

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
August 18, 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 4:07 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Thomas (Tom) Wehri
Claudia Smith
Robin Mahoney
Andrew (Dave) Funk
Scott Harvey
Stanley MacDonald, Associate Director

Directors Absent: Steven (Steve) Garcia
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.

Others Present: Rich Gresham, RCD Manager
Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist
Mark White, Resource Management Planner
Katie Maloney, RCD Programs Manager

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

GUESTS

Ryan Bellanca, Bella Wildfire Services

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Scott Harvey moved to approve the minutes of the RCD Board Meeting of July 21, 2009 with a minor amendment. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the July 2009 financial reports. Claudia Smith moved to approve the financial reports as presented. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

Old Business:

a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Contract with Ryan Bellanca:*

Rich Gresham reviewed Ryan's proposed "Scope of Work" that allows the RCD to continue Atwood Easement work as contracted with the Auburn Recreation District, provide for expected GIS needs, and the development of three grant funding proposals.

After Board discussion, Scott Harvey moved to approve the contract with the addition of a citation formally referencing the ARD agreement as requested by Dave Funk. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: US Army Corps of Engineers "In-lieu of Mitigation Fees Program":*

Tom Wehri reviewed potential opportunities arising from the "In-lieu of Mitigation Fees Program". The program allows the Army Corps of Engineers to pre-approve appropriate site specific objective projects and the release of "in lieu of mitigation" fees to implement those projects.

Tom indicated statewide RCDs are beginning to create mechanisms to implement the "In lieu of Program" on a local level. Tom and Dave Funk are both interested in exploring potential projects appropriate for the program.

Board discussion revolved around exploring options, the need to understand the bigger picture, and assessing landowner interest in implementing projects. Next steps included identifying the county's top 10 site specific projects and the identifying potential partners.

The Board concurred that exploring "In-lieu of Mitigation Fees Program" opportunities on the local level would be appropriate.

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Monthly Board Meeting Date:*

After Board discussion, Robin Mahoney moved to change the RCD Regular Board Meeting to the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., same location. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee: Claudia Smith reported receiving a letter from the Placer Nature Center offering to give the Board an update on their activities including the Nature Bowl. The Board expressed an interest; Claudia will extend the invitation for next month's meeting.

Forestry & Fuels Management Committee: Dave Funk reported the committee continues to monitor on-going projects and reviewed the county effort to gain funding for a Biomass Plant to be located in the Tahoe area. Dave requested the Board consider a letter of support for the county effort; the matter will be placed on the next agenda for consideration.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Robin Mahoney:

- Robin noted he met with Jeff Darlington of Placer Land Trust regarding the Robbers' Roost project.

Dave Funk:

- Dave requested review of the RCD contracting process. Tom indicated he will get together with Dave to address a review at the Operations Committee level.

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia reported her involvement in a intern program that includes job shadowing for a two week period. Claudia had both a high school graduate and a professor from Sac State participate in the program at the farm. She indicated she would like to see the RCD consider supporting the program in the future.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom reported the newly selected Executive Director of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is now in place.

RCD STAFF REPORTS

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

- Rich Gresham reported the American Basin Working Landscapes Grant has gained the okay to move ahead with private bond funding.
- Rich gave an overview of the PERS restructuring process that will only need a Board Resolution to make the changes the Board has approved.
- Mark White reported working on upcoming county projects and workshops. He requested the Board allow him to continue to provide assistance in these times of tight funds even if the county contract does not accommodate all requests for assistance. The Board concurred that would be appropriate.
- Katie Maloney reported setting the appointment for the yearly audit and beginning the year end reconciliation process.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike Brenner reviewed his monthly activity report that reflects the best year for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), once funding availability issues were settled. He reviewed the summary of 20 EQIP contracts approved for \$541.1K, including 1 air quality, 9 organic, and 10 forestry projects.
- Mike reported the current office lease has been extended until February 2010.

COMMUNICATIONS

- RCD Press Release dated August 4th recruiting high school students for CARCD Speak-off Contest.
- CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) 2009 Board Elections Package; Rich Gresham reviewed candidates and the Board selected a candidate.
- CA Dept. of Fish & Game Notice to Resume Grant Activities for Ecosystem Restoration Program Grants included in the CA Private Placement Bond Sale.
- USDA Forest Service Notice of Opportunity to Comment of the Chipmunk Grazing Allotment Management Project
- CSDA Notice soliciting 2010 CSDA Committee participation
- Placer County Agricultural Commission August 10th meeting agenda
- Protect American River Canyons newsletter, *Confluence*, for Summer 2009
- CARCD Annual Meeting and Conference Materials
- CSDA magazine, *CA Special District*, for July/August 2009
- National Association of Resource Conservation Districts (NACD) publication, *The Resource*, for Summer 2009

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Placer Nature Center Presentation
- Letter of Support for Placer County Biomass Plant
- CARCD Board Officer Nominees and CARCD Resolutions
- Manager Position Description

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Robin Mahoney moved for adjournment. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried unanimously. Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.