

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
February 19, 2008**

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:

Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.  
Stanley (Stan) MacDonald  
Claudia Smith  
Chris Paull  
Scott Harvey

Directors Absent:

Thomas (Tom) Wehri  
Steven (Steve) Garcia

Others Present:

Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist-Auburn Field Office  
Rich Gresham, RCD Manager  
Katie Maloney, RCD Programs Manager  
Mark White, RCD Resources Management Planner

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Chris Paull requested he be allowed to give his Directors Report by 5:20 p.m., as he needs to leave by 5:30 p.m. Scott Harvey moved to approve the agenda with the understanding the Board would adjust the agenda if needed to accommodate Chris Paull's request. Chris Paull seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Jeff Calvert, CalFire Stewardship Forester/Forest Legacy Coordinator  
Carol Arnold, General Manager - Foothills Farmers Market Association (FFMA)

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Claudia Smith introduced Carol Arnold, General Manager for the Foothill Farmers Market Association (FFMA). Carol thanked the RCD for its past support and reported FFMA needs to significantly re-work their website to provide the public with current market schedules, locations, and FFMA information. While FFMA operations are currently funded by membership and stall fees that currently provide a \$150K annual budget, the current budget does not provide for \$5K needed to update the FFMA website as desired. She indicated the FFMA does not qualify for non-profit status making the acquisition of funding support through grants a challenge. Carol requested the Board consider providing funding support to allow the FFMA to update its website.

The Board indicated they can not take any action on the FFMA request at this meeting and made several suggestions in terms of potential funding sources that would spread the costs across numerous potential contributors including the FFMA membership. The Board offered to post the market schedule on the RCD website and agreed to formally entertain the funding request at the March meeting.

- Mark White announced the USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) has received word they will pull out of the Auburn Field Office as of March 1<sup>st</sup> and move operations to the Elk Grove Field Office. He distributed, as requested by Placer County Agricultural Commissioner Christine Turner, contact information for local representatives, and encouraged contact regarding the closing of the FSA-Auburn Field Office

## APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mike Brenner brought forth the need to correct the period covered by his written Agency Report to December-January. Chris Paull moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 15, 2008 with the requested correction. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the Financial Statements as well as the Grants and Programs Summaries for the month ending January 31, 2008.

Chris Paull moved to approve the financial statements and reports as presented. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

## BUSINESS

New Business:

- a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Board Resolution #08-02:*  
Rich Gresham reviewed the Governor's proposal to add a 1.25% surcharge on homeowners' insurance premiums to provide additional funding for fire protection. The Board reviewed RCD Forestry and Fuels Management Subcommittee recommended Resolution #08-02 in support of the Governor's proposed 1.25% surcharge with several conditions for RCD support outlined.

After Board discussion and changes in the wording of the resolution including the addition of a sunset clause, Scott Harvey moved to approve support with conditions as outlined in the amended resolution language. Chris Paull seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- b) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: RCD Board Resolution #08-03:*  
Rich Gresham reviewed Resolution #08-03 formally approving the acceptance of an additional \$8K for support of the CARCD Forestry and Fuels Management Subcommittee and CA Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee and the execution of Amendment #1 to CalFire Agreement #8CA06008. Chris Paull moved to approve Resolution #08-03 as presented. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- c) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Funding Update of Healthy Forest/Defensible Space Handbook:*  
Rich Gresham reviewed the need and subsequent proposal to update the existing Healthy Forest/Defensible Space Handbook to reflect current law that increased defensible space requirements around structures from 30 to 100 feet. He noted updating and publishing the book may cost upwards of \$5K.

Board discussion revolved around updating the document and distributing the information in digital format via CD ROM and appropriate websites with the potential development of flyers referencing the full document and leading interested residents and homeowners to the full document via the web or by ordering a CD ROM.

The Board chose to defer further discussion to the March meeting.

- d) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Contracting with CalFire to Produce Quarterly Forestland Steward Newsletter:*  
Rich Gresham welcomed Jeff Calvert and turned to floor over to Jeff.

Jeff handed out the fall '07 issue of *Forestland Steward*. He noted the publication has historically been used to educate forestland owners and is distributed to colleges, libraries, land trusts, and forest landowners. Jeff reviewed the newsletter's production history, current hurdles to the production of expected future issues including the current grant administrator that no longer wants to continue in that capacity. Jeff proposed the RCD consider taking over the fiscal administration of newsletter's production via an inter-agency agreement or a grant/contract with CalFire.

Jeff noted the current editor is experienced, has always done a great job, and is willing to continue in that capacity. He requested the Board consider fiscally managing the publication as UC Berkeley has in the past.

Jeff also offered that in his experience, CD ROMs are a great way to dispense information without incurring the costs of printing large publications.

After Rich reported he has confirmed the current publication editor's interest in continuing in that capacity and Katie confirmed 10% of the \$45K yearly production grant should be adequate to fiscally manage the grant, the Board directed Rich to move forward with the development of a CalFire Agreement. Rich will provide an update at the March meeting.

#### RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Forestry & Fuels Management Committee: Stan MacDonald reported the Committee met, developed, and approved the Committee recommended RCD Resolution #08-02 supporting, with conditions, the Governor's proposed Homeowners Insurance 1.25% surcharge to provide additional funding for fire protection.

