

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
December 18, 2014
Location: RCD Office**

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

Staff present: RCD – Kellyx Nelson, Chelsea Moller

NRCS – Jim Howard

Guests: None

1 Call to Order

- Holland called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

2 Introduction of Guests and Staff

- No introductions were necessary.

3 Public Comment

- No public comment.

4 Approval of Agenda

- Glauthier noted that the revenues from contracts and grants on the financial statements are \$269,000, but expenses amount to \$300,000 asked to revisit the discrepancy at the next meeting, while still approving the financials at this meeting.
- Glauthier noted that in the November minutes in the section about the 75th anniversary, we need to add Kramer and Reynolds as volunteer coordinators for the 75th anniversary. Also, Kossy and Nelson took over for entertainment which needs to be corrected. [Staff note: These corrections were subsequently made to the November minutes.]
- Glauthier moved to approve the agenda with the noted changes, Reynolds seconded. The agenda was passed unanimously.

5 Consent Agenda

5.1 October 16, 2014 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes - *approved*

5.2 November 20, 2014 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes – *approved with changes*

5.3 October 2014 Draft Financial Statements - *approved*

6 Discussion Items

~~6.1 Presentation on First Flush Results – Brittani Bohlke~~ *Item removed from agenda*

6.2 Directors' Reports

- Reynolds reported that Supervisor Don Horsley was at the last Pescadero Municipal Advisory Committee (PMAC) meeting. Sup. Horsley spoke about the plans to address flooding which seem to be moving along. Reynolds' field is underwater after the recent storms, and it is more severe than the last couple years. There were a couple times when people couldn't get through the road and got stuck. Apart from that the town is happy for the rainfall, and the sentiment in the town is pretty positive regarding plans to move forward with implementing solutions to flooding.
- Kossy asked if any of the directors have or need business cards. Kossy would like business cards printed for her. Moller will have them printed.
- Glauthier saw Felicia Marcus (SWRCB President) in San Francisco and she was looking forward to the meeting her staff had with RCD staff this week.
- Holland gave Nelson kudos for the role she played assisting Supervisor Horsley's office with the December 5th agricultural workshop. [Directors Holland, Kramer, Reynolds, and Kossy were present for the workshop.] Kramer noted that he heard a lot of people make positive remarks about the RCD's involvement and about the workshop.
- Holland spoke about his role on the Peninsula Workgroup and their interest in developing agricultural policy. They would like for Nelson to be part of that effort.
- Kramer visited Pescadero with his son to see how the rain was impacting the coast. The road was shut down and the water was within 6 inches of the bridge. There were people trying to get through that couldn't.

6.3 San Mateo County RCD 75th Anniversary Planning

- Reynolds did fundraising this month and delivered a check to Nelson.
- Holland made some calls to elected representatives to invite them to the event.
- Moller will work on invitations.
- Nelson and Kossy will coordinate about their shared responsibilities.
- Directors discussed logistics for setting up/cleaning up at the event.
 - Nelson suggested coordinating with Moldovan for this.
- Nelson asked Howard if Carlos Suarez and Kay Joy Barge from the NRCS would come, and Howard thinks they would. Nelson asked him to invite them as special guests.

6.4 Statewide Perspective – Kellyx Nelson

- Nelson recently returned from China, where she saw a lot of erosion and landslides, and appreciated the foresight of those who created soil conservation districts in the U.S.

6.5 Executive Director Report – Kellyx Nelson

- The end of year appeal went out. A couple hundred were sent by mail and about 1,200 by email using MailChimp. Our MailChimp open rate is 30%, and industry standard is about 20%. We had 6 people unsubscribe out of about 1,200. We received one donation through PayPal. Nelson distributed letters for the Directors to send to their personal contacts.
- South Coast Drought Relief Program
 - About \$1 million of this is for off-stream storage for agriculture. The partnership we have with AR and TU has helped us make significant progress with the state for getting

master permits and best negotiating water rights. This is significant; streamlining these things will make it much easier to create small scale agricultural ponds with conservation benefit. It won't help agricultural ponds that don't have a conservation benefit, and it won't help for very large ponds.

- We have acquired additional suite of offices upstairs in our current building. We'll be giving up a single office downstairs and gaining a much larger office upstairs that will allow us to be less crowded in the current office and give us some kitchen space and running water.
- We have two interns coming on, one for GIS and one for water quality. RCD water quality coordinator, Brittani Bohlke, identified a need for an intern to organize all of our water quality data from various projects so that she can analyze what it all means.
- Solutions to Flooding in Pescadero
 - RCD staff assisted Supervisor Horsley in his tour for Supervisor Carole Groom about flooding in Pescadero and next steps.
 - RCD staff has approached State Parks about a grant application to develop designs to dredge in the marsh to restore fish passage and alleviate flooding.
 - Staff is working with the County as needed/ requested for their next steps of dredging in their right of way and developing designs for a causeway into the town of Pescadero. Sup. Horsley is looking for ways to support the RCD to continue the public coordination part of the project.
 - Staff is applying for grants to do floodplain restoration on POST's Butano Farms property which will help with upstream sediment control and create off channel overwinter habitat for fish.
 - Staff is working hard to continue the integrity of the project as integrated solutions for flooding that enhance natural resources and public safety.
- Agricultural Workshop
 - Photos of the workshop and the PowerPoint presentations are up on Sup. Horsley's webpage.: <http://bos.smcgov.org/san-mateo-county-agricultural-workshop>.
 - The video interview Nelson conducted with farmer Dave Repetto was presented at the workshop. He talked about his experience implementing an irrigation efficiency project with American Rivers, NRCS, RCD, and Trout Unlimited. It can be seen on the RCD Facebook page (www.facebook.com/sanmateorcd) and YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfTBTM7-H90>).
- Meeting with the SWRCB
 - Nelson thanked Holland for joining RCD staff for this meeting.
 - Darrin Polhemus, Deputy Director of the SWRCB, came to RCD offices from Sacramento to talk with RCD and County staff about the issues we've experienced with the Fitzgerald Pollution Reduction (FPR) grant and other grants. Mr. Polhemus was very helpful, and heard what we had to say.
 - Nelson asked him how SWRCB would restore funds to make the FPR project whole again. Mr. Polhemus promised to look into options after we provide him with the amount we would need. He also acknowledged other issues the RCD and County have

experienced with SWRCB grant programs and committed to working with us and his staff to ensure a positive partnership into the future.

- Current grant proposals
 - The RCD was part of a Bay Area regional proposal for a \$20 million grant from NRCS that was awarded, but only funded for \$2 million for the entire Bay Area. The proposal was intended to help land trusts and RCDs identify we can best work together, but much of the easement money was not awarded. POST generously offered the total funds for San Mateo County (\$400K) to the RCD since there were inadequate funds for easements and ensuring the RCD's role to provide technical assistance. The focus of the work is climate mitigation and adaptation. This money will hopefully help us get the Good Earth project running, which aims to use Eucalyptus as soil amendment.
 - Fisheries Restoration Grant Program – Moller is writing 4-6 grant applications for a variety of projects. We will have more information on those at later meetings
 - Urban Streams Program – Kogan is writing this grant proposal for Pescadero floodplain restoration. We are asking for about \$1 million.
- Sup. Horsley sent a letter thanking us for sponsoring the agricultural workshop.
- Glauthier asked what is happening with the Agbudsman position. Nelson said that she needs to advertise the position.

7 Adjourn

- Holland adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.