SAN MATEO COUNTY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

650.712.7765 | PHONE
650.726.0494 | FAX

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
www.sanmateorcd.org

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**
**December 13, 2012**
**Location: RCD Office**

Directors present: Jim Reynolds, Rich Allen, TJ, Glauthier

Staff present: RCD – Kellyx Nelson, Irina Kogan, Chelsea Moller
NRCS – Jim Howard

Guests: John Klochak (USFWS, Coastal Program), Steve Simms, Dante Silvestri, Susie Bennett (GGNRA), late comer guests – Ron Sturgeon

## 1 Call to Order

- Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

## 2 Introduction of Guests and Staff

- All present introduced themselves

## 3 Public Comment

- Steve Simms and Dante Silvestri shared a conceptual plan to alleviate flooding in Pescadero. The plan would dredge Butano channel from Pescadero Road to the pedestrian bridge. Simms hopes to start the process of environmental review and permitting to get a project started. He stated that the wildlife in the area is in decline and doing nothing is not an option.
- Nelson asked Simms for permission to get the supporting data for the plan from the engineering firm to build a comprehensive dataset and prevent redundant work. Simms gave permission.
- Simms reported that C.A.S.E. has pulled their federal lawsuit because they have seen cooperation among the resource agencies pertaining to Pescadero Marsh.

## 4 Approval of Agenda

- Item 5.2 and 5.3 are removed from the agenda as they were not posted in time before the meeting
- Item 6.2 is removed from the agenda, as Karissa Anderson is out sick.
- Glauthier moved to approve the agenda with the above changes, Reynolds seconded. The agenda passed unanimously.

## 5 Consent Agenda

**5.1** October 18, 2012 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes

~~**5.2** October 2012 Draft Financial Statements~~

~~**5.3** November 2012 Draft Financial Statements~~

- Reynolds moved to approve the consent agenda with the above changes, Glauthier seconded. The consent agenda passed unanimously.

## 6 Discussion Items

### 6.1 Introduction to John Klochak, United States Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program

- An MOU that was passed at a previous meeting to formally establish our partnership with the USFWS Coastal Program (CP) and house the local Program Manager (John Klochak) in our Local Partnership Office.
- The CP is a non-regulatory funding and partnership program. His region of the program covers the greater San Francisco Bay Area. It is a relatively small funding program, but has access to a larger pot of federal money. Klochak has chosen to focus on coastal San Mateo and Marin counties where he sees a need for his assistance and feels he can do some good work. His budget is $100,000-200,000 per year, plus his time to offer help with restoration.
- USFWS CP funds a number of RCD projects (e.g. the Gully Erosion Inventory Project, part of the Pescadero flood project, a fish passage inventory, weed management projects, etc.), and he offers the RCD assistance through serving on technical advisory committees for our Rural Roads Program, Integrated Watershed Restoration Program, and the Pescadero Flood Advisory Group. We partner with him extensively. The Coastal Program uses their limited funding to fill critical gaps in restoration work. Klochak can also be a resource to landowners for things that the RCD and NRCS can't provide.
- Klochak grew up on a dairy farm, and hunted and fished his whole life. He holds an undergraduate engineering degree and a Masters degree in watershed studies. He started in a fishery program, did construction management, worked for about a decade on Skagitt River doing coho work, worked in Scandinavia, the Everglades, and the Trinity system on restoration. He also worked for a tribal organization for a decade doing large scale restorations in the Pacific North West.
- He is not involved with Section 7 consultations or any regulatory work. He has never been a regulator; he has always been specifically focused on restoration, and has never been interested in any regulatory position.

