

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
February 18, 2016  
Location: RCD Office**

Directors present: Neal Kramer, Barbara Kossy, Jim Reynolds

Staff present: RCD – Kellyx Nelson, Adria Arko  
NRCS – Jim Howard

Guests: Kimberly Williams, Todd Pelman, Fred Crowder

**1 Call to Order**

Kossy called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

**2 Introduction of Guests and Staff**

Guests introduced themselves. Todd Pelman is an interested member of public who is interested in being more involved in the work that RCD does and applied to fill the vacancy on the board.

**3 Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**4 Approval of agenda**

4.1 Agenda passed unanimously, including consent agenda.

**5 Consent Agenda**

There was no discussion of consent agenda.

**6 Discussion Items**

**6.1 Presentation: Overview of Agriculture in San Mateo County. Fred Crowder, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner (ATTACHMENT A)**

- Top crops in San Mateo County are potted plants, ornamental nurse stock and Brussels sprouts
- Santa Cruz grows more Brussels than San Mateo County but not as high of a return. Santa Cruz crops generally go to freezer.
- Used to grow more artichokes in San Mateo County but a seeded variety was started that does well inland.
- Going to see what happens locally from climate change which will have an effect on weather, pathogens, etc.
- Ag Commissioner's office regulates commodity to limit pests and pathogens. Do representative samples to check for pests.

- Brussel's sprouts are some of the most chemically intensive crop.
- The Ag Commissioners regulate crops for pesticide use.
- Nelson: More concerned about garden and backyard pesticide and herbicide use than use on farms.
- 1940-50's San Mateo County used to be in the top three ag producing counties in the state. Bayside of the County was producing. San Mateo County used to be a totally local food system. Then urbanization happened and ag land was lost.
- Cannabis is now an ag product recognized by California. San Mateo County is prime for crop. We already have greenhouses and the infrastructure.
- Ag Commissioner's office exists to assist in agricultural work for the California Department of Food and Agricultural and the Department of Pesticide Regulation.
- Code for pesticide labels is federal law, otherwise it is CDFA code.
- All counties in CA have an Agricultural Commissioner.
- Receive Farm Bill money for pest detection.
- For every \$1 that is spent on exclusion of pests, you save \$10-15 on pest detection. Proactive action is essential for pest work.
- More pests were introduced into California in the last two years than ever were before.

## 6.2 Directors' Reports

- Kossy reported on her site visit to Costanoa to look at *hypericum canariense* with John Beall, a staff member at the Ag Commissioner's office. They provided technical assistance about controlling the hypericum weed.
- Kramer asked Nelson about the status of the State Science Panel report about Pescadero marsh and lagoon. Nelson reported that the report will be released soon. The RCD is assisting with scheduling a date and venue for a public meeting to release the report and how efforts to make the report accessible to the community. The meeting may be the week of April 25<sup>th</sup>. Nelson discussed various efforts in Pescadero (follow-up efforts to the flooding study, County efforts to dredge at the road, a feasibility analysis of a causeway, the State Science Panel, and other efforts pertaining to the marsh and watershed) and RCD's work to integrate the different efforts and help create opportunities for community engagement.
- Reynolds reported that PMAC meetings have been going well and that Nelson has been a good resource to them and does good outreach.
- Reynolds liked a lot of things in the Executive Director Report. He was also sad about to hear about Karen Christensen, former Executive Director of the RCD at Santa Cruz.
- Reynolds reported on POST's event launching their Farmland Futures Initiative. Nelson was there too. Reynolds is looking forward to hearing more about the initiative, and feels it has good implications for agriculture
- Reynolds reported that there will be a meeting about the location of the new firehouse on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> in Pescadero. The County will be presenting about the relocation of the station.

- Reynolds reported that last weekend was very busy in terms of the amount of visitors. Seems like there has been a consistent increase in tourists. Cindy's store closed down early because there were so many people. It is a phenomenon to consider.
  - Kramer suggested it was because of Mavericks, good weather and the long weekend.

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

- Pelman asked about the Colma cemetery project. Nelson explained the goals of the program, which are to increase water and energy efficiency at the cemeteries, which cover a large percentage of the land of Colma.

## **7 Action Items**

### **7.1 Consider rescheduling the date of the March 2016 regular meeting of the Board of Directors.**

- Nelson is unavailable on March 17<sup>th</sup>. There was unanimous agreement for staff to reschedule the meeting date.

## **8 Adjourn**

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.