

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
December 16, 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 4:03 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

Directors Absent: One seat vacant

Others Present: Rich Gresham, RCD Manager
Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist
Mark White, RCD Resources Management Planner
Katie Maloney, RCD Programs Manager
Ryan Bellanca, RCD/NRCS GIS Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Bob Wiswell moved to approve the minutes of the RCD Board Meeting of November 10, 2008 as presented. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously with Scott Harvey abstaining due to his absence at the November meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the October and November financial reports and fielded questions. Claudia Smith moved to approve the financial reports with a minor correction to reflect a recent amendment to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

agreement increasing the total amount of the agreement to \$150K. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

New Business:

- a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Board Election of Officers and Board Committee Structure and Membership for 2009:*
The Board held their annual election of RCD Board Officers. Claudia Smith moved to retain the current slate of officers as follows: Tom Wehri as Chair, Steve Garcia as Vice Chair, and Claudia Smith as Secretary/Treasurer. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Board Committee structure and membership and made the following changes:

Forestry & Fuels Management Committee: Dave Funk will Chair committee consisting of Steve Garcia, with Mike Brenner, Douglas Ferrier, and Ryan Bellanca advising.

Ag & Lands Committee: Bob Wiswell will Chair committee consisting of Claudia Smith and Dave Funk, with Mike Brenner advising.

Scott Harvey moved to eliminate the Fisheries & Wildlife Committee with the intention of addressing issues related to fisheries and wildlife within the appropriate Forestry or Ag and Lands Committees. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Education Committee: Claudia Smith will Chair committee consisting of Tom Wehri and Scott Harvey, with Ryan Bellanca advising.

Legislative Committee: Tom Wehri will Chair committee consisting of Scott Harvey, with Mark White advising.

Operations Committee: Tom Wehri will Chair committee with Steve Garcia and Claudia Smith, with Rich Gresham advising.

Scott Harvey moved to approve all changes made to committee structure and membership as reflected above. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Retainer Agreement with Ellen Berryman:*
Rich Gresham noted with the Board moving towards the management of conservation easements, the need to retain a biologist to assist the board in their efforts has become evident. Rich requested the Board consider retaining the services of Ellen Berryman as a biologist. Ms Berryman would provide the Board with expertise as needed. Ms. Berryman has agreed to serve the District on a retainer basis.

After a short discussion regarding experience and qualifications, Scott Harvey moved to approve retaining Ms. Berryman's services as a biologist. Claudia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Resource Conservationist Position:*

Tom Wehri reviewed past discussion related to the acquisition of a Resource Conservationist and asked Mark White to review recent discussion exploring opportunities that existing NRCS employees might offer in relation to a shared RCD/NRCS Resource Conservationist position.

Mark White recommended current NRCS employee Marie Bankus be considered for the position and reviewed her past experience with the Farm Services Agency and her current role with NRCS as a Farm Bill Assistant servicing three counties. He noted Ms. Bankus has expressed an interest in the position.

Mike Brenner noted Ms. Bankus' current position is only funded thru June 2009.

Board discussion resulted in a Board recommendation to move forward with the development of a job description for the position and the pursuit of a cost sharing proposal that can be presented to NRCS for consideration this coming spring.

RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Forestry and Fuels Management Committee:

Dave Funk reported the Committee met with Dr. Harris regarding the development of public workshops targeting foothill areas. The Committee also discussed options to distribute fire safe literature to the public and the need for an ongoing fire safety education effort.

The Committee also discussed the effort to update the Placer County Tree Ordinance.

The next Committee meeting will be held January 12th at 9:30 a.m.

Dave Funk informed the Board of retired Director Stan MacDonald's offer to serve as an Associate Director. Dave Funk moved to accept Stan's offer. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Committee:

Tom Wehri reported the Prompt Payment Act was not approved by the Governor after being passed by the Legislature. On the federal level, discussions pertaining to the development of an Infrastructure Rehabilitation Plan are being conducted.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Dave Funk:

- Dave attended the CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Conference and Annual Meeting where he participated in the Forestry Tour. He was impressed with the variety of different efforts being conducted by the state's RCDs.

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia reported she has registered for the upcoming National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Conference and Meeting in New Orleans.