### ~~6.2 Presentation on 2012 First Flush Volunteer Program and Results – Karissa Anderson~~

### 6.3 Report from California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Annual Conference – Kellyx Nelson

- 4 staff and 1 director (Glauthier) attended.
- San Mateo RCD was awarded District of the Year!!!
- Glauthier added that Nelson was recognized and appreciated for her leadership here by people from all over the state. Tom Wehri (CARCD president) visited 88 Districts throughout the state and specifically recognized this RCD because of the relationships and trust that RCD has built with the community, agencies, etc. and the relationship that the Board has developed with RCD staff. We are planning on getting an article into the HMB review to further the understanding in this area of what the RCD is accomplishing and the role we are playing in the community.
- Nelson stated that the RCD was recognized for tackling controversial and difficult problems in the community, such as the flooding issues in the Pescadero community. Wehri also

talked about how much this RCD has overcome, including lawsuits and a lack of trust within the community only 8-10 years ago.

- Glauthier shared CARCD's strategic plan. CARCD is working on promoting and advocating for RCDs more at the state level, making sure that people in state government understand the role that RCDs are already playing so that monies coming through the Cap and Trade Program to reduce carbon emission (AB32) can be taken advantage of by RCDs.
- The resolution sponsored by San Mateo RCD passed. It will help the agencies to recognize that what RCDs are already doing is more effective and is the proper resource for this sort of work, and this particular funding (AB32). Glauthier would like to meet with people at the state level to help make this happen. Other resolutions passed at the conference were more procedural.
- Glauthier attended a session on liability issues for Board members. One director that was there talked about discovering fraud in their offices and what actions were taken to deal with this. It has been questioned whether the Brown Act applies any more since the state is unable to reimburse. At this session they said it is appropriate to follow these rules regardless of whether we are required to by law.
- Nelson reported on the impact of a statewide meeting in terms of seeing how RCDs are rooted in agriculture. Many RCD boards are entirely or almost entirely farmers. We have difficulty getting people from south coast and others who are really involved with agriculture on our board. Our Board, with the exception of Reynolds, comes entirely from Moss Beach and Montara, and there are currently no direct agricultural producers. The spirit and intent is that RCDs are governed by local landowners to bring resources to the community. That perspective is supposed to guide us, and we want to make sure we are accomplishing that. In the spirit of Tom Wehri who decided to visit every RCD in the state, Nelson will visit every agricultural operation within the District. When appropriate, Nelson would like to invite Directors to these visits. We have row crop farmers, nurseries, cattle ranching, confined animal operations, one dairy, organic, conventional, dry land farming, non-industrial timber, aquaculture, etc. We have a lot going on in this county. We want to get out there and see it all, and we want to invite the Directors to come along for that.

**6.4 Executive Director Report – Kellyx Nelson**

- **California Biodiversity Council Meeting** – Nelson attended a meeting in which heads and deputies of state and federal agencies met to coordinate across their various different jurisdictions, planning processes, etc. Mark Nechodom, head of Department of Conservation, said at this meeting that the *only* entity created by the State to do inter-agency work is RCDs. We can enter into inter-agency agreements and work between agencies.
- **County Agricultural Workshop** – About 150 people attended and it was very well reviewed. The RCD received letters of thank you from Supervisor Horsley for our role in planning the event, convening a panel, and sponsoring the event, which Nelson distributed (Attachment A).
  - There was discussion among guests, RCD staff, directors, and NRCS staff about the workshop. The discussion included whether the workshop was different from the summit 10 years ago that identified the need for off-stream storage and permit streamlining; workshop length; the need to discuss challenges pertaining to water; speakers and potential speakers; the diversity of attendees including decision-makers

such as Senator Jerry Hill and other legislators to hear what the issues and obstacles are; an appreciation for creative ideas that came out of the discussion; best practices in other counties; and the significance of POST and MROSD in local agriculture.

