

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
April 21, 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 4:04 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

Directors Absent: None

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

Claudia Smith moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Ed Burton, NRCS State Conservationist
Curtis Tarver, NRCS Assistant Conservationist

Ed Burton updated the Board on current funding and budgetary issues. Open discussion revolved around an assessment of needs for both NRCS and the RCD and explored cooperative ways of pursuing mutual goals and objectives in the face of current budgetary constraints. Discussion stressed the importance of partnerships and the leveraging of both NRCS and RCD resources to the mutual benefit of their constituents.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Robin Mahoney moved to approve the minutes of the RCD Board Meeting of March 17, 2009 with several corrections related to terminology. Bob Wiswell

seconded; motion carried unanimously with Claudia Smith abstaining due to not having received her board package.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The financial reports for March were deferred to the May Board Meeting due to Katie's time constraints.

BUSINESS

New Business:

- a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Resolution #09-02:*
Rich Gresham announced Ryan Bellanca's proposal for the Dutch Flat/Alta Bark Beetle Removal Project was awarded CalFire Western Competitive Grant funding and asked the Board to pass RCD Resolution #09-02 accepting the funds to implement the project. He noted the funding amount is still fluid therefore the not to exceed wording in the resolution.

Ryan Bellanca reviewed the project's potential budgets based on different funding levels. He noted the project will enhance existing escape routes while promoting forest health. Claudia moved to pass RCD Board Resolution #09-02 as presented. Robin Mahoney seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Resolution #09-03 and Contracting for Additional SNC Task:*
Rich reviewed the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Agreement Amendment #2 that provides \$30,000 in additional funding, extends the term of the Agreement Amendment #1 thru June 30, 2010, and requests the RCD hire a contractor to implement a new SNC task

Scott Harvey moved to pass RCD Board Resolution #09-03 as presented. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Contracting with Darcy Brown to provide Watershed Groups Support:*
Rich reviewed need to hire a contractor to provide Watershed Groups support in order to fulfill the Placer County contract and to perform tasks as needed for the RCD. Rich noted Darcy Brown is familiar with resource-based terminology.

Bob Wiswell moved to approve the proposed contract with Darcy Brown as presented. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Contracting with Jerry Reieux for CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Subcommittees Coordination:*
Rich reviewed the need for CARCD Forestry & Fuels Management Committee and CA Forest Stewardship Committee coordination. Coordination is funded under the existing RCD/CalFire Agreement.

Dave Funk moved to approve the contract with Jerry Reioux as presented. Scott Harvey seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- e) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: CARCD District Sponsorship:* Rich reviewed a lack of base funding for RCD's that preclude some RCDs from being able to become a member and participate with the CA Association of RCDs.

After discussion revolving around the opportunity to foster a mentoring relationship with the sponsored RCD, Bob Wiswell moved to approve CARCD Sponsorship of an RCD within the Central Sierra Region. Robin Mahoney seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- f) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Donation Request from Placer-Nevada-South Sutter-North Sacramento Subwatershed Group:* After a short discussion, Bob Wiswell moved to approve the \$340 donation to fund the subwatershed group's Fall/Winter Newsletter as proposed. Robin Mahoney seconded; motion carried with Claudia Smith abstaining.

- g) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Personnel Policy Review and Update:*

Tom Wehri reviewed the RCD's current benefit package for employees and the proposed changes recommended by the Operations Committee. After gathering Board input, the proposed policy is summarized below:

Salary: to be determined on experience

Retirement: 2% @ 55 thru PERS - Employee pay 7% of contribution
Employee must complete 5 years of service to receive retirement benefit.

Health Insurance: CalPERS Health Program with RCD to pay 100% of employee premium with option for employee to add family coverage at their own expense or if employee chooses, receive \$500 monthly in lieu of health insurance benefit.

Dental: tiered direct reimbursement plan provided for employee with maximum benefit \$1,500 per calendar year. RCD pays 100% of first \$200 of dental expense, 80% of next \$1,000 and 50% of next \$1,000.

Life Insurance: paid by RCD at amount twice base annual salary

Vacation: 0-2 years of service – 80 hours annually
2-4 years of service – 100 hours annually
5-9 years of service – 120 hours annually
10-19 years of service – 160 hours annually
20 years or more years of service – 208 hours annually

Sick Leave: accrues 4 hours per pay period for full time position

Holidays: 10 paid holidays and 2 paid floating holidays

Deferred 457 Compensation Plan: Set up plan with professional planner with RCD to contribute 1% of salary automatically and match up to 5% of employee contribution. Employee must be vested for 5 years to receive benefit.

