

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
February 17, 2009**

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  
Claudia Smith  
Scott Harvey  
Andrew (Dave) Funk  
Robin Mahoney  
Stan MacDonald, Associate Director

Directors Absent: Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.

Others Present: Rich Gresham, RCD Manager  
Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist  
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

Chris Collison, CalTrans  
Ellen Berryman, Biologist

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Claudia Smith moved to approve the minutes of the RCD Board Meeting of December 16, 2008 and January 30, 2009 as presented. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried unanimously with Scott Harvey and Tom Wehri abstaining due to their absence at the January meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the December 2008 and January 2009 financial reports. Katie noted the need to adjust the amount invoiced to the Red Sesbania program per communications received after the Board package went out that will reduce the amount invoiced from \$20K to \$10K. Claudia Smith moved to

approve the financial reports with the noted invoice adjustment. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously

## BUSINESS

New Business:

a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: National Association of Fire Chiefs Conference:*

Steve Garcia requested the Board consider approving paying the registration for him to attend the National Association of Fire Chiefs Conference. After a short discussion, Scott Harvey moved to approve the request. Dave Fund seconded; motion carried unanimously.

b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: 2010 Cannon Envirothon Sponsorship:*

Tom Wehri reviewed his request that the Board consider contributing \$250 to support the National Envirothon event. After a short discussion, Claudia Smith moved to approve the request. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously.

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD/CalFire MOU:*

Rich Gresham distributed a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) while Steve Garcia reviewed the CalFire Hired Equipment Safety Training Program. Steve requested the Board consider approving a Memorandum of Understanding in concept and indicated the potential need for additional indemnification language. He indicated the MOU will be reviewed at the State level before finalizing the language.

After Board discussion, Claudia Smith moved to approve the RCD's proposed partnership in the CalFire Hired Equipment Safety Training and subsequent MOU in concept, with the understanding that the language may be refined after Sacramento's review of the document. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously.

d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: GIS Metadata Subcontract:*

Rich Gresham reviewed the need to develop the GIS metadata library under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) contract currently in place. He reported the SNC has approved contracting out the task and requested the Board consider approving a \$5K contract with Adam Bartkoski to develop the library.

Ryan Bellanca reviewed Adam Bartkoski's experience and the proposed contract's 'Scope of Work'.

After Board discussion, Scott Harvey moved to approve the contract as presented. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

e) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Hiring a Contractor to provide Spanish Translation of Educational Materials:*

Rich Gresham reviewed the county's request for the RCD to hire a contractor to under the county contract currently in place to provide Spanish translation of stormwater management informational materials and requested Board approval to hire a translator as requested by the county.

After Board discussion, Dave Funk moved to approve contracting out the task of translating the materials as requested. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

f) *Update Re: RCD Personnel Policy Review and Update*

Tom Wehri reported RCD's Personnel Policy has been undergoing an Operations Committee review and outlined suggested changes being considered including having the RCD policy match the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy in terms of annual leave, sick leave, and number of paid holidays. He indicated the committee is considering changing the PERS contribution policy from 100% RCD funded to sharing contributions with employees. Health benefits and deferred compensation are two issues still under review. Tom indicated he will continue to keep the Board informed of the committee's progress.

g) *Update Re: Office Space Criteria Review:*

Mike Brenner reported the lease on our current office space is on a month to month basis. Mike indicated he has submitted an official office space needs request to the Davis office for review in light of the Farm Services Agency's (FSA's) mandated pull out of Auburn's USDA Service Center. FSA used a significant amount of office space and contributed 24% of the rent. This change along with the month to month lease has made finding more appropriate office space a priority. Mike indicated vandalism of government vehicles in the parking lot has been a problem at the current site making secure parking an important consideration in the search for new accommodations. Mike has not yet received any feedback on his request.

Tom Wehri volunteered to help assess local office space options available to house the service center

h) *Update Re: RCD Resource Conservationist Position:*

Rich Gresham reported he has not received any feedback from NRCS regarding the Resource Conservationist cost share proposal that he submitted for their consideration. He suggested the Board review the RCD budget with the intention of bearing the cost of the position in its entirety in the face of current economic pressures.

