

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
April 18, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Placer County Resource Conservation District Board was called to order by RCD Board Chair Chris Paull at 3:15 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Chris Paull
Stanley (Stan) MacDonald
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.
Stewart Feldman
Thomas (Tom) Wehri
Claudia Smith
Whitney Nicholas, Associate Director

Directors Absent: Gregory (Greg) Nau

Others Present: Rich Gresham, RCD Manager
Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist
Mark White RCD Resources Management Planner
Katie Maloney, RCD Sr. Administrative Assistant
Bill Templin, North Fork American River Watershed Coordinator
Gregg Bates, Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Tom Wehri moved to approve the agenda as presented. Stan MacDonald seconded, motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Christian Carleton, Foothill Associates

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Stan MacDonald moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 21, 2006 with minor corrections. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented a revised financial statement and expense report for December 2005 reflecting a correction in the Professional Services category and subsequent revised January 2006 statement. Katie thanked the Board for its patience and presented the *Financial Statements for the Months Ended February 28, 2006, and March 31, 2006* and the *Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for February 2006 and March 2006*.

Stewart Feldman moved to approve the revised statements and expense report as well as the February and March 2006 financial statements and expense reports. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

Old Business:

- a) *Central Sierra Regional CA Association of RCDs (CARCD) Spring Meeting Update:*
At Chris Paull's invitation individual directors gave an overview of their impressions of the regional meeting. Highlights of the meeting included the following:

- Central Sierra Regional Mapping Proposal:
Chris briefly reviewed the mapping concept and discussion that highlighted the desire for more details and identification of potential benefits of a regional map of fire related projects across jurisdictional borders within the region.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC):
SNC has chosen Auburn as the location of its interim headquarters with a permanent location to be determined within two years and to be located within 30 miles of Sacramento. SNC's Central Region Representative Helen Bauman gave an overview of SNC progress and noted RCDs in the region have been identified as importance conservation partners.

Mark Egbert solicited RCD support for the SNC stakeholder meeting to be held in Nevada City at the Miners Foundry at 6:30 p.m. on May 10th. Discussion resulted in the commitment to provide \$400 on a regional basis to augment the region's individual RCD efforts to support the stakeholder meeting including the exploration of identifying and bringing additional partners to support the SNC effort to reach out to regional stakeholders.

- Cosumnes-American-Bear-Yuba (CABY) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP):
Liz Mansfield gave an overview of the planning effort that includes water purveyors, utilities, and interested stakeholders. Ensuing discussion resulted in the region asking Chris to identify an RCD representative from the Central Sierra region RCDs to participate in the CABY process.

Overall, everyone reported it was a good meeting with a good location, great food, and interesting material. It was noted the new RCD in the region, Tuolumne RCD, was present and willing to co-host the Fall Regional meeting on September 29th with the Mariposa RCD.

b) RCD 2006-2007 Annual Planning Process Update:

Rich Gresham reported Mike Brenner has reserved the meeting room at the Loomis Library on June 1st from 3:30 -7:30 p.m. for a Special Board Meeting to address annual planning for the next fiscal year. The board will receive a planning update at the next Board Meeting scheduled for May 16th.

c) RCD/County '06-'07 Contract Update:

Rich reported the draft contract is slated to be revised per recent discussions; the concepts will remain the same as the draft with a new focus on NPDES and stormwater discharge issues in addition to continued effort in terms of erosion and sediment control.

Tom Wehri encouraged continuing support for the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance.

Rich noted the county has pulled the Alliance under the wing of the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and reported their intention to apply for the US Forest Service Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) funding for 2007 to continue the Placer County Chipper Program. Rich reported it is expected WUI funding will be discontinued after 2007. The county's willingness to take over the program in the transition year is viewed as an expeditious move.

New Business:

d) Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Contracting Rates for Possible Revision:

Rich reviewed the current contracting rates for all staff members.

After Board discussion that revolved around direct and indirect costs, comparable rates, and increasing costs for fuels, insurance, and benefits, Tom Wehri referencing past analysis of direct and indirect costs, moved to increase the rate for the county contract with a cap not to exceed \$70 per hour for Rich, \$65 per hour for Mark, with Katie's rate to remain the same at \$40 per hour. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried, with Chris Paull opposed.

