

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
May 15, 2007**

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
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.
Claudia Smith
Stanley (Stan) MacDonald
Thomas (Tom) Wehri
Steve Garcia

Directors Absent: Scott Harvey

Others Present: Rich Gresham, RCD Manager
Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist-Auburn Field Office
Mark White, RCD Resources Management Planner
Katie Maloney, RCD Sr. Administrative Assistant
Bill Templin, American River Watershed Coordinator
Austin Mulder, GIS Coordinator

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Tom Wehri moved to approve the agenda as presented, Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Claudia Smith moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 17, 2007 as presented. Tom Wehri seconded; motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the Financial Statements for the Month Ended April 30, 2007 and the Schedule of Expenses and Warrants Issued for April 2007 and solicited questions regarding the Monthly Grant Summary and/or the Monthly Program Summary.

Tom Wehri moved to approve the April 2007 financial statements and reports as presented. Claudia Smith seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Katie presented a Ten Month Budget Variance Report ending April 30, 2007. Katie fielded Board questions and garnered Board input regarding the development of a draft budget for 2007-2008.

BUSINESS

New Business:

- a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Board Resolution #07-02:*
After Board review of the proposed resolution approving the execution of an agreement with CDF to accept \$300K in funding for the continuation of the Placer County Chipper and Fire Safe Inspection Programs, Tom Wehri moved to pass the RCD Resolution #07-02 as presented. Claudia Smith seconded; RCD Resolution #07-02 was passed unanimously with Steve Garcia abstaining. RCD Resolution #07-02 supersedes RCD Resolution #07-01.
- b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Board Resolution #07-03:*
After the Board received a project update and reviewed proposed RCD Resolution #07-03 formalizing their July 2006 approval to execute an Agreement with Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency to administer the Dry Creek Watershed Red Sesbania Control Project and to give the District Manager authorization to contract for necessary expertise to implement the control program, Tom Wehri moved to pass RCD Resolution #07-03 as presented. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Annual Plan for Fiscal Year '07-'08:*
Rich Gresham opened discussion by reviewing RCD commitments and primary areas of work already identified for the next fiscal year.

The Board reviewed several draft documents including the RCD/Placer County Annual Joint Work Program and draft staff program areas and hourly allocations.

Board discussion revolved around grants in place that are due to begin with the next fiscal year, assumptions made during the planning process, expected funding gaps in the Watershed Coordinator Program and expected extensions of the current contracts, time allocations, land owner assistance, watershed group support, the appropriateness of focusing erosion and sediment control efforts on urbanizing areas, the next Farm Bill's potential focus on conservation programs, NRCS future conservation planning efforts, potential NRCS program consolidations, the tracking of RCD work within the NRCS tracking system, and the potential impacts climate change may place on RCD program priorities such as water conservation.

Staff Allocations reflected Mark's workplan as being focused within District boundaries and Rich's efforts being focused at a more regional level.

Also discussed were RCD administrative needs and the potential to acquire additional assistance that would provide Katie Maloney more time to focus on RCD and grant fiscal management.

GIS Coordinator Austin Mulder reviewed his concept proposal for the continuation of funding for GIS work on a longer term basis.

Rich reported that after his presentation of RCD/NRCS GIS efforts the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the conservancy has expressed an interest in using Austin as a resource to further SNC's goals and objectives and a potential partnership.

Board discussion revolved around the existing partners in the GIS efforts, their individual goals and objectives, potential time constraints in terms of adding SNC into the mix, and the desire to continue moving GIS goals and objectives forward, and the nurturing regional relationships.

The Board requested further discussion on GIS Workplan Integration with SNC and requested the item be placed on the next agenda.

The Board reviewed potential activities within each RCD program for the next year and resulted in a committee being formed to explore the potential for the RCD to create an Ag Resource Center in the future. Tom Wehri volunteered to head the committee that will explore site and premises options, identify potential partners, types of financing, etc.

The Board concurred that development of an Ag Resource Center should be placed on the next agenda and made it a priority future planning component.

- d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Board Subcommittees:*
Tom Wehri opened discussion by suggesting the earmarking of some level of baseline funding for each committee for the next fiscal year.

The Operations Committee planned to meet to review budget projections for the next three years with the expectation of making recommendations for further Board consideration in terms of budgeting.