After discussion highlighted the likelihood of the RCD having to move forward on its own, the Board directed staff to finalize the job description and job announcement for Board approval next month.

## RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

### *Ag & Lands Committee:*

Dave Funk introduced Chris Collison from CalTrans and Ellen Berryman, now under retainer to the RCD, to the Board. Dave gave the Board an update on the Rockwell Ranch Conservation Preserve and suggested the Board consider passing a resolution to show the RCD's intent to move forward with the pursuit of managing the preserve and form a committee to deal with the organization and minutia of pursuing that goal.

Tom Wehri presented the Board with a draft resolution, organizational chart, and proposed committee process to continue moving forward and recommended Board approval of the draft resolution indicating the RCD's commitment to moving forward with the process.

Chris Collison thanked the Board for considering the resolution and a process dedicated to accomplishing the mutual goal of resource conservation. Chris reported the Western Placer School District has also expressed an interest in managing the conservation preserve and linking that management with educational programs. Chris stressed CalTrans' obligation to give each potential partner full consideration.

After Board discussion, Steve Garcia moved to pass the resolution as drafted and the appointment of a committee as recommended. Scott Harvey seconded. After further discussion that resulted in amending the draft resolution's language, Robin Mahoney moved to approved the amended resolution, and committee formation. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried with Dave Funk abstaining due to having professional relationships with partners in the effort.

Tom Wehri proceeded by appointing Dave Funk, Robin Mahoney, Ellen Berryman, and Rich Gresham to the committee. The committee was directed to develop a broad-based proposal for the management and use of the Rockwell Ranch property for submission to CalTrans by March 2<sup>nd</sup> for their consideration.

Chris Collison requested the proposal meet management plan parameters and include a vision for the use of the property.

## DIRECTORS' REPORTS

### *Scott Harvey:*

- Scott received a call from the CA Dept. of Conservation to inquire if he was still interested in serving on the State Advisory Committee. He indicated he was still interested and expects to hear shortly about who was selected to serve on the advisory board.

### *Steve Garcia:*

- Steve reported sales at the Magalia Seedling Nursery have been sluggish and asked everyone to assist with getting the word out about the nursery.
- Steve announced Allen Edwards will be hosting a Forestry field day on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Robin Mahoney:*

- Robin reported that he along with Dave Funk, Doug Ferrier, and Rich Gresham met with Placer Land Trust to review two properties being slated for stream restoration. The meeting fostered potential partnership by offering RCD expertise to PLT to assist them in their efforts.

*Claudia Smith:*

- Claudia reported on the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Conference she attended with Tom Wehri on behalf of the Board. She indicated NACD educational materials are available for local distribution at low cost.
- Claudia attended a watershed coalition meeting related to Agricultural Waivers and indicated she expects the group to approach the Board next month for a donation as declining membership is a source of financial hardship in terms of conducting the required water quality testing.
- Claudia was contacted by Hewlett Packard about participating in Earth Day activities. She indicated she would like to see the promotion of soil stewardship at Earth Day events.

*Tom Wehri:*

- Tom reviewed his activities at the NACD Conference where the RCD was recognized at the national level as the Pacific Region Conservation Partnership Award winner.

Tom noted outstanding districts on the national level are active in education.

- Tom reviewed the meetings he attended including the RCD Operations Committee and the CA Special Districts Association (CSDA).

RCD STAFF REPORTS

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

- Rich Gresham met with Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery who requested the RCD explore small biomass utilization opportunities and assist with making the Emigrant Trail more user friendly.
- Rich announced four Forestry Stewardship workshops are being planned for June.
- Rich indicated he has invited both Ed Burton and Curtis Tarver to a future RCD Board Meeting.
- Katie Maloney finished the field work with the RCD's new Certified Public Accountant (CPA) for the '07-'08 Annual Audit.

She offered copies of the RCD '06-'07 Audited Financial Statements and indicated she has a few issues with the statements, but is confident they will be addressed in the '70-'08 statements that she should receive shortly, now that the field work has been completed.

