

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
February 23, 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 4:09 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Thomas (Tom) Wehri
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.
Andrew (Dave) Funk
Robin Mahoney
Stanley MacDonald, Associate Director

Directors Absent: Claudia Smith
Steven (Steve) Garcia – Approved Absence

Board Vacancy: One

Others Present: Rick Gruen, RCD Manager
Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist
Katie Maloney, RCD Programs Manager

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Dave Funk moved to approve the agenda as presented. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Christine Johnson, Professional Land Surveyor and RCD Director Candidate

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Dave Funk moved to approve the RCD Board Minutes for the December 15, 2009 meeting as presented, Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Dave Funk moved to approve RCD Board Minutes for the January 26, 2010 meeting as presented, Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the December 2009 and January 2010 financial reports. Robin Mahoney moved to approve the December and January financial reports as presented. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

Old Business:

a) *Annual Election of RCD Board Officers:*

After Board discussion related to the current slate of officers' willingness to continue serving for another year, Bob Wiswell moved to nominate the same slate of RCD Board Officers for the 2010 calendar year. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Board Vacancy:*

Tom introduced Christine Johnson as a former candidate for the RCD Board. Christine had been one of the candidates interviewed to fill a past vacancy, is still interested in serving on the RCD Board, and her application is still active with the Placer County Clerk of the Board.

Tom recommended the Board make a formal recommendation to the Placer County Board of Supervisors that Christine Johnson be appointed to the RCD Board at their earliest convenience.

Dave Funk moved to approve Tom's recommendation. Robin Mahoney seconded; motion carried unanimously.

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Annual Transfer from the RCD's Unreserved Fund to the Reserved Fund:*

Tom Wehri briefly reviewed the District's CPA recommendations regarding the RCD's unfunded personnel obligations. He indicated it is a matter the RCD Board Executive Committee and CalPERS will need to address. He noted that while state law does not require the RCD to fund the obligation 100%, there is the need to conduct an actuarial study to determine the amount of the liability. After a short discussion, Tom recommended the Board consider approving a \$50K transfer from Unreserved Funds to Reserved Funds. After further discussion, Bob Wiswell moved to transfer \$75K from Unreserved Funds to Reserved Funds. Robin Mahoney seconded; motion carried unanimously.

d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Retiree Recognition/Meet & Greet Event Update:*

Katie Maloney reported she and Mark White have arranged for a plated luncheon from 12:30 to 2:30 at the Ridge Golf Course on March 18th to recognize the service of its recent retirees and to introduce Rick Gruen to RCD's community partners.

After a short discussion, Dave Funk moved the RCD bear the cost of lunches for attending Directors, Associate Directors and their spouses, staff members, honorees and family members, and NRCS partners. Robin Mahoney seconded; motion carried unanimously.

e) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Conservation Tech Position:*

Tom Wehri reconfirmed that one of Rick Gruen's top priorities is to move forward with hiring a Conservation Planner. He recommended moving forward with the development of a job description keeping in mind the requirements and certifications that will fill the RCD's needs with Mark White continuing to service the urban community in terms of erosion and storm water runoff control.

Rick Gruen reviewed the process he used to service his district's constituents in Oregon and recommended the position be complimentary to NRCS staff and skills. The RCD position would service those folks that do not fit within NRCS program parameters and provide small farmer assistance.

Mike Brenner reviewed the NRCS certification process and stressed collaboration between the NRCS and RCD.

Tom recommended that Rick develop a job description with Mike's assistance for Board review at the next Board meeting. The Board concurred with Tom's recommendation.

New Business:

f) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: 2011 Chipper Grant Funding Proposal Submission:*

Dave Funk handed out the draft Chipper Program proposal for the Board's approval to submit for funding consideration. He noted it was developed with Ryan Bellanca's assistance and indicted the proposal still needs to be revised before the February 26th submission deadline, as some edits had not been incorporated as requested.

