

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**May 15, 2014**  
**Location: RCD Office**

Directors present: TJ Gauthier, Barbara Kossy, Neal Kramer, Dave Holland

Staff present: RCD – Kellyx Nelson, Renee Moldovan, Brett Melone, Chelsea Moller

Guests: Victor Rabinovich, John LeGrandeur (Rocket Farms), Ruben Nunes (Rocket Farms)

**1    Call to Order**

- Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

**2    Introduction of Guests and Staff**

- Everyone present introduced themselves.

**3    Public Comment**

- No public comment was submitted.

**4    Approval of Agenda**

- Corrected spelling of Rocket Farms for the Grading Exemption Application (Item 6.1)

**5    Discussion Items**

**5.1 Discussion of Continuation Budget for July – September 2014**

- At the last Board meeting we discussed not preparing a budget until we are able to utilize new project management software. The Board requested that we prepare an expense budget for the first three months of the fiscal year to be able to approve expenses. Staff will bring proposed budget for the full fiscal year for Board approval in September.
- Proposed request will be \$134,690 for personnel and \$18,188, total \$152,878. These totals do not include program expenses which were already approved by the Board and are contractually obligated. They are directly associated with revenue. This budget does not include anticipated revenue.
- Gauthier requested that this continuation budget be an action item on the next agenda.

**5.2 Directors' Reports**

- Kossy spoke with a representative from Sustainable Conservation at a Weed Management Area meeting about raising awareness of invasive plants, as well as with Lisa Ketcham about presenting to the Midcoast Community Council and other outreach and education to help shift attitudes about invasive plants on the coast. It is an important issue that is not always recognized as such.

**5.3 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning**

- The RCD's 75<sup>th</sup> is being recognized at the County Fair. Also offering free passes to Directors and staff. Reynolds will speak on behalf of the RCD at the June 14<sup>th</sup> 4H auction in recognition of our anniversary
- Directors discussed the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. Gauthier and Holland are serving as the event committee. They will meet to begin planning and report back at the next meeting.
- Farm Bureau Annual Dinner honored the RCD for 75 years of service to farmers. A plaque was awarded by Louie Figone who served on the RCD Board for 20 years.

#### **5.4 Statewide Perspective – Kellyx Nelson**

- CARCD Board approved the vision and standards for RCDs that District Managers, including Nelson, had been working on for the past year and a half. These documents will be on the agenda at the fall conference for approval by RCDs statewide.
- Water bond: Nelson provided updates on the water bond history, legislative deadlines, polling, and current proposals.
- AB 2193 (Gordon): Nelson and other partners provided support to Sustainable Conservation for their work with Gordon to streamline permitting for small scale ecosystem restoration projects to provide exemption from 1600s. It made it through committee with unanimous support.

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

- Repetto Ag Water Conservation- We have been working extensively with David Repetto, flower farmer in San Gregorio. Nearly completed phase 1 of the project to improve irrigation efficiency and reduce pumping rate. Phase 2 will expand his existing pond to improve offstream storage and change to winter diversion.
- IRWMP proposal- Ambitious \$5M request to address a number of water management issues in Pescadero watershed, scored well, about \$3M may be eligible for State emergency drought relief funds. RCD was also written in to a proposal for drought relief in San Gregorio watershed submitted by American Rivers.
- Supervisor Horsley moving forward request for \$100K allocation to RCD for our operating base.
- Green Ribbon panel – Hosted by Miramar Farms, brought together 12-15 people who spent time thinking about the RCD's financial viability. Gauthier participated (and thank you for donating wine!). One of the main areas of discussion pertained to support for the RCD from open space entities at an institutional level, beyond individual projects. Another main area of discussion was that it is difficult to understand who we are, what our brand is, and what we do. We already know this, and face this challenge every day because our work is so broad. We need to figure out how to effectively communicate what we do when we do “everything.”
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) Donor Circle on the Environment- Nelson met with the Donor Circle. The group was incredibly intelligent, engaged, and really wanted to understand our structure, how we work, what our constraints are, etc. Nelson pitched the 100 Ponds Project and the Good Earth Project, which proposes to cut down invasive eucalyptus and turn it into a soil amendment.
- Entering construction and field season; busy time

- Cloverdale ponds will be completed this summer/fall
- Livestock & Land will wrap up construction at horse boarding facilities to improve manure management
- Slender False Brome monitoring and removal and other weed monitoring is underway
- Fitzgerald Pollution Reduction will be moving a number of projects forward to improve water quality

## 6 Action Items

### 6.1 Board Approval of Grading Permit Exemption. Board will consider approval of a Grading Permit Exemption for Rocket Farms.

- Through an agricultural water quality grant we did work with Nurseryman's Exchange on tailwater recycling and rainwater harvesting. Rocket Farms took over this site, and is doing a project to connect these systems which will improve the investment we made. They need to trench next to Hwy 1 to connect the pipe, requiring coordination with Caltrans. When the project is complete water from their Frenchman's Creek site will be treated by reverse osmosis system, and then sent back to storage.
- Brett Melone, RCD Agricultural Ombudsman, has been working with Rocket Farms to move this forward and prepare an application for a grading permit exemption. Dan Little, NRCS Engineer, reviewed the plans to ensure compliance with NRCS standards. Jim Howard wrote letter of approval (ATTACHMENT A). The project qualifies for CDP exemption.
- Holland moved to approve the item, and Kramer seconded. The grading permit exemption for Rocket Farms passed unanimously.
- LeGrandeur expressed gratitude for Melone's help.

### 6.2 Resolution 2014-3: Approval to Enter into an Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Fisheries Restoration Grant for Implementation of Fish Passage Improvements at Memorial County Park, San Mateo County, and Gazos Creek Rural Road Sediment Reduction Project. Board will consider entering into agreements for a \$394,207 grant for Implementation of Fish Passage Improvements at Memorial County Park, San Mateo County, and a \$298,854 grant for implementation of Gazos Creek Rural Road Sediment Reduction Project.

- Kossy moved to approve Resolution 2014-3, Kramer seconded, passed unanimously.

### 6.3 Resolution 2014-4: Approval of the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District to Receive Advance Transfer of Property Tax Revenue Funds from the San Mateo County Controller's Office. Board will consider approval for advance of property tax revenue funds from the San Mateo County Controller's Office.

- Holland moved to approve Resolution 2014-4, Kossy seconded, passed unanimously.

## 7 Adjourn

- The HMB Brewery is hosting the RCD at Brews and Views to discuss our Pillar Point Harbor fecal pollution study during our next regularly scheduled Board Meeting. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting was rescheduled for June 26, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the RCD office.
- Glauthier adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**United States Department of Agriculture**



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
Phone (650) 726-4660  
Fax (650) 726-0494

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May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014

TJ Gauthier, Board President  
San Mateo County Resource Conservation District  
625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

RE: NRCS approval of Rocket Farm's request for Grading Exemption

Dear TJ,

I have reviewed Rocket Farm's application for an exemption to a grading permit. I have also conferred with Dan Little, NRCS Agricultural Engineer regarding the project proposal. Dan has provided engineering technical assistance to Rocket Farms in the development of their project designs. He assures me the project meets NRCS standards and specifications.

I approve the proposed project and recommend RCD Board approval for a Grading Permit Exemption.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Howard".

Jim Howard  
District Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service