- Ryan Bellanca distributed and reviewed his activity report.
- Ryan reported re-working the funding proposals that were not awarded funding by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for submission to the CA Fire Safe Council Clearinghouse for funding consideration and requested Board concurrence on submission. The Board concurred.
- Ryan noted partner RCDs and NRCS, cost sharing the GIS position, are not likely to contribute funding for the next fiscal year.

### AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike Brenner reported NRCS is processing 36 eligible Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applicants. Three applicants are still pending determination. Field planning has been completed and preliminary contracts are being developed so when funding is released the agency is ready to proceed.
- The office has received direction to process the 2009 field reference points for the National Resources Inventory and begun the researching land ownership and current farming/cropping history.
- Mike reviewed the activities detailed in his activity report and highlights of the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

### COMMUNICATIONS

- Thank you note dated November 10<sup>th</sup> to Dave, Tom, & Rich for their participation in the Bear River/CABY Watershed Project.
- Copy of RCD Letter of Support dated December 17<sup>th</sup> for Placer Land Trust grant applications to the State of CA for the Oest Ranch Conservation Easement Project.
- Letter dated December 23<sup>rd</sup> from CalFire ordering an immediate work stoppage on state bond funded grant projects.
- Letter dated December 24<sup>th</sup> from CA Dept. of Fish & Game ordering an immediate work stoppage on state bond funded grant projects.
- Letter dated December 30<sup>th</sup> from CA State Controller regarding Assembly Bill 1047.

- Copy of RCD letter dated December 31<sup>st</sup> to Placer County Board of Supervisors informing them of the RCD's recommendation that Robin Mahoney be selected to fill the RCD Board vacancy.
- Fax from Tacy Currey dated December 31<sup>st</sup>, mobilizing RCDs for the immediate resolution of work stoppage orders on all state bond funded projects.
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee Agenda for meeting slated for January 8<sup>th</sup> and meeting minutes of the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Agenda for meeting slated for January 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Cover letter dated January 13<sup>th</sup> from the City of Rocklin and enclosed CD containing report of pass-through obligations of the Rocklin Redevelopment Agency as submitted to the Placer County Auditor's Office.
- Letter dated January 27<sup>th</sup> from CA Special Districts Association thanking the RCD for their 2009 membership dues.
- Copy of RCD letter of support dated February 17<sup>th</sup> to Kent Foster for the City of Rocklin's Open Space Fire Prevention and Vegetation Management Prescribed Grazing Pilot Project.
- Placer County Air Pollution Control District Public Hearing Notice related to the Proposed Adoption of Rule 516, Rice Straw Emission Reductions Credits.
- Notice from the State Water Resources Control Board Notice of Opportunity to Comment: Proposed Approval of an Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) establishing Total Maximum Daily Load for sediment in the Middle Truckee River Watershed.
- Employment Development Department Labor Law Update 2009 notice
- PNSSNS Subwatershed Group notice of their February 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting
- Notice of services available from CSDA Finance Corporation
- National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils publication, *The National Catalyst*, for December 2008
- NACD 2008 Annual Report
- River Network's notice of National River Rally 2009
- NACD publication, *Forestry Notes*, for January and February 2009

- Placer Arts publication, *Perspectives*, for Winter 2009
- Western Forestry & Conservation Association Conference registration materials
- Robert W. Johnson publication, *Tax & Business Letter*, Winter 2008
- CA Forest Stewardship Program publication, *Forestland Steward*, for Winter 2009
- NACD publication, *The Resource*, for Winter 2008
- Nevada County RCD 2008 Annual Report
- Stewardship Council Update for Fall 2008
- Grazing Land Conservation Initiative publication, *GLCI News*, for January/February 2009
- CSDA Education Workshop Catalog
- CA Forestry Association publication, *CA Forests*, for Winter 2009
- CSDA publication, *CA Special District*, for January/February 2009

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- PNSSNS Subwatershed Group Donation Request
- RCD Budget Review
- RCD GIS Position Assessment
- RCD Personnel Policy Review Update
- Rockwell Ranch & Hanley Property Easement Update
- CalFire Safety Training Update
- RCD Resource Conservationist Position Update

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Steve Garcia moved for adjournment. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously. Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.