

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
September 22, 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 6:03 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

Directors Absent: Robin Mahoney  
Scott Harvey

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Steve Garcia moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Linda Desai, Placer Nature Center, Education Director  
Grant Fraser, Upper American River Foundation

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Claudia Smith moved to approve the minutes of the RCD Board Meeting of August 18, 2009 as presented. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the August 2009 financial reports. Steve Garcia moved to approve the financial reports as presented. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

## BUSINESS

### New Business:

a) *Placer Nature Center Presentation, Linda Desai, Education Director:*

Linda Desai introduced herself and gave the Board a PowerPoint presentation about the Placer Nature Center (PNC), formed in 1991. Approximately eight thousand students currently participate in PNC activities on an annual basis. Linda reviewed PNC's facilities, trails, and gardens. She gave an overview of activities and programs including the annual Nature Bowl event. Nature Bowl is in its 26<sup>th</sup> year and is focused on third to sixth graders. The event introduces students to environmental issues and re-enforces critical thinking skills as the students move through six different educational modules during the event. Student teams compete with teams from different localities with the finals held at Sacramento State University.

Linda thanked the RCD Board for their past support of Nature Bowl and indicated \$750 in RCD support will help with defray the costs of marketing, planning, training of volunteers, and staff time. She noted sponsors including the RCD are acknowledged on Nature Bowl program materials.

Linda fielded Board questions.

Dave Funk suggested PNC should consider including a fire prevention component to their program.

The Board thanked Linda for her time to update the Board on PNC activities.

b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Upper American River Foundation:*

Tom Wehri reviewed how the inception of the Upper American River Foundation was fostered by the RCD Board, modeled on the Henry's Fork Foundation, while Bill Templin served as the North Fork American River Watershed Coordinator.

Tom introduced Grant Fraser who gave an overview of Foundation that formally became a non profit organization one year ago. The Foundation's mission is to maintain and improve the watershed focusing on fisheries, water quality, erosion, sedimentation, and accessibility. The Foundation is working to develop partnerships with others that share mutual goals and objectives and is interested in exploring the potential of a mutually beneficial relationship with the American River Watershed Group (ARWG), the stakeholder based group focused on the health of the North and Middle Forks of the American River Watershed. The ARWG has been in existence for more that a decade.

Tom Wehri proposed a RCD Director participate in the Foundation in an advisory capacity to explore mutual goals and objectives and begin identifying potential areas of cooperation. Tom volunteered to serve in that capacity. The Board concurred.

- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Letter of Support for Placer County Biomass Plant:*  
Dave Funk verbally reviewed the proposed content of a letter of support for the Placer County Biomass Plant proposal. After a short discussion, Steve Garcia moved to approve the letter of support upon Board review via email. If no issues surface by September 29<sup>th</sup>, the letter of support can be sent to the appropriate representatives. Dave seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Regional Fall Meeting:*  
The Board determined Rich Gresham and Tom Wehri would attend the regional meeting slated for October 2<sup>nd</sup> hosted by the Tuolumne County RCD in Sonora.
- e) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: CARCD Annual Meeting and Conference:*  
After a short discussion, Steve Garcia nominated Tom Wehri as the Board's Delegate and Dave Funk as the Alternate. Claudia seconded; motion carried unanimously. Rich Gresham and Mark White may also be asked to attend the event.

Old Business:

- f) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Personnel Changes*  
Tom Wehri reviewed the RCD Operations Committee work and several meetings he had with both Rich Gresham and Mark White regarding their impending retirements and their willingness to continue to work on specific projects as either contractors or retired annuitants.

Tom reviewed the Operations Committee recommendation the Board approve both the District Manager and Planner Technician job descriptions and proposed timetable for implementing impending staffing changes.

