

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
April 20, 2017  
Location: RCD Office**

Directors present: Kevin Watt, Barbara Kossy, Jim Reynolds, Ben Ranz (Associate)

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

Guests: None

**1 Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 4:07pm.

**2 Introduction of Guests and Staff**

- Ben Ranz, a recently appointed Associate Director, was introduced. Ranz works at Puente de la Costa Sur in Pescadero, where he does outreach with farm workers and others in the South Coast community.
- Directors and staff introduced themselves.

**3 Public Comment**

- Howard discussed implications of federal budget changes.
- Watt asked about how it may affect the Farm Bill. Howard said he does not know if those monies will continue to be available.

**4 Approval of Agenda**

- December 15, 2016 minutes (Item 5.1) were pulled from the Consent Agenda. Watt moved to approve the agenda with removal of Item 5.1. Reynolds seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**5 Consent Agenda**

~~5.1 December 15, 2016 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes~~

5.2 February 16, 2017 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes

5.3 March 23, 2016 Draft Special Meeting Minutes

5.4 February 2017 Draft Financial Statements

5.5 March 2017 Draft Financial Statements

5.6 Correspondence

- March 3, 2017 Email to Pescadero Distribution List, “Dredge in Pescadero Marsh”

- March 8, 2017 Email to Pescadero Distribution List, “Frequently Asked Questions About the RCD Proposal to Dredge Butano Creek Channel”

## 5.7 Media

- December 14, 2016 Half Moon Bay Review article, “Wave of coordination brings hope to end flooding”
- March 7, 2017 Half Moon Bay Review article, “Resource Conservation District offers hope for Pescadero marsh”
- March 15, 2017 Half Moon Bay Review article, “RCD submits Pescadero dredging application”
- March 22, 2017 Half Moon Bay Review article, “‘First Flush’ Shows High Bacteria”

## 5.8 March 22, 2017 Half Moon Bay Review article, “County, State Parks Support Pescadero Dredging Plan

# 6 Discussion Items

## 6.1 Executive Director Report

- California