

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
December 15, 2009**

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 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Thomas (Tom) Wehri  
Claudia Smith  
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.  
Steven (Steve) Garcia  
Andrew (Dave) Funk  
Robin Mahoney  
Scott Harvey  
Stanley MacDonald, Associate Director

Directors Absent: None

Others Present: Richard Gresham, District Manager  
Mike Brenner, NRCS District Conservationist  
Mark White, RCD Resources Management Planner  
Katie Maloney, RCD Programs Manager

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Claudia Smith moved to approve the agenda as presented. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Rui Cunha, Placer County Office of Emergency Services Program Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Scott Harvey moved to approve the minutes of the RCD Board Meeting of November 17, 2009 as presented. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried with Claudia Smith abstaining as she was unable to review the minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Katie Maloney presented the November 2009 financial reports. Dave Funk moved to approve the financial reports as presented. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board convened the Closed Session at 4:45 p.m.

## REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Tom Wehri reconvened the Open Session at 5:35 p.m. He reported the Board has ranked the top three District Manager candidates and will set up a second interview with the top candidate.

He noted the Board also approved the rate of \$65 per hour as the Retired Annuitant rate for Mark White, Resources Management Planner.

## BUSINESS

Old Business:

a) *Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: County of Placer/RCD Chipper Program Agreement:*

Tom Wehri welcomed Rui Cunha and offered him the floor.

Rui reported the Placer County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the proposed Placer County/RCD Chipper Program Agreement on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The Board also approved a \$52.2K loan to the District if necessary to re-start the Chipper program in January. Rui reported a change to the proposed Agreement with the addition of specific indemnification language regarding the use of inmate crews as requested the District's insurance carrier.

Tom thanked Rui for all his efforts and reported the CA Fire Safe Council Chipper Grant papers are now fully executed making it unnecessary for the District to request an advance from the county at this time. Tom recommended the Board approve the RCD/County Agreement as approved by the BOS.

Steve Garcia moved to approve the Agreement as recommended. Robin Mahoney seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Rui added with the grant now in place there is the opportunity for the RCD to continue developing a fee for service program while funding is still in place and that the community is being informed that the Chipper Program will be transitioning into a fee for service program.

Tom Wehri proposed restarting the Chipper Program as a free service in early January and delaying the implementation of a fee for service program until after the spring rush in order to give the RCD time to work out the logistics of a fee for service program.

Katie Maloney reported she is working with the RCD's insurance carrier and expects the underwriter's approval in time to re-start the program in early January and that she has confirmed with the grantor that transitioning the program into a fee for service program will not put the current grant funds in jeopardy.

New Business:

*b) Discussion to Consider and Possible Action Re: Proposed CalFire Western Competitive Grant Amendment for the Dutch Flat/Alta Bark Beetle Removal Project:*

Dave Funk reported the Board's Forestry and Fuels Management Committee (F&F) has reviewed and made minor language changes to the proposed amendment's scope of work. The proposed amendment will expand the project area to include several bug kill centers. He noted the F&F Committee recommends the Board approve the proposed amendment accepting an additional \$80K in funding for the proposed expanded project.

Dave Funk moved to approve the amendment as presented. Robin Mahoney seconded; motion carried, with Steve Garcia abstaining.

### RCD COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Forestry & Fuels Management Committee:*

Dave Funk reported the committee met and reviewed the Bark Beetle Amendment as reported above.

*Operations Committee:*

Tom Wehri reported the committee reviewed and ranked the Manager candidates and conducted the first round of interviews.

### DIRECTORS' REPORTS

*Scott Harvey:*

- Scott announced that he will be resigning his RCD Board seat as of January 1<sup>st</sup> due to his current work load and impending retirement. He stated it has been a pleasure to serve on the Board and thanked his fellow Directors for their commitment to the RCD and its mission.

*Dave Funk:*

- Dave gave an overview of the CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Forestry & Fuels Management Committee's Forestry Tour held in conjunction with the CARCD Annual Meeting & Conference. The committee toured the Angora Fire burn area.
- Dave reported he was invited to serve on the CARCD Fish & Wildlife Committee and has accepted the invitation.

*Robin Mahoney:*

- Robin reported receiving an inquiry from Placer County Parks' Andy Fisher regarding potential RCD interest in participating in a grant planning effort to provide for an education center for Hidden Falls Park.

*Claudia Smith:*

- Claudia reported in addition to serving on the Operations Committee, she attended the CA Farm Bureau Conference.

*Tom Wehri:*

- Tom reported in addition to his continued work on RCD personnel matters, he has accepted the position of Vice President of the CARCD Board.
- Tom gave the Board an update on the CARCD Resolutions that were considered at the CARCD Annual Meeting & Conference.

*Steve Garcia:*

- Steve reported on the possibility of the Feds taking over the Hired Equipment Vendor training next year. Discussion revolved around the possible use of any leftover training funds after this year's training program for the purchase of equipment and or educational materials.
- Steve reminded the Board that he will be reporting to Post for additional career training, expected to last for six months. The Board acknowledged Steve's approved absence for the next six months.

### RCD STAFF REPORTS

Written activity reports for the month of November were submitted in the Board Package for review.

- Mark White thanked the Board members for their dedication. He thanked the RCD for the opportunity to grow professionally and thanked Rich for the opportunity to work for the RCD.
- Katie Maloney reported she is working with the RCD's Certified Public Accountant, Robert W. Johnson, regarding the RCD'08-'09 audit. She indicated the field work has been completed and that she expects to receive a draft report for her review, in the next few weeks.
- Rich Gresham reported he will forward both his contact and to do lists to Katie and Tom. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the District Manager for the last 33 years and commended them for their efforts

The Board noted it would like to convey their appreciation to both Rich and Mark by hosting an event to convey their thanks and include the partners that both men have worked with over the years. It was discussed that it may also serve as an opportunity to introduce the new RCD Manager.

### AGENCY REPORTS

Written activity reports for November-December were included in the Board Package for review.

### COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter from Chris Paull thanking the Board for the opportunity to interview for the position of District Manager
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Technical Advisory Committee agenda for December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting

- Placer County Agricultural Crop Report 2008
- Placer Legacy publication for Autumn 2009
- 2010 Placer GROWN Food and Farm Conference Sponsorship Materials
- R. W. Johnson's *Tax & Business Letter* for winter 2009
- National Association of Resource Conservation Districts (NACD) publications, *Forestry Notes*, for December 2009
- State Compensation Insurance Fund newsletter, *Safety News*
- *Minority Landowner – Special Forest Stewardship Edition* magazine

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Annual RCD Board Election of Officers
- District Manager Update
- Chipper Program Update and Fee for Service Transition Discussion
- Retiree Recognition Event Planning Discussion
- Potential RCD Intern Program Discussion

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Claudia Smith moved for adjournment. Steve Garcia seconded; motion carried unanimously. Tom Wehri adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.