

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
January 26, 2010**

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 4:15 p.m. As the Board failed to achieve a quorum, no formal Board action was taken.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

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

Board Vacancy: One

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

No action taken

GUESTS

Curtis Tarver, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

No action taken

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Financial Reports were deferred due to lack of a quorum.

BUSINESS

New Business:

a) *Annual Election of RCD Board Officers:*

The Board deferred election of RCD Board Officers for 2010 due to lack of a quorum.

- b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Intern Program:*
Tom Wehri reported he was contacted by a Sierra College student regarding the potential development of an RCD Internship Program and recommended the new manager take on the issue, once in place.

Curtis Tarver recommended the RCD have a clear game plan and specific goals in mind when developing an Internship Program.

Dave Funk inquired about the Annual CARCD Speak-off Contest and indicated he has an interested Colfax High School teacher.

Claudia Smith indicated the teacher can contact her directly if interested in participating in this year's event.

Old Business:

- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: District Manager Update:*
Tom Wehri reported the new District Manager, Rick Gruen will be starting February 8th. Tom and staff have been in contact with Rick and have handled any inquiries he has made.

On his first day, Rick will be attending the RCD Forestry & Fuels Management Committee meeting.

Claudia Smith indicated she has invited Rick to the Annual Foothills Farmers' Market Association Conference to introduce him the Ag community.

Mark White will be preparing an Employment package to expedite Rick's personnel paperwork.

Mark indicated the Personnel Policy needs further clarification in terms of employee categories and will be drafting policy changes for Board considerations.

- d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Chipper Program Update:*
Katie Maloney reported the Chipper Program started back up on January 4th as planned and is moving forward smoothly.

There was a short discussion about the planned transition to a fee for service program once Rick Gruen has a chance to settle in.

- e) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Retiree Recognition Event Planning Discussion:*
Tom Wehri proposed the RCD host a dinner to recognize the service of its recent retirees and to welcome the new manager. Attendees will pay for their meals with the RCD picking up the tab for Board Members, honorees, and staff.

Discussion revolved around holding the event sometime in the first two weeks of March and possibly making the event a luncheon vs. dinner. Mark White will explore options and Katie will develop a flyer for distribution once details are nailed down.

RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Forestry & Fuels Management Committee:

Dave Funk reported the committee met and is developing three funding proposals; two shaded fuel breaks and funding to support the Chipper Program.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia reported she continues to farm and participate in the Farmers' Market.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom thanked Mark White for his efforts at keeping him informed in the interim between managers.
- Tom reported attending a proposal development meeting for an Environmental Education Center to be located in the western portion of Hidden Falls Park. Twenty-five interested stakeholders attended the initial planning meeting. He viewed the center as an opportunity to collaborate with the county to implement mutual goals and objectives.
- Tom noted the county notified the RCD of the suspension of Proposition 1A and the subsequent eight percent reduction of RCD tax revenues for the '09-'10 fiscal year. He noted the expected income reduction was taken into account during the annual budgeting process.

RCD STAFF REPORTS

Written activity reports for the month of December were submitted in the Board Package for review.

AGENCY REPORTS

- Mike Brenner reported he did not include his monthly report in the Board Package so he could report the latest Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) information. He reviewed the number of applications and types of EQIP projects submitted for funding consideration.
- Mike reported Marie Bankus is now training to be a soil conservation technician and is attending Sierra College.
- Two new NRCS vehicles have been received, paid for with Federal Stimulus funding.
- Curtis Tarver reported State Conservationist Ed Burton returned from national meetings with confidence in the budget and expects EQIP allocations to be released shortly and additional funding for projects this year.

- Curtis gave a brief overview of parameters for an new innovative conservation program. Also discussed was the potential of sharing a staff position, county resource issues, potential options regarding office space, and expected NRCS staffing changes.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Christmas card from Auburn Recreation District (ARD) Manager Kahl Muscott to RCD with a note thanking the RCD for the support provided ARD over the last year.
- Copies of letter sent to individual candidates for the position of RCD Manager informing them of the RCD Board's selection and thanking them for their interest.
- Copy of letter from Placer County Assistant County Executive Officer Mike Boyle to former RCD Director Scott Harvey thanking him on behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors for his service to the RCD.
- Letter dated December 16, 2009 to the Board from RCD CPA Robert W. Johnson regarding the Audited RCD Financial Statement for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2009. The letter details significant audit findings excerpted below:
 - No transactions were entered into by the RCD during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance of consensus.
 - All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.
 - Disclosures regarding accrual and disclosure of compensated absences and capital assets and depreciation in the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear.
 - No difficulties were encountered in performing the audit
 - No disagreements with management were reported.
 - No misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole.
- Cover Letter dated December 29, 2009 to Katie Maloney from RCD CPA Robert W. Johnson accompanying eight bound copies of the Audited RCD Financial Statement for fiscal year ended June 30, 2009 with instructions to mail a copy to the State Controller's Office. Letter was hand notated by Katie Maloney that a copy was mailed as instructed on January 29th.
- Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Notice of Availability of Administrative Draft Municipal Service Review for Reason Farms/City of Roseville dated January 11th.

- Placer County LAFCO Memo dated January 21st regarding extension of review period to February 11th for review of Administrative Draft Municipal Service Review for Reason Farms/City of Roseville.
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee cancellation notice for January 7th meeting.
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Board cancellation notice for January 11th meeting.
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee agenda for February 4th meeting and minutes of the December 3rd meeting.
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Board agenda for February 8th meeting.
- Placer/Nevada/South Sutter/North Sacramento Subwatershed Group notice of Annual Membership Meeting slated for February 10th.
- City of Roseville letter dated January 21st soliciting sponsorship of Placer County's Celebrate the Earth Festival 2010 slated for April 17th in Roseville.
- Tahoe Earth Day Foundation letter soliciting sponsorship and/or participation in the North Lake Tahoe/Truckee Earth Day Festival slated for April 24th in the Village at Squaw Valley.
- CA Forestry Association registration materials for 2010 Annual Meeting slated for February 24-26 in Sacramento.
- Placer Arts quarterly publication, *Perspectives*, for winter 2010
- National Association of Resource Conservation Districts (NACD) publications, *Forestry Notes*, for January 2010
- NACD publication, *The Resource*, for winter 2010
- CA Forest Stewardship Program quarterly publication, *Forest Steward*, for winter 2010
- CA Special District Association (CSDA) publication, *CA Special District*, for Nov/Dec 2009
- CSDA 2010 Education Catalog
- Protect American River Canyons (PARC) publication, *The Confluence*, for winter 2010

- ESRI publication, *Environmental Observer*, for Fall 2009

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Annual RCD Board Election of Officers & Committee Review
- Annual RCD Funds Transfer Consideration
- Chipper Program Update and Transition Discussion
- Retiree Recognition Event Planning Update
- Conservation Tech Position Discussion
- Grant Funding Proposals Review

ADJOURNMENT

Tom Wehri adjourned the discussion at 6:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 23rd at 4 p.m.