

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
April 27, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Placer County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Board was called to order by RCD Board Secretary/Treasurer Claudia Smith at 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Thomas (Tom) Wehri
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.
Claudia Smith
Andrew (Dave) Funk
Robin Mahoney
Christine Johnson
Stan MacDonald, Associate Director

Directors Absent: Steven (Steve) Garcia – Approved Absence

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Robin Mahoney moved to approve the agenda with the addition of the Board's consideration of Staff Recommendations. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Robin Mahoney moved to approve the RCD Board Minutes for the March 23, 2010 meeting as presented, Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

BUSINESS

Old Business

a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Rural Conservation Specialist Selection Committee Formation:*

Rick Gruen reported the position has been posted in a variety of venues. The closing date for applications is May 28th. Rick has received 5-6 applications to date.

After a short discussion, the Board decided applications will be reviewed by Mike Brenner and Rick and narrowed down to the top three applicants for further vetting. Also discussed was the possibility of bringing other interested parties into the process by including them on a panel where the top candidates can present themselves before final selection. The Board deferred formation of the Selection Committee until next month.

b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Pilot Cost Share Placer County Chipper Program Development:*

Dave Funk reported holding a forum at the April RCD Forestry & Fuels Management Committee meeting that included Chipper Coordinator Don Lane and a half a dozen representatives from the private sector connected with providing vegetation management and landscaping and arborist services. The forum provided the committee with their input in the areas of marketing, education, and servicing the senior/disabled population.

Board discussion revolved around regulatory issues and the need to better clarify RCD policy in terms of privacy issues, and program goals to accommodate both PRC 4291 compliance and air quality improvement. Further discussion was deferred to next month.

Rick indicated that once Chipper policy has been clarified and the invoicing process defined, everything is in place for a July 1st kick off date.

New Business:

c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Budget Variance Report for Nine Months Ended March 31, 2010:*

Katie Maloney reviewed the budget variance report and fielded Board inquiries.

After Board discussion, Tom Wehri moved to reclass retired annuitant compensation from the line item Salaries to Extra Help, to align with the account the county is posting retired annuitant compensation to the District General Ledger. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Selection of LAFCo Representative:*

After the Board considered nominees for the LAFCo Special District Representative seat, Tom Wehri moved to elect the incumbent, Duane Frink, to the seat. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried with Dave Funk abstaining.

e) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: 2010 Red Sesbania Program*

Katie Maloney reported the budget for the 2010 program is being determined and the 2010 program proposals for monitoring and eradication efforts are being reviewed by program partner, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) staff. Katie expects the contracts to implement the 2010 Program will be ready for Board approval next month, setting the stage to kick off the 2010 Program in June.

RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Forestry & Fuels Management Committee:

Dave Funk reiterated the forum with the private sector gleaned important input that will be used to develop the Chipper cost share program and associated promotional and educational materials. He noted the discussion highlighted the need to review and refine the RCD policy in terms of privacy issues and program goals. See Agenda item b) above.

Dave reported that in light of current economic conditions, the Committee requested the Dutch Flat/Alta Bark Beetle Request for Proposals be developed so that bids can be developed on the job in total or be bid by defined project areas to allow firms unable to bid on the job in total a chance to bid as able.

Operations Committee:

Tom Wehri reported the committee reviewed Rick's policy language changes clarifying the RCD Benefits Policy.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Dave Funk:

- Dave reported attending the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee with Rick where Rick made some great contacts and was involved in discussions regarding the state's need to update and maintain CalFire's FRAP (Fire Risk Assessment) database.

Bob Wiswell:

- Bob attended the quarterly High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council (HSRC&D) meeting.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom reported attending the CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Central Sierra Regional meeting where regional issues were discussed including CARCD fiscal management issues. Tom reported the CARCD is working to correct their fiscal management issues. Tom reminded the Board that he now sits on the CARCD Board and will be attending the next CARCD Board meeting to be held in May.
- Tom reported attending the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council (JPA) Board meeting. He reported the Prop 40 funded Fuels Reduction Program is wrapping up. The cost share program implemented 123 on-the-ground projects and allocated \$4.2M within the seventeen county project area.
- Tom reported the JPA Board was approached by NRCS Forester Matthew McNicol out of the Sonora office to consider becoming the applicant for the Collaborative Conservation Partnership Initiative funding proposal on behalf of the Central Sierra Region. The Board discussed the proposal and Tom Wehri gave District staff direction to develop the proposal on behalf of the JPA. The Initiative, if successful, will pull in additional federal funding for NRCS programs within the region.

