

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
December 19, 2013  
Location: RCD Office**

Directors present: Barbara Kossy, Dave Holland, Neal Kramer, Jim Reynolds

Staff present: RCD – Kellyx Nelson, Renee Moldovan, Joe Issel, Chelsea Moller  
NRCS – Jim Howard

Guests: Dr. Scott Morrow

**1 Call to Order**

- Holland called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm.

**2 Announcement of Closed Session**

**2.1 Conference with Real Property Negotiators**

Property: Parcel in Pescadero owned by private landowner located within District boundaries

Agency Negotiator: Ad hoc committee (Directors Holland, Kramer) and Executive Director or her designee

Negotiating Parties: No other negotiating parties, this meeting is to determine whether to negotiate with other parties

Under Negotiation: Consideration to make an offer on property

**3 Report on Closed Session**

- The Board met in closed session, no action was taken.

**4 Introduction of Guests and Staff**

- Everyone present introduced themselves.

**5 Public Comment**

- No comments were made.

**6 Approval of Agenda**

- Kramer moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Reynolds seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

**7 Consent Agenda**

7.1 November 21, 2013 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes – Approved

7.2 November 2013 Draft Financial Statement – Approved

## 8 Discussion Items

### 8.1 San Mateo County Farm/Agricultural Distribution Center Feasibility Analysis – Dr. Scott Morrow, San Mateo County Health Officer

- Kossy had asked for a report on the analysis. Dr. Morrow agreed to come to this meeting to report on the findings.
- The San Mateo Food System Alliance has 3 goals – increase amount of food from local farms to local schools, increase garden based education in schools, and ensure that all productive land in the county remains in production.
- They have been working for a number of years to get local foods into the schools, but it has taken a lot of effort for each school. They received funds from a number of foundations to do this analysis and determine the feasibility of getting local food into our local schools. The bottom line is that it is not feasible under the current conditions, but there is a lot of interest on the side of farmers as well as demand from the schools. Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) conducted the study over the course of 9 months. They sent 300-400 interviews and received 100 responses. They also conducted many qualitative interviews with farmers. The methodology resulted in a good, representative sample.
- The analysis resulted in 4 recommendations:
  - Local farmers need to increase branding. The county began the “As Fresh as it Gets” program which was recently re-funded.
  - Local farmers need diversification of crops. The price of crops has been decreasing, particularly with changes in the floral industry.
  - The county needs an agricultural production coordinator, or “market facilitator.” The larger growers are relatively satisfied with the current distribution system, so there is no benefit for them to change. Those calling for the change are not a large enough group for distributors to change for them. They need their own market facilitator.
    - ◆ Unlike some agricultural crops, the fishing industry is not decreasing – it is increasing. They can sell everything they catch, but they cannot set their prices. They could make more money if they didn’t have to sell to the distributors. There was a recommendation for a fish monger, and to set up a site in Princeton for that purpose.
    - ◆ Nelson noted that fishermen in San Francisco organized cooperatively and have cut out the distributors, but she doesn’t think CAFF investigated that.
  - Develop an aggregation center (Ag Center). Local farmers need a place to aggregate their crops.
- There was an appropriately zoned site for a fish monger in Princeton.
- The SMFSA is going to take a stab at figuring out the market facilitator position.

### 8.2 Potential Changes to Procurement Policy – Kellyx Nelson, RCD Executive Director

- Early in Nelson’s tenure at the RCD she had to track down some of these policies to make sure we were complying with them. Upon review, these policies need to be updated. They are outdated and unnecessarily encumbering. Nelson asked if the Board thinks we should be working with the Finance Committee to do this work.

- Holland said that they did the same thing at the County. They found that they were less encumbered, and incurred almost zero additional risk in so doing.
- While looking for procurement policies Nelson found some financial policies that we have not been following because we have developed better policies. She would like to discuss this with the Finance Committee as well.
- Our board review and procurement policy should also take political ramifications or potential to be controversial into consideration, similar to how EIRs are considered. Holland said policies will never limit you from taking extra precautions.
- There were no objections from the Board about starting this process.

### **8.3 Statewide Perspective – Kellyx Nelson**

- Nelson reminded the Board about Samantha MacArthur’s presentation at the September 2013 Board meeting during which she presented on capacity building/creating standards for RCDs. At the California Association of RCDs (CARCD) conference these things were very well received. We are now doing the work of integrating the work done by the different groups across the state. All of that work to do strategic visioning will be completed largely this spring. There will be opportunities for feedback, which will then be approved at a CARCD meeting. Nelson will notify the Board of anything relevant to our RCD.

### **8.4 Executive Director Report – Kellyx Nelson**

- Nelson reported on action items from the November minutes:
  - Holland convened a meeting with the county to address county-level barriers to small scale conservation projects. It was very helpful, and we got clarifications and solutions for many of our problems.
  - The Board established an ad hoc committee (Holland and Kramer) to serve as the Acquisition Committee. Nelson met with them, and will continue to do so.
  - The new rural roads maintenance guide has been uploaded to the RCD website. We are developing a webpage, and Moller posted it on our links page already.
  - Dr. Morrow presented on the distribution center feasibility analysis.
  - Kossy and Reynolds have met as an ad hoc committee for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning.
  - Staff was going to send a thank you letter to California Canoe & Kayak Company for donating kayaks and gear rentals for the slender false brome survey conducted in November. That letter has been prepared and will be mailed tonight after this meeting.
- PG&E Agreement
  - PG&E is upgrading their pipeline, and approached us about doing the mitigation required as result of that project.
  - Alex Beakes (RCD Conservation Assistant) has been putting together a proposal.
- Historical Society
  - Nelson and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee met with Mitch Postel from San Mateo County Historical Society. It occurred to Nelson that the founders of our RCD were closer in time to the 1880s than to the point in time where we are today. Looking at lithographs of 1880s at the museum, she realized that it represents their fathers and

grandfathers. Nelson started thinking about how RCDs, an unfunded mandate in the state, have managed to persist and remain viable. As land and resource uses have changed, we have evolved with the landscape. We have a Board that helps us grow and change. From the dust bowl crisis to carbon sequestration, we have been there. We talked with Postel about previous years, and how that launched us into the next 75 years. He said find out about the founders of this RCD, as there are probably stories about them in the museum.

- There is an audience for agricultural history, and for environmental history. The RCD is at nexus of those two things.
- ***ACTION ITEM:*** Kossy requested that 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning be on every agenda from now until next year so the Committee can give updates.
- Kossy has been working on honoring the RCD at Mel Mello Farm Day.
- Reynolds would like to see the museum feature all of our events in their newsletter. They said we could write an article for them for La Peninsula.
- Kossy said that this will be about past, but it is also about looking towards the future, the next 75 years.
- Nelson agrees, and also thinks that it is important for us and the farmers here to celebrate the past, our roots.
- Other RCDs throughout the state will be having their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries over the next 10 years. What we figure out should be shared with others as they plan their anniversaries and build on what we have done across the state.

## 9 Action Items

### 9.1 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Granada Sanitary District (GSD) in Consideration of GSD's Application for Reorganization

- San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) voted to approve GSD's application for reorganization if certain conditions are met by January 2014.
- We were notified because we are a special district in the same area. We had comments, so representatives of GSD and LAFCo came to our August 2013 Board meeting. As a result this MOU was developed. The GSD Board approved it. Nelson told the Board that they can now approve it, or ask for changes.
- Kramer moved to approve the MOU, Reynolds seconded. The MOU was approved unanimously.

## 10 Adjourn

- Reynolds moved to adjourn, Kramer seconded. The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 9:00 pm.