No changes in the committee structure were made and the individual committees will review their potential budgetary needs for the next fiscal year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Legislative Committee: Committee Chair Tom Wehri reported that while the committee did not meet, the upcoming Day in the Capitol will provide an opportunity to meet with elected officials to discuss resource issues. He briefly reviewed pending legislation of interest and Farm Bill progress.
- Forestry & Fuels Management Committee: Committee Chair Stan MacDonald reported meeting and made a request for \$250 in funding to develop and print a flyer about the Meadow Vista Timber Harvest Program options for the residents of Meadow Vista that would be passed out with Fire Safe Inspection materials.

It was reported Austin has been asked to incorporate Timber Harvest Plan information into a GIS data layer to help identify gaps in services and areas for future fuel load reduction efforts on a parcel based level. Fuel load reduction maintenance issues were also a topic of discussion.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Chris Paull:

- Chris reported attending the CARCD Meeting where food safety issues were discussed. With DOC office space being squeezed, the CARCD will be searching for a new space to conduct business.
- Chris reported he was out of country most of the month on a vacation in Scotland.

Bob Wiswell:

- Bob reported the High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council (HSRC&D) met and reported the Poultry Processing Facility is moving forward.
- Bob reported the Annual Small Farm event is slated for October 21st at the Loma Rica Ranch.

Mark White noted he will be giving a seminar on water conservation at the event.

Claudia Smith:

- Claudia reported the Certified Kitchen for Placer County producers continues to move forward, she attended the dedication of the Taylor Ranch, and will be hosting Egyptian producers at the Blossom Hill Farm again.

Tom Wehri:

- Tom indicated he visited Ohio to celebrate his parent's 75th wedding anniversary.

STAFF REPORTS

RCD Report:

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

- Austin Mulder reporting trying his hand at gold prospecting over the last month.
- Austin reported he will be attending an Environmental Systems Research Conference and thanked the Board for supporting his efforts by covering his conference travel expenses. He also thanked NRCS for covering his entrance fee to the conference.

AGENCY REPORTS

In addition to the written activity reports for the month of April-May, the following points were discussed:

- Mike Brenner briefly reviewed collaboration with Placer County on the Lakeview Wetlands Reserve Program property that will include restoration along the Coon Creek corridor through an NRCS easement.
- Mike reported several EQIP projects have been completed already and reviewed field visits conducted, engineering and technical assistance provided over the last month, and training sessions and meetings attended.

COMMUNICATIONS

- RCD Press Releases for Range Camp and CARCD Speak-Off Contest.
- Notice of new contact information for CA Assemblyman Ted Gaines.
- April 9th letter acknowledging RCD membership in the CA Special Districts Association.
- Notice of 2007 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award on-line application process.
- CA Dept. of Finance letter regarding Price and Population Information, not applicable to the RCD, per CPA.
- Placer County Elections information package in terms of board vacancies, elections, and filings.
- Placer Local Agency Formation Commission announcing the election of Duane Frink as Independent Special District LAFCO member with Anthony Wright serving as Alternate and meeting agenda for May 9th.
- Placer County Flood Control & Water Conservation District meeting agenda for May 14th.
- Placer County Agricultural Commission meeting agenda for May 14th.
- Great Valley Center Annual Conference registration materials.
- CA Special Districts Association Annual Report.
- Soil and Water Conservation Society 2007 Annual Conference materials.
- National Association of Conservation Districts publication, *News & Views*, March/April 2007.
- CA ReLeaf publication, *CA Trees*, for spring 2007.
- Riverside/Corona RCD newsletter, *Resources Update*, spring 2007.

- Placer Land Trust publication, *Land Lines*, for April 2007.
- State Compensation Insurance Fund newsletter, *Safety News*, Issue Two, 2007.
- CA Forest Stewardship Program publication, *Forestland Steward*, winter 2007.
- Arts Council of Placer County publication, *Perspectives*, for May/June 2007.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following items will be on the May Regular Board Meeting agenda:

- RCD 2007-2008 Annual Plan
- RCD/Placer County Joint Annual Work Program
- Draft RCD Budget 2007-2008
- 6 Month GIS Status Report
- Employment Agreement with Richard Gresham:
- Employee Merit Increases
- Services Agreement with Katie Maloney
- Services Agreement with Dorene Matney
- GIS Workplan Integration with Sierra Nevada Conservancy Needs
- Ag Resource Center

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Tom Wehri moved for adjournment. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously. Chris Paull adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.