dave Fund seconded; motion carried unanimously.

b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Technical Assistance Options:*

Tom Wehri reported NRCS has denied the District's request to cost share a technical assistant or the equivalent of an NRCS Resource Conservationist.

Board discussion revolved around possible options without NRCS cost sharing including the possibility of offering internships to college students in resource management degree programs.

Tom suggested the Board direct Rich to develop a Resource Conservationist job description with the intention of re-approaching NRCS in the spring. The Board concurred.

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Fidymont Ranch Re-vegetation Assistance:*

Rich Gresham reviewed his search for additional funding to assist with the re-seeding project related to Fidymont Ranch mitigation site and the costs associated with using certified native seed.

After a short Board discussion related to costs, the Board agreed to offer the use of the no-till drill for the project.

d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: NACD Conference Representation:*

Tom Wehri reported the District has been selected as the recipient for the NACD Pacific Region Collaborative Conservation Award. He indicated he will accept the regional award on behalf of the District in Riverside. The regional winners will be acknowledged at the NACD Annual Meeting in New Orleans in end of January. Tom asked the Board to consider sending a representative to the Annual Meeting.

After a short discussion, Claudia Smith volunteered to attend on behalf of the Board. Stan MacDonald moved to send two Board members to the New Orleans meeting if Tom is also available to attend. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

### RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Deferred

### DIRECTORS' REPORTS

*Steve Garcia:*

- Steve indicated that due to budget restraints his post Academy training has been cancelled.

*Tom Wehri:*

- Tom reported The Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council has voted to accept an additional \$2.8M in Prop 40 funding for the CA Forest Improvement Plan Program the District is administering on behalf of the council.
- Tom reviewed two new draft resolutions to be considered at the CA Association of Resource Conservation District Annual Meeting and Conference. The Board agreed to support both resolutions. One will move the Feather River RCD to the Sacramento Region and the other supports CARCD encouragement of resource management careers.

### RCD STAFF REPORTS

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

- Rich Gresham reported the Rose Foundation proposal to provide interim American River Watershed Group coordination was not entertained due to the foundation's current funding constraints.
- Rich reported the Red Sesbania Program Monitoring Report is now available to those interested.
- Ryan Bellanca reported the GIS training session he attended in Florida was very informative and helped him with a problem he had been struggling with.

### AGENCY REPORTS

Mike Brenner was not available for the meeting due to the change in meeting date.

### COMMUNICATIONS

- Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council letter dated October 27<sup>th</sup> thanking the District for participation in the *Wildfire on the Divide* event
- Rose Foundation letter dated October 29<sup>th</sup> to the American River Watershed Group citing funding constraints in terms of entertaining the coordination proposal submitted for funding consideration
- NACD letter dated November 3<sup>rd</sup> informing the District that it has been selected for the Pacific Region Collaborative Conservation Award
- Placer County Flood Control & Water Conservation District November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda
- City of Lincoln Redevelopment Agency materials
- Forest Foundation publication, *Protection Communities and Saving Forests*
- Riverside-Corona RCD publication, *Resources Update*
- NACD newsletter, *Forestry Notes*, for November 2008

### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Annual Election of Board Officers and Committee Structure and Membership
- RCD Resource Conservationist Job Description Review

### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Claudia Smith moved for adjournment. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously. Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.