After discussion regarding needed edits, match sources, and match amounts, Dave Funk moved the Board approve the proposal with the incorporation of the necessary edits. Robin Mahoney seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Rick Gruen noted that in the future, he would expect to take the lead in the development of RCD funding proposals.

g) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Applegate Shaded Fuel Break Grant Funding Proposal Submission:*

Dave Funk handed out the draft Applegate Shaded Fuel Break proposal for the Board's approval to submit for funding consideration. He noted this proposal also needed additional edits before submission for funding consideration.

After discussion regarding needed edits, match sources, and match amounts, Bob Wiswell moved to approve the proposal with the incorporation of the necessary edits. Robin Mahoney seconded; motion carried unanimously.

RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Forestry & Fuels Management Committee:

Dave Funk reported the committee met and continued its development of the Applegate Shaded Fuel Break and Chipper Program funding proposals.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Tom Wehri:

- Tom reported attending a second meeting regarding the proposed education center at Hidden Falls Park where potential partner roles were brainstormed including the possibility of the RCD administering the use of the proposed facility. Tom stressed that these are preliminary discussions, but indicated he would like the Board to consider a letter of support for the concept of the education center. The Board agreed to place the item on the next agenda.
- Tom reported he will be making a presentation about the Placer County Chipper Program at the next meeting of the CA Special Districts Association's (CSDA) Placer Chapter in May.
- Tom indicated he will be following up the District CPA's recommendation to explore the RCD's actuarial liability.
- Tom attended the CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Board Meeting.
- Tom reminded the Board about the annual Day at the Capitol activities coming up in May.

RCD STAFF REPORTS

In addition to the written activity reports for the month of January submitted in the Board Package for review, the following items were discussed.

Rick reviewed his staff recommendations for the month as follows:

- Rick proposed using his existing cell phone for the balance of his contract. His Blackberry service includes unlimited wireless/texting, data, and GPS navigation for the monthly cost of \$88.98. The District Blackberry does not have text messaging or GPS navigation services.

Tom Wehri indicated he reviewed the proposal and recommended the RCD reimburse Rick \$88.98 monthly for the use of his personal Blackberry thru December 2010 as proposed. The Board concurred.

- Rick proposed the Board reimburse his actual travel expenses for his job interview, as they were less than estimated air fare the Operations Committee agreed to reimburse Rick.

Tom recommended the Board accept Rick's proposal to reimburse him the lower amount as proposed. The Board concurred.

- Rick reviewed his recommendation regarding the proposed Landowner Property Access Form related to the Bark Beetle project. The Board concurred.
- Rick reported he will be executing the rental agreement with The Ridge on behalf of the RCD for the March 18th event.
- Rick reviewed his proposal to develop and implement a pilot cost share program for the Placer County Chipper Program.

After a short discussion, Dave Funk made a motion to move forward with the development of a pilot cost share program for formal Board review and action. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY REPORTS

- Mike Brenner handed out and briefly reviewed his activity report.
- Mike reported Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) screening and ranking is almost completed. The current EQIP allocation is \$154.6K and includes the possibility of additional funding for future distribution.
- Three annual payments under the old Conservation Security Program for 2010 totaling \$102K have been made.
- One contract under the new Conservation Stewardship Program has been forwarded to the state for further review and funding consideration.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated February 22nd from the Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission calling for nominations of the Special District Representative
- Letter from Sierra College ECOSTudents regarding Earth Day activities slated for April 21st and 22nd
- Western Forestry and Conservation Association registration materials for Forest Road Drainage: From Fundamentals to Watershed Impacts slated for April 22nd in Springfield, OR.
- Western Forestry and Conservation Association registration materials for Natural Resource Law for Foresters slated for March in Vancouver, WA
- Robert W. Johnson newsletter, *Tax & Business Letter*, for spring 2010
- Land and Water, Inc. magazine, *Land and Water*, for January/February 2010

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- RCD Conservation Specialist Job Description Review
- Chipper Cost Share Program Development Update
- Hidden Falls Education Center Concept Support Letter

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Bob Wiswell moved to adjourn. Robin Mahoney seconded; motion carried unanimously. Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 23rd at 4 p.m.