The Board requested an updated direct expense projection for '06-'07 reflecting current salaries plus a '06-'07 3.33% cost of living adjustment (NRCS rate), transportation, insurance, and training costs.

e) *Update Re: Annual Day in the Capitol Event:*

Mark White reviewed the meeting schedule for *Day in the Capitol* and noted those wishing to car pool can meet at the RCD at 8:15 a.m. on the 17th.

Board discussion identified watershed issues, the need for continued watershed coordination funding, and fire safety/fuel load reduction issues as talking points for the event.

f) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: NRCS Offer for RCDs to Cost Share ½ Time GIS Staff Person:*

Chris Paull reviewed the proposal put forth by Curtis Tarver at the CARCD Spring Regional Meeting for Central Sierra RCD's to cost share ½ of a full time GIS staff person with NRCS funding the other ½ of the position.

Tom Wehri noted a contributing agreement would most likely be used to define the parameters of the proposed collaboration.

Chris promoted the idea as a unifying force for the region's RCDs especially in conjunction with the proposed regional fire mapping effort under consideration. Placerville, Placer, and Nevada RCDs have all indicated an interest in the cost sharing proposal, not to preclude the potential to provide services to other RCDs in the region not able to participate in the funding of the position.

After Board discussion highlighted the need to further develop the proposal and a position description for further consideration, Tom Wehri made a motion to move forward with the proposal. Stewart Feldman seconded; motion carried unanimously.

The Board will receive an update at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RCD Operations Committee:

Rich reported the RCD Operations Committee will meet on May 1st at Greg Nau's office in Roseville from 10 a.m. to noon.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Stewart Feldman:

- Stewart attended the CARCD Spring Regional Meeting and a Sierra Nevada Alliance meeting.
- Stewart noted the final report for the Colfax Shaded Fuel Break Project will be posted on the American River Watershed Institute website when completed.

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia reported attending to Farmers' Market Association business and attending the Placer Land Trust dinner honoring Joanne Neft with the Placer Conservator Award.
- Claudia announced she and husband J. R. have been selected for recognition as Farmer of the Year.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom apologized for missing the last month's board meeting and reported attending the Biodiversity Council meeting as a CARCD representative. He reviewed various discussions that occurred over the last two months and identified issues on the forefront including watershed issues and the need to continue funding for watershed coordinators. He briefly reviewed the IRWMP process and the potential to include watershed issues as a plan component.
- Tom and Chris reviewed the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Legislative Conference where they met with 25 staffers to discuss the maintenance of NRCS funding levels and Farm Bill issues. Tom reported he was appointed RCD representative to the NACD National Task Force addressing Farm Bill issues and solicited Board input. NACD will cover travel costs.

Bob Wiswell:

- Bob reported both he and alternate, Tom, will be unable to attend the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council (HSRC&D) meeting slated for Friday and solicited another Board representative. He noted the council is having problems maintaining a quorum. Stewart Feldman noted he will try to attend.
- Bob excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.

Chris Paull:

- Chris reported presiding over the CARCD Spring Regional Meeting.
- Chris added his impressions of the NACD Legislative conference noting he learned a lot, including the danger of the next Farm Bill not being funded. He stressed CA is dealing with numerous conservation issues in contrast to other states that only deal with one or two issues. He spoke with legislative aides about fuel load reduction, economic issues, and promoted the CARCD Central Sierra fire mapping project as a way of identifying and prioritizing future projects within the region.
- Chris had the opportunity to speak with CARCD Operations and Outreach Director Tacy Currey about her past experience with successful Solano RCD programs.
- Chris also spoke with Sacramento River Watershed Program Coordinator Kathy Russick about fuel load reduction issues and the East Canal Efficiency Study.

STAFF REPORTS

RCD Report:

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

- Mark White reported the theme for the '06 Annual Ag Tour slated for June 7th will be *You are what you eat...and drink*. Mark reviewed prospective stops on the tour.
- Mark reported he will be participating with PG&E in a Ponderosa Pine tree give-away and is working with PG&E's media person to promote the event.
- Two erosion control workshops under the county contract are planned for May.
- Mark has been busy conducting erosion control field assessments.
- Katie Maloney is assisting Chris Paull with the planning of the Placer Chapter of the CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) Annual Meeting.
- Rich Gresham reported working with Placer Land Trust to develop a partnership for the RCD to potentially provide pond & wetland management services.