After Board discussion revolving around historical and potential selection processes, Steve Garcia moved to approve both job descriptions and the timeline as recommended by the Operations Committee, with the Board to determine who will serve on the Selection Committee after the full Board reviews all candidates and determines the final top candidates at the November Board meeting for final interviews and selection by the Board determined Selection Committee. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- g) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Options:*  
Tom Wehri reviewed Operations Committee discussion and the recommendation to approve an annual Cost of Living Adjustment of 4% effective July 1, 2009. The committee recommended the Board not use offsetting furlough days option to make the adjustment cost neutral.

Bob Wiswell moved to approve the COLA as recommended. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

### RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Operations Committee:* Tom Wehri reported the Operations Committee also took up the RCD Procurement Policy. The committee determined the need for an Exception Letter to be placed in file to maintain conformance with RCD adopted policy and directed Rich Gresham to draft the letter of exception.

The committee also discussed the need to review Board procedures, the Brown Act, and organizational chart/chain of command. Tom distributed some reference material and indicated additional discussion will take place.

Steve Garcia briefly conducted a Brown Act review as per CA Attorney General Bill Lockyear.

*Forestry & Fuels Management Committee:* Dave Funk reviewed the CARCD Forestry & Fuels Management Committee meeting and tour. The committee also serves as the CA Forest Stewardship Committee reviewing and ranking Forest Stewardship Grant proposals. The CARCD Committee will tour the Angora Fire at the next committee meeting taking place the Wednesday before the CARCD Annual Meeting.

### DIRECTORS' REPORTS

*Claudia Smith:*

- Claudia distributed Farm Bureau flyers for their annual Harvest Hoedown.
- Claudia reported finishing up with the intern program and encouraged the Board to take a closer look at the program once impending staff changes are completed.

*Bob Wiswell:*

- Bob will be attending the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council Executive Committee meeting this Friday.

### RCD STAFF REPORTS

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

- Mark White reviewed his efforts on behalf of the victims and Placer County in the aftermath of the 49er Fire.

Steve Garcia indicated the RCD should be prepared to respond to further post fire requests for assistance with a suite of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for soils and sediment control along Rock Creek.

- Katie Maloney reported she will be submitting a revised '09-'10 for Board consideration at the October meeting now that more detailed information regarding staffing changes is available. She will also provide a Three Month Budget Variance Report for Board review.

### AGENCY REPORTS

In addition to the written activity reports for August-September, the following points were discussed:

- Mike Brenner reported the field office processed 32 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) payments totaling \$292K for EQIP 2009.
- A financial audit of 12 active or recently completed Conservation Security Program (CSP) contracts for both Placer and Sacramento Counties was completed.
- The field office has received final rules and guidance for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP).
- NRCS conducted a post 49er Fire assessment to see if Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) applied. The Determination indicated the impacts do not threaten life and/or property and therefore not eligible to receive EWP funding.

### COMMUNICATIONS

- CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) 2009 Board Vacancy Notice for Region 2, Seat B with solicitation for letters of interest
- Placer County Air Pollution Control District Agricultural Burning Procedures – Fall 2009 Program notice and information
- Workshop flyer for Balancing Wildlife Needs, Forest Health and Fire Hazard Reduction in Mixed Conifer Forests with registration form
- Placer County notice of Northstar Cross Country Ski Center Annexation to Northstar Community Service District
- Flyer for the Placer County Farm Bureau 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Hoedown Gala
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District meeting agenda for September 3, 2009
- CSDA Finance Seminar information and registration form
- CSDA magazine, *CA Special District*, for September/October 2009
- National Association of Resource Conservation Districts (NACD) publications, *Forestry Notes*, for August and September 2009

- Robert W. Johnson Accountancy Corp newsletter, *IRS Tax Notes*, for Fall 2009
- USDA-Farm Services Agency newsletter, *FSA County News*, for September 2009
- State Compensation Insurance Fund newsletter, *Safety News*, for Fall 2009
- CA ReLeaf newsletter, *CA Trees*, for Summer 2009

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- '09-'10 RCD Budget Review & Three Month Budget Variance Report
- CARCD Board Officer Nominees and CARCD Resolutions Review

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Steve Garcia moved for adjournment. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried unanimously. Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.