Robin Mahoney moved the District move forward with finalizing the RCD benefits package. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

h) Update Re: CalFire Hired Equipment Safety Training:

Steve Garcia reported he has held three training sessions thus far and will be conducting two more training sessions. Steve has submitted the pending Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Sacramento and has asked that it be moved forward as the training program will become an ongoing RCD program.

RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *Forestry & Fuels Management Committee:* Dave Funk reported the county is working on a biomass co-generation plant to be located in the North Tahoe area. Meetings regarding the project are being conducted.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia has been busy farming. She attended the RCD Operations Committee meeting, Hewlett Packard's Earth Day event, the CARCD Central Sierra Regional Meeting, and an Ag Roundtable event.

Bob Wiswell:

- Bob reported attending the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council meeting and gave a brief synopsis of their projects and activities.

Robin Mahoney:

- Robin reported he continues to explore the feasibility of a Robbers' Roost Rock public access trail.

Dave Funk:

- Dave reported chairing the Forestry & Fuels Management Committee meeting and preparing for the upcoming Rockwell Preserve meeting with CalTrans.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom reported attending the CARCD Regional Meeting, the RCD Forestry & Fuels Management Committee meeting, and chaired the RCD Operations Committee meeting.

- Tom reported he has begun working for the Census Bureau in anticipation of the upcoming census.

Steve Garcia:

- Steve indicated he would like to move forward with updating the Healthy Forest and Defensible Space Handbook.

RCD STAFF REPORTS

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

- Rich Gresham reported the State Department of Finance (DOF) has begun an audit of the Prop 40 funded Fuels Reduction Program the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council is administering.
- Katie Maloney reported she has submitted all materials requested by DOF and met with the auditors all morning, their first day of field review.
- Katie reported she has been handling the CalFire Hired Equipment Safety Training registration in addition to her usual duties.
- Ryan Bellanca announced his funding proposal to continue the Placer County Chipper Program has been awarded funding. The Applegate Shaded Fuel Break Project was not awarded funding, this cycle.
- Rich reminded the Board that Day in the Capitol activities are slated for May 5th and 6th. Mark White will be coordinating the activities as usual and will need to know who is planning to attend.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike Brenner briefly reviewed the activities detailed in his activity report.
- Curtis Tarver indicated he will look forward to the District's personnel cost-sharing proposal.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated March 2nd to Rich Gresham from CA Association of Special Districts (CSDA) thanking the RCD for their membership and distributing the CSDA 2008 Annual Report, Legislative Days materials, and memo regarding proposed bylaw changes.
- Memo dated March 19th from Placer County Risk Management introducing professional administrative firm, Ebix BPO, retained by the county to monitor and follow-up on the county's insurance requirements.

- Memo dated March 23rd from Sierra Pacific Industries announcing the closure of their Sonora and Camino Mills including their electric power generation plant in Sonora.
- Memo dated April 1st from Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission with '08-'09 Budget
- Copy of letter dated April 2nd from Placer County Auditor-Controller to City of Roseville regarding the O'Brian annexation into the City of Roseville.
- Memo from US Fish & Wildlife Service regarding the opportunity to comment on their review of ESA-protected species - comment period closes May 26th.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission Agenda for the April 15th meeting
- 2009 Range Camp Registration Materials
- USDA Farm Service Agency newsletter for April 2009
- Creek Week 2009 Flyer detailing the week's activities
- High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council 2007-2008 Annual Report, '08-'09 Budget, and Annual Plan of Work.
- Placer-Nevada-South Sutter-North Sacramento Subwatershed Group newsletter, *PNSSNS News*, for Winter 2008 and Spring 2009
- Society of American Foresters Conference registration materials
- National Association of Resource Conservation Districts (NACD) publication, *Forestry Notes*, for April 2009
- Robert W. Johnson, Accountancy Corp. newsletter, *Tax & Business Letter*, for Spring 2009
- State Fund Compensation Insurance Fund newsletter, *Safety News*, Issue One 2009

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Annual Planning Session

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Claudia Smith moved for adjournment. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried unanimously. Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.