Discussion ensued re: potential opportunities for the RCD to provide homeowners' associations with resource management services as many associations are obligated to maintain open space areas, ponds, and wetlands under their Conditions Covenants & Restrictions (CC&Rs) agreements.

- Rich noted there is nothing new to report on the Ducks Unlimited proposal, undergoing scientific review. He will keep the Board posted on any new developments.
- Bill Templin handed out copies of his activity report and reviewed his activities that included participating in the CABY process and his development of an informational pamphlet on the effort; outreach activities including planning the Creek Week clean-up event and RCD sponsored BBQ, Earth Day events; conducting an Angler Survey; compiling water quality and use data; and developing an abstract for the Impaired Watershed Study with plans to develop an abstract for the Cat III report.
- Gregg Bates handed out copies of his activity report and reviewed his activities focused on the development of Creek Week activities for the Dry Creek watershed.
- Gregg passed out the Spring 2006 Dry Creek Conservancy Newsletter, *Watershed*.
- Gregg reported the American Basin funding proposal has made it to the next round of consideration while the other proposals were not moved forward.
- Gregg reported an off road vehicle park is under consideration for location in western Placer County.
- Gregg reviewed Low Impact Development (LID) concepts being explored throughout the area and his efforts to become more involved in local and regional efforts to promote the concepts.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Mike Brenner reported NRCS is now offering incentives for eligible Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) projects completed in a timely manner.
- Mike reported an 11th hour pull back in terms of the Conservation Security Program (CSP) in Placer County. However, the Lower Feather River area was selected as an eligible area for the program and staff has been assisting with their CSP efforts.
- Mike indicated that while weather has hindered completion checks, staff has been busy developing plans and project designs.
- Staff member Kristen Losse attended an organic seminar.
- Mike reviewed numerous meetings he attended in the last month including meeting with Supervisor Weygandt with Chris and Rich, meeting with OES Program Manager Don Nelson about EQIP opportunities, and attending the CARCD Spring Regional Meeting.
- Mike reported the presentation he gave the Board of Supervisors on fuels managements and water quality protection was well received.
- Mike updated the Board regarding the impending retirement to two area District Conservationists (DCs) Jerry Progner and Jim Kimmel and assistance being provided to the new Elk Grove D.C.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Copy of RCD letter dated March 31st from Rich Gresham to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) submitting Chris Paull for consideration to fill the current LAFCo vacancy per the RCD Board's March meeting.
- Copy of letter dated March 21st from the Placer County Auditor-Controller to the South Placer Municipal Utility District re: LAFCo notification of Poppy Ridge II/Bertoni Annexation to the South Placer Municipal Utility District.
- Copy of letter dated March 20th from the Dept. of Conservation to Placer County Planning Dept. re: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Placer Ranch South Specific Plan SCH#2005082060.
- March 23rd memo from CARCD Tacy Currey re: Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) News and enclosed newsletter, *GLCI News*, requesting distribution to Board and staff members for review.
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee meeting agenda for April 5th and the minutes of the February 1st meeting.
- American River Authority meeting agenda for April 10th meeting.
- Rural Lincoln Municipal Advisory Council meeting agenda for April 17th.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission meeting agenda for April 10th.
- Newsletter, *USDA Placer/Nevada /El Dorado FSA News*, for March 2006.
- Dept of Water Resources publication, *Water Conservation News*, for Fall/Winter 2005-06.
- Tahoe RCD Annual Report for July 2004-June 2005
- NACD newsletter, *Forestry Notes*, for March 2006.
- NACD newsletter, *Buffer Notes*, for March 2006.
- CSDA letter of thanks for renewing membership with enclosed *CSDA 2005 Annual Report* and publications, *CSDA News*, for March and April 2006.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following items will be on the May agenda:

- RCD Annual Planning Process Update
- Placer County Contract Update
- NRCS GIS Proposal Update

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Tom Wehri moved to adjourn the meeting. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously. Chair Chris Paull adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.