

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 21, 2011
Time 6:30-8:30
Location: RCD Office

Directors Present: Rich Allen, Neal Kramer, TJ Glauthier
Staff present: RCD- Kellyx Nelson, Karissa Anderson, Alyssa Hernandez
NRCS-Jim Howard
Guests: Nando Muzzi, Ron Sturgeon

1 Call to Order

- Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2 Introduction of Guests, Committee, and Staff.

- Nando Muzzi and Ron Sturgeon were introduced

3 Public Comment.

4 Approval of Agenda

- Agenda approved unanimously.

5 Consent Agenda

- Consent agenda approved unanimously.

6 Discussion Items

6.1 AmeriCorps Watershed Stewardship Programs Internship

- Green Jobs Corps – environmental education, Pescadero HS, Camp Glenwood (WQ, bugs, salmonid life cycle)
- Water Quality Monitoring – Bear Creek, San Vicente Creek, various others
- Removal of *Hypericum canariense* – manage project during Kellyx's leave, moving forward now
- Ponds projects – pond bathymetry survey
- IPM Protocol – hedgerows, working with NRCS (Jim Howard)
- Jim Howard noted that Alyssa's help has been very helpful for NRCS. Jim will be able to use the hedgerow monitoring protocol as an NRCS tool.
- WSP Site Accomplishments: project management, environmental education, monitoring. Has attended several workshops, trainings and meetings
- Upcoming: another IPM workshop, hypericum, Cloverdale ponds, Rural Roads program, Environmental Education Gaps Analysis project
- Previewed presentation for next IPM workshop – bugs!
- Questions:

- TJ: recommend to other students? Alyssa: Yes, a good match, glad she got the opportunity.

6.2 Discussion and Updates about Office Space

- Kellyx: have made a lot of improvements to office space. Sanctuary satellite office in this building is closing. Still looking for storage, at same time USFWS is looking for space. Possible to stay here and partner with USFWS for that office space.
- TJ: space in Harbor Village, could be a good option, \$1/sq ft. Undeveloped spaces though, no dividers or office rooms. Harbor could be nice because it's central.

6.3 Executive Director Report

- Kellyx received Employee of the Year award from CARCD!
- Midcoast Groundwater Study is cancelled – county is not moving forward since Montara Water and Sanitary is now moving forward with new hook-ups to their system, County no longer has jurisdiction.
- Pescadero TMDL outreach contract has expired and cannot be extended. If Bay Area IRWMP comes through, may have opportunity for outreach through that grant.
- All State funds must now be Davis Bacon compliant – prevailing wage. Raises costs of project and burden on partners significantly. Will discuss at Central Coast RCD meeting next week – need a broad base of conservation partners to collaborate on a problem statement with some examples.
 - TJ: Two options, exemption and correct job classifications.
 - Kx: have explored using classifications. Are required to have program (attorneys) in place for this to send in reports.
 - TJ: can we have a plan on file to send out.
 - Kx: there is a component that we can do that way, but regular reporting is a requirement. First step is getting education on this. Can explore finding a pro bono consultant for this, also need to create a coalition of RCD's also who will need help with this.
- Rural Roads Workshop: May 14th, Pie Ranch and Barranca-Knolls Road. Doing road assessments and designs now, moving forward with program.
- County consideration of Grading Ordinance: Impose more restrictions on agriculture on land with a 30% slope or higher. Came out of concern from folks in La Honda about a vineyard being put in on a slope. County Planning met with Jim and Kellyx. Kx and Jim talked with them about having an exemption for people with a conservation plan with NRCS. Told them clearly that RCD protects confidentiality of partners – not an enforcement entity. Did not come up during watershed planning process for San Gregorio Watershed plan.
- Watershed Coordinator Grant fell through. Had Ed Burton visit to NRCS office and Ed was exceedingly happy with Jim and partnership. Ended meeting asking what we need. Kx asked for them to fund a half time position for a watershed coordinator. Agreed on a handshake to give us \$30k through a contribution agreement to fund one part-time person. Would also be less onerous to report than a grant-funded position and would open door to continue that agreement.
- Americorps for next year: Alyssa is the pro! Cons are cost and some requirements are cumbersome and difficult for us. Possible we could spend money for a student intern without all the requirements for field work. RCD opted not to apply for Americorps next year. Gulf of the Farallones is willing to do all the mentoring and partner with RCD for

field opportunities for students. Haven't worked out all details now, but would probably be project-based. This would also keep us current with the program for future applications.

- Swanton Pacific Ranch Workshop: With Gordon Claassen, at ranch run by Cal Poly SLO. Jim had toured ranch and was very impressed. Gordon is rangeland manager, very tuned in to holistic resource management. Karissa saw Gordon at BWET – went way back. Had a workshop there with San Mateo ranchers and farmers, diverse participants. Showed a slideshow of photos.
- Central Coast Rangeland Coalition Meeting: Kellyx attended today, brought up issue of lease terms. Some leases try to recover property taxes through rent rates, makes it difficult for lessees to use holistic management approach. Kellyx also brought up to AWQA with Sanctuary. Must make sure that ranchers can make money – need a business model that allows for a long-term partnership to achieve conservation goals. Kellyx asked AWQA to fund the writing of a white paper on this as a starting point for conversations.
- Instream flows in SM County: A few different things going on trying to revisit off-stream storage in ponds. Food Systems Alliance, CEMAR (looking in Pescadero watershed). RCD has a subcontract with American Rivers to investigate this. Not much has happened yet, but is moving forward.

7 Action Item

7.1 Resolution 2011-3: Approval for the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District to enter into a Mutual Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, and the State of California for their cooperation in the Conservation of Natural Resources.

- NRCS Cooperative Agreement: same as in past, renewing.
- TJ asked why we had to renew.
- Jim: there is a term, not written into agreement, field office visit identified need to update operational agreement.
 - **TJ moved to approve Resolution 2011-3, Neal seconded. Unanimously approved.**

7.2 Board Approval for Grading Exemption – Nando Muzzi

- Project is a partnership between NRCS, RCD, Cascade Ranch Historic Farm and Rossi Farms.
- Project is an irrigating reservoir. Have done geotech investigations and seismology. Nando has taken on project for Cascade Ranch. Jim K. has been engineer on this.
- Jim gives project his full support.
- Neal: what is our role in approval?
 - Kx: written into County's Coastal Program, if locals want to do a conservation project, can come to NRCS and RCD for a grading exemption, County has ceded that authority to RCD Board. Board votes on whether or not to approve – if approved, Kx sends letter and plans to County and assists with process. Saves landowner a LOT of money to go through NRCS instead of County because our permit exemption fees are much lower than County's.

- Neal moved to approve grading exemption, TJ seconded. Unanimously approved.

8 **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at p.m.