RCD STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS

In addition to the District Manager's bi-weekly activity reports emailed to the Board, the following items were discussed:

Staff Recommendations:

- CA Forestry Challenge Sponsorship:
Rick reviewed the opportunity to support the high school student forestry education program and recommended budgeting \$500 for the next fiscal year to provide for two \$250 scholarships for area students. The Board approved moving the issue to next month's Consent Agenda for formal action as recommended.
- Two Year District/Robert W. Johnson Accountancy Corp Agreement:
Rick recommended the Board consider approving a two-year agreement with the District's current CPA for annual audits and year round consultation. The Board approved moving the issue to next month's Consent Agenda for formal action as recommended.
- CalPERS Resolution – Tax Defer Employer/Employee Contributions:
Rick recommended the Board pass a resolution to tax defer employer/employee CalPERS contributions. He noted passing the resolution is a District housekeeping action that was recommended by CalPERS. The Board approved moving the issue to next month's Consent Agenda for formal action.

- **CalPERS Resolution – Set Health Benefit Monthly Cap:**
Rick recommended the Board set the monthly health benefit cap and pass a CalPERS resolution reflecting the cap and allowing for family health insurance coverage. After Board discussion, Robin Mahoney moved to set the cap at \$950 per month. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously. The Board approved moving the issue to next month's Consent Agenda for formal action as recommended.
- **Policy Clarifications – Benefits:**
Rick recommended the Board approve clarification of RCD 457 Plan language to better define the District's match of 1% to begin after the successful completion of the six month probationary period and the additional match of employee contributions up to 5% and to define employee vesting of the employer match contribution at 20% incrementally each year until 100% vested with five years of continuous employment. The Board approved moving the recommendation to next month's Consent Agenda for action as recommended.
- **Sierra Nevada Conservancy Amended Services Contract:**
Rick recommended the Board approve the proposed contract amendment of current Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Contract to provide additional funding of \$70K, revise tasks to reflect SNC's current needs, and extend the contract to June 30, 2012. The Board approved moving the recommendation to next month's Consent Agenda for formal action as recommended.

Staff Reports:

- Rick reported he met with Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) Manager Dave Breninger and staff regarding the RCD Rural Conservation Planner position and potential PCWA support for the position. Rick reported he will continue to develop the potential partnership.
- Rick reported he will be assisting with the development of this year's Farm & Barn event.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike reported to date the total of \$507.192K has been allocated to the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The allocation will fund four forestry (\$162,8K), four cropland (\$139.9K), two greenhouse (\$2,5K, and two tractor (\$201.9K) contracts. There are also three organic applications pending.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Cc: District letter dated March 29th to Placer County Parks Commission in support of the Hidden Falls Capital Improvements Project

- Memo dated March 31st from Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) with ballot for Special District representative seat.
- Memo dated April 6th from Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) with revised ballot for Special District representative.
- Staff Report dated April 7th from Placer County LAFCo re: Approval of Proposed Budget for F/Y 2010-2011
- Placer County LAFCo April 14th meeting notice
- CalPERS Circular re: Upcoming Public Agency Election for a Public Agency Member Representative on the CalPERS Board of Administration
- USDA Budget Summary and Annual Performance Plan for F/Y 2011
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District meeting agenda for April 12th meeting
- PCWA Flyer for Placer Watershed Forum slated for April 29th
- CARCD 2011 informational packet, including Day in the Capitol info, 2010 Membership Application, 2010 Annual Conference info, and assorted workshop flyers, newsletter, and 2010 contest applications
- HSRC&D 2009/2010 Sponsorship Contribution Request for \$250 and accompanying Annual Plan and Budget for F/Y 2009/2010 and Annual Report for 2008/2009
- Placer Land Trust invitation to April 1st fundraiser at Auburn School Park Preserve
- Western Forestry and Conservation Association registration materials for Forest Road Drainage: From Fundamentals to Watershed Impacts slated for April 22nd
- Western Forestry and Conservation Association registration materials for Spray Drift Management in Rights-of-Way and Forestry slated for June 4th
- CA Forest Stewardship Program newsletter, *Forestland Stewardship*, Winter 2010
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) newsletter, *Forestry Notes*, April 2010
- USDA Farm Services Agency newsletter, *FSA County News*, March 2010
- State Fund newsletter, *Safety News*, 2010, Issue 1

- CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) 2010 Education Catalog
- CSDA magazine, *Special Districts Legislative Days Brochure*, for May event
- CA ReLeaf publication, *California Trees*, Spring 2010

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Consent Agenda
- RCD Rural Conservation Specialist Selection Committee Formation
- Cost Share Chipper Program/Policy Clarification :
- Hidden Falls Education Center Letter of Support:
- 2010 Red Sesbania Program Contracts
- Draft '10-'11 RCD Budget

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Robin Mahoney moved to adjourn. Dave Funk seconded; motion carried unanimously. Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 25th at 4 p.m.