The Committee also reviewed the Placer County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the Foresthill Community Plan.

#### DIRECTORS' REPORTS

*Chris Paull:*

- Chris reported he will be submitting his formal resignation from the RCD Board, in short order, due to family obligations. He noted he has enjoyed serving on the Board and wished everyone well.
- Chris reported the Franklin School Pumpkin Patch has been chosen as the site for a charter school.
- Chris announced the Placer County Chapter of the CA Special District Association's program meeting with Senator David Cox is slated for March 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Claudia Smith:*

- Claudia reported attending the PlacerGROWN Farm Conference and the Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting.
- Claudia reported she is mentoring a student on their Senior Project.
- Claudia reported she will attend the 2008 Ag Resources Fair February 27<sup>h</sup>.

*Bob Wiswell*

- Bob updated the Board on the upcoming High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council meeting and their current mandarin promotional effort.

*Scott Harvey:*

- Scott reported he and Rich met with Dept of Conservation Director Bridgett Luther and Assistant Director Brian Leahy regarding the potential re-activation of the State Resources Commission per the CA Association of Resource Conservation District's (CARCD's) Resolution to pursue the re-instatement of the Commission.

The meeting resulted in the formation of an Advisory Committee with the RCD as one voice in subsequent discussions as a first step in a process to explore options and alternatives. He requested the Board allocate some of Rich's time to help foster the effort and reimburse him expenses associated with the effort. No objections were raised.

## STAFF REPORTS

### *RCD Report:*

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

- Mark White reported 2008 Placer County Ag Tour planning meetings have begun.
- Mark reported he will be exhibiting on behalf of the RCD at the Ag Resources Fair and making a soil erosion control presentation to the Foresthill Fire Safe Council.
- Mark is taking orders for name tags from Board and staff members.
- Katie Maloney reported editing and re-designing the RCD Services Tri-fold updated by staff and passed around a proof of the publication for Board perusal.
- Katie reported the Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council's Prop 40 funded CA Forest Improvement Plan (CFIP) Program is now awaiting the receipt of its first \$500K advance on the second \$2M program allocation. There are currently over 50 on-the-ground projects being implemented in Placer, Nevada, El Dorado, Plumas, and Butte Counties.
- Rich Gresham reported he continues to work in concert with Tom Wehri on developing a proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to share premises within a new Ag Resources Center. Rich handed out the draft proposal and requested Board feedback. He noted the SNC's desire to be permanently located by 2009 may be an obstacle in terms of the short timeline.

## AGENCY REPORTS

In addition to the activity report for the month of January-February, submitted in the Board Package, the following points were discussed:

- Mike reported NRCS is managing 72 active contracts including 17 new EQIP contracts for a total of \$2.3M in projects. Letters promoting Conservation Planning have been mailed. 42 Practice Reminder letters have also been sent out.
- NRCS continues to conduct site visits and attend computer training.
- Mike has volunteered to serve on the State Watershed Team.
- Mike reported Bill Bryant of the USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) announced FSA will abandon the Auburn Field Office and reviewed the lease agreement with the other USDA agencies in the Service Center. He noted FSA has been contributing \$23K yearly towards the yearly lease payment of \$96.577K. The lease is currently on a month to month basis and as the news just broke, everything is an unknown, at this point in time. He suggested the RCD entertain the possibility of contributing to USDA Service Center rent at the March meeting. The Board agreed to place the item on the agenda.

## COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated January 17<sup>th</sup> from Avery Associates soliciting interest in an open Executive Director position for King Conservation District in WA.
- Cover letter dated January 15<sup>th</sup> from Nancyjo Riekse, Agricultural Marketing Director, for the 2008 Placer County Agricultural Guide and a solicitation for advertisements in two upcoming newsletters.
- Placer Land Trust invitation to the Placer Conservator Award Dinner slated for March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Smallwood Conference 2008 registration materials for May 13-15, 2008
- High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Area annual sponsorship solicitation, '07-'08 Budget and Annual Plan, and '06-'07 Annual Report.

- Notice of Public Meeting for Draft Middle Truckee River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Sediment, slated for March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Placer County Agricultural Commission Agenda for February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee Agenda for February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Protect American River Canyons (PARC) quarterly newsletter for winter 2008
- Tahoe Resource Conservation District '06-'07 Annual Report
- National Association of Conservation Districts publication, *NACD News & Views*, for January/February 2008
- Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District newsletter, *Resources Update*, Volume 1, 2008 with 2007 Fiscal Year Annual Report insert
- 2006-2007 Placer County Grand Jury Final Report Responses

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following items will be on the March agenda.

- Conservation/Mitigation Easement Presentation/Update
- Healthy Forest/Defensible Space Handbook Update/Discussion
- Forestland Steward Newsletter Update/Discussion
- Ag Resource Center/SNC Proposal Update/Discussion
- Service Center/RCD Rent Update/Discussion
- FFMA Website Contribution Consideration

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Scott Harvey moved for adjournment. Stan MacDonald seconded; motion carried unanimously. Claudia Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.