- Water is a big issue, and a big effort did rise from the last agricultural summit to start an off-stream storage effort. It doesn't happen fast, but that effort is still moving along.
- A challenge in planning the workshop was deciding what not to include. They didn't want it to be too long, but they wanted it to include important issues. It was decided that the water issue needs its own forum, and this workshop was more about what the County can do to help agriculture.
- Questions generated during the workshop were forwarded to panelists and answers will be available to attendees.
- There was discussion among some participants about the impact of POST and MROSD on agricultural land, including:
    - the realization about how much agricultural land is owned by open space entities
    - concern that MROSD and POST level houses on ranches they acquire, that the homes are integral to any ag operation, and that there are regulatory/permitting hurdles to rebuild
    - concerned about tax money being taken from the schools. A guest posited that the old ranches that were protected by Prop 13 were paying more taxes than POST.
    - concern that affirmative easements are the wrong message – farm because you have to, not because you want to.
    - Nelson noted that the affirmative agricultural easements that are part of POST's Farmland Protection Program were intended to address a concerned that future owners of the land will no longer farm and to ensure that agriculture continues on those lands in perpetuity.
- A guest expressed concern that Sam Herzberg (San Mateo County) presented a plan recently to gate off lands with prime soil that have historically been farmed and that the State did not want. The guest would like to see Sup. Horsley following up on this, felt that the land should be offered to a farmer, and posed that County Parks should be following Agricultural Advisory Committee meetings.

- **Pilarcitos Restoration Workgroup** –West Coast Aggregates offered the RCD $10,000 to keep the Workgroup going and to help fund implementation of the watershed plan.
- **Biochar** – We have completed our first harvest of Brussels sprouts grown on soil amended with biochar. RCD staff, NRCS staff, farm laborers, and volunteers went out and harvested the sprouts, weighed them, etc. We were very appreciative of the laborers' superior harvesting skill!
- **Off-stream storage/irrigation project –** NRCS, RCD, American Rivers (AR), Trout Unlimited (TU), and others have been working with a producer in the San Gregorio watershed to achieve the mutual benefit of enhancing his farming operation through more efficient use of water while improving instream flows for anadromous fish and other resources in the creek. Through this partnership the producer has had access to water rights

attorneys, technical assistance, cost-share to enhance irrigation efficiency, and other help. We have addressed a lot of resources for this farmer, and it's going to be a great project that will be a really important example for a lot of producers. The idea is to pump during strategic times to protect flow, improve energy efficiency, and increase storage to ensure no need to pump during low flows. Howard is proud of this producer for going through this process with us and being such a willing partner.

- **Energy workshop –** Nelson announced that PG&E rates are changing in February which could potentially increase rates for producers on the coast. Because of this we invited PG&E to come do a workshop to help producers understand the implications to their operations. We found out that Farm Bureau was also contacted by PG&E to help with outreach, so we are all partnering to do one workshop to help producers adapt to these changes. We want to offer all the help we have, as well as find out what grants farmers want us to go for to help them with this. Howard noted that there are simple changes that can be made to old systems that will help farmers accomplish the same irrigation schedule in less time.
- **Possible RCD name change** – The January Agenda will have a discussion item and the February agenda will have an action item to change our name. The fact that our name is San Mateo County RCD leads many to believe that we are a County agency with regulatory oversight, which makes them hesitant to work with us, and that we have the resources to serve the whole county, including Bayside cities. Staff thinks a more appropriate name would be Coastal San Mateo RCD. It is more aligned with how the people we serve identify; would manage expectations about our geographic focus, and explain that we are not a County agency. RCD of Santa Cruz County went through this process, so we found out from them how it is done. Nelson asked the Board if they think this merits discussion
  - Allen is willing to discuss. Glauthier thinks it makes good sense, but advised Nelson to get the views of the community and other partners first. Reynolds agreed with Glauthier
- **DFG name change** – DFG is changing their name to the Department of Fish and Wildlife
- **Presentation to Board of Supervisors (BOS) –** The annual presentation by RCD to the BOS will be Jan. 15. Sup. Horsley is planning to introduce a resolution to recognize us for being awarded District of the Year.
- **Board openings –** Nelson was notified that 5 people have applied for the 3 openings on our Board:
  - Rich Allen – current Board president, Moss Beach
  - Neal Kramer – current Director, Montara
  - Barbara Kossy – former Director, Moss Beach
  - Brandon Kwan – student at San Mateo College who also ran for harbor commission as a civics class project, Moss Beach
  - Dave Holland – Assistant County Manager, used to be head of the Parks Department, El Granada
  - President Tissier will select two County Supervisors to interview applicants and present recommendations to full Board of Supervisors. Sup. Horsley will probably be one of the two supervisors selected for this role since he is familiar with us and his district overlies significantly with our district boundaries.