Steve Garcia:

- Steve expressed his interest in attending the International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference to be held in Reno where issues regarding vegetation management within the Wildland/Urban Interface will be discussed. The Board agreed to consider the request at next month's meeting.
- Steve attended training in Lone where pre-fire planning is a priority and expressed interest in developing a similar effort locally.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom reported attending the CARCD Conference and Annual Meeting that focused on mitigation issues and attended the seminar pertaining to legal issues related to conservation easement management. He also accepted the Conservation Star on behalf of the District for paying full dues.
- Tom reported attending meetings to discuss potential partnership opportunities with CalTrans in relation to the management of a conservation easement on the Rockwell Ranch property that consists of oak woodlands and includes a reach of Coon Creek.
- Tom delivered the Dept. of Conservation's Watershed Coordinator Program Final Report for the RCD library.
- Tom was the recipient of the 2008 CARCD President's Award at the annual meeting.

RCD STAFF REPORTS

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

- Rich Gresham requested Board participation on the team that will interview those persons interested in filling the vacancy left by Stan MacDonald's retirement. Steve Garcia, Dave Funk, and Tom Wehri volunteered to participate.
- Rich informed the Board of a \$36 funding request to sponsor the CA Rangeland Coalition Summit on a cost share basis with other RCDs. The

Board concurred the RCD should participate in the sponsorship effort and confirmed Rich's ability to administratively approve the expenditure .

- Katie Maloney reported the '06-'07 Audited Financial Statements have finally been received and are being reviewed by the new CPA, Robert W. Johnson. Mr. Johnson will begin his field work on the RCD's '07-'08 audit in early January, the audit confirmation process is already in process.
- Ryan Bellanca briefly reviewed the ARC Fuels training session he attended.
- It was reported the Nevada County RCD is not expected to continue cost sharing Ryan's position for the '08-'09 fiscal year due to their lack of need for GIS expertise.
- Ryan reported the Chipper funding proposal was not chosen for funding and noted he will be re-working the funding proposals for other funding opportunities.
- Mark White reported working on county contract tasks as well as being involved in farm planning efforts.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike Brenner reported NRCS is processing 38 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications; 30 of which are forestry practices related; 8 are focused on irrigation assistance.
- NRCS is conducting an audit of all open agency obligations. Each field office is reviewing its records for compliance. The Auburn office has been assisting other field offices with the audit.
- Payments under the Conservation Security Program (CSP) have been authorized for 2009.
- Auburn Office Engineer Kirsten Losse has been training a new engineer from Ohio.
- Mike indicated secure parking for vehicles will be a prime consideration in the search for office space. Mike requested time on the next Board Agenda so he can review the criteria being used in the search for USDA Service Center office space. The Board agreed.

COMMUNICATIONS

- NACD letter dated November 14th informing the District that it has not been selected for the National Collaborative Conservation Award

- NACD letter dated December 9th congratulating the District them for being awarded the Pacific Region Collaborative Conservation Award
- High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Area letter dated November 20th thanking the District for the \$250 contribution to the 5th Placer County Farm & Barn Tour
- Placer County Records letter dated December 8th regarding Dept of Fish & Game fee increases effective January 1st
- District response to Grand Jury inquiry regarding contact information and Annual Grand Jury Report access via web
- CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) memo regarding CSDA Region 2 Board vacancy and request for letters of interest
- CA Regional Water Quality Control Board – Lahontan Board notice of Draft Resolution for comment regarding \$46,216 in Red Dog Diesel Spill Mitigation Funding for the Squaw Valley Public Services District to develop a monitoring plan and groundwater management database for Squaw Valley
- Placer County Flood Control & Water Conservation District memo with 2009 Technical Advisory Committee meeting schedule
- Copy of information package, cover letter dated November 20th from Placer County Auditor to Tom Skjelstad Gen. Manager of Donner Summit PUD regarding the Sugar Bowl Annexation to Donner PUD.
- USDA Farm Services Agency newsletter, *Farm Services News*, November 2008
- NACD newsletter, *Forestry Notes*, for December 2008
- Placer Arts magazine, *Perspectives*, for November/December 2008
- Dept. of Water Resources newsletter, *Water Conservation News*, for Fall 2008
- CA ReLeaf newsletter, *California Trees*, for Fall 2008
- Special District and Local Government Institute's Governance Seminar registration materials
- CSDA magazine, *CA Special District*, for November/December 2008

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The January RCD Board Meeting Agenda may include the following items:

- RCD Resource Conservationist Position Update

- Office Space Criteria Review
- International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference
- 2010 Cannon National Envirothon Sponsorship
- '06-'07 Financial Statement Review
- RCD Personnel Policy Review & Update

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Claudia Smith moved for adjournment. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously. Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.