

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 16, 2017
Location: RCD Office

Directors present: Neal Kramer, TJ Glauthier, Jim Reynolds

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

Guests: N/A

1 Call to Order

- 6:32pm meeting called to order.

2 Introduction of Guests and Staff

- No guests

3 Public Comment

- Howard is now serving Santa Cruz County half time because the District Conservationist of Santa Cruz County retired, and a replacement was not found prior to the hiring freeze put in place by the federal government. The engineer position was also not filled. Howard discussed the increase in requests for assistance for storm damage.

4 Approval of Agenda

- Nelson suggested changes: Item 5.1 December 15, 2016 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes and Item 6.1 Executive Director's Report will be moved to next meeting.
- Reynolds moved to approve the agenda with the suggested changes. Kramer seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval to approve the agenda.
- Glauthier asked Arko to ask the Half Moon Bay Review why the Board Meeting was not included in the paper.

5 Consent Agenda

- ~~5.1 December 15, 2016 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes~~
- 5.2 December 2016 Draft Financial Statements
- 5.3 January 2017 Draft Financial Statements

6 Discussion Items

- ~~6.1 Executive Director Report – Kellyx Nelson~~

6.2 Directors' Reports

- Reynolds discussed the recent storms. He has noticed what appears to be an increase in sediment deposition on his property from the flooding. The Butano Floodplain Restoration Project seems to be working well.
- Kramer had no updates.
- Glauthier discussed the financial reports. There needs to be a method to understand the shape that the RCD is in, whether it is commentary or restructuring the statements. It appears that the RCD is in a good position financially.
- Nelson explained that the RCD went out to bid for a Financial Strategist, although it was distributed to a large network, only three applications were received. Nelson would like to see a more competitive pool of applicants and may go to bid again. One of the tasks is to provide a narrative to help with interpretation and to help revise the financial statement structure.

6.3 Determine 2017 Board Meeting Agenda Topics

- At the beginning of last year, the structure of Board meetings was changed to include topics to visit throughout the year. The Board decided to postpone setting the schedule for the year until Kossy and Watt are present. Some ideas are First Flush, Agricultural Ombudsman, crop report, training on protected species in the area, Division 9 and what is an RCD, pictures of projects from the field. The Board decided to see a presentation on how projects held up during the winter storms at the March meeting, and to discuss endangered species in April.

7 Action Items

7.1 Board will consider application from Ben Ranz to serve as Associate Director.

- Ranz was unable to attend this meeting, but met with Watt and Nelson prior to submitting an application. Nelson read a note from Watt endorsing Ranz.
- Glauthier initiated a discussion about how to involve Ranz enough to make it worthwhile.
- There was discussion about the Associate Director policy and requirements. Associate Directors do not have attendance requirements but do have similar requirements to Directors as far as conflict of interest, and are encouraged to attend the meetings but cannot vote or be in closed meetings.
- Reynolds made a motion to approve Ranz as an Associate Director, Kramer seconded the motion. Ben Ranz was approved to serve as an Associate Director with unanimous approval.

7.2 Board will consider changing regular meeting time.

- Kramer moved to change the Board of Directors meeting time to 4:00 pm. Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7.3 Board will consider sending a letter recognizing the contributions of Rich Casale, recently retired NRCS District Conservationist in Santa Cruz County.

- Directors and Howard discussed a draft letter and made recommendations for revisions.
- Kramer moved to send the letter, Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8 Convene in Closed Session

8.1 Public Employee Performance Evaluation. Per Government Code Sec 54957, Board will discuss the performance of the Executive Director.

8.2 Significant Exposure to Litigation. Per Government Code Sec 54965.9(d)2, Board will discuss one potential case.

9 Reconvene in Open Session

- The Board reported that that each topic was discussed and that no actions were taken.

10 Adjourn