- **Annual appeal for donations** – We started this last year to help us build an operating base and were unable to get it out in time this year but plan to in the next calendar year.

## 7 Action Items

### 7.1 Recommend Board approval of updated Operation Agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service

- This action would renew the RCD's ongoing agreement with NRCS. It is essentially the same agreement but was streamlined to eliminate terms that were redundant or constraining to the RCD. It is simpler now.
- Glauthier moved to approve the Agreement, Reynolds seconded. The Operation Agreement passed unanimously.
- Howard suggested reviewing this Agreement every year. Moller will add the item to the agenda for the December 2013 Board meeting.

## 8 Adjourn

- Allen adjourned at 8:09 pm.

# DON HORSLEY

Board of Supervisors
County of San Mateo


December 5, 2012

Mr. Kellyx Nelson
Executive Director
San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
625 Miramontes, Suite 102
Half Moon Bay, CA 94029

Dear Kellyx,

The Agricultural Workshop drew about 150 members of our community who understand the importance of our agricultural heritage and the necessity of working together to ensure its future. The evaluations clearly pointed to its strength – bringing the right people to the forum along with informed, thoughtful, insightful panelists who addressed the gathering. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to have a dialogue and share their priorities for supporting keeping land in agriculture, keeping agriculture on that land, and supporting the people who are doing this important work.

I want to thank you for your important role in the success of this event The panel you pulled together showed up many times in our evaluations as extremely valuable. The evaluations included the panel in what they enjoyed most about the day and referred to it as "open dialogue constructively done", "insightful", "informative" and useful in "bridging gaps". I want to thank you not only for your role on the day of guiding this conversation, but for all the work you did to pull this panel together. It was an important conversation to have.

I look forward to continuing to engage our agricultural community and those who support it in our efforts to preserve and enhance agriculture's viability in San Mateo County. I hope you will be willing to continue to be a resource for our work.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Horsley
Supervisor, 3rd District

Kellyx
You're the best!


County Government Center
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

*Direct* (650) 363-4569
*Coastside* (650) 573-2222
*Fax* (650) 363-1856

# DON HORSLEY

Board of Supervisors
County of San Mateo


December 10, 2012

Kellyx Nelson
Executive Director
San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103
Half Moon Bay, California 94019

Dear Kellyx,

The Agricultural Workshop drew about 150 members of our community who understand the importance of our agricultural heritage and the necessity of working together to ensure its future. I want to thank you for your important role in the success of this event. Your ongoing recognition of the value of agriculture in our community and your support for this event made it possible to hold the workshop and get the right people in the room.

I hope that the workshop will elevate the recognition of the importance of agriculture in this county to a new level and will draw more people to do the work that is needed to insure its viability. The evaluations of the workshop give me hope that this is the case. They were extremely positive, recognizing the workshop for bringing the right people to the forum along with informed, thoughtful, insightful panelists who addressed the gathering. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to have a dialogue and share their priorities for supporting keeping land in agriculture, keeping agriculture on that land, and supporting the people who are doing this important work. There were clear calls for ongoing conversations and concrete outcomes.

Over the next two months my staff and I will be reviewing all the input provided on Thursday. As you know, I have asked representatives from our stakeholder communities, including you, to assist in this review and in developing a short list of priority actions. A summary of the input and the recommended actions will be sent to all those in attendance.

I look forward to continuing to engage our agricultural community and those who support it in our efforts to preserve and enhance agriculture's viability in San Mateo County. I hope you will be willing to continue to be a resource for our work.

Sincerely,

Don Horsley
Supervisor, 3rd District


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400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

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*Coastside* (650) 573-2222
*Fax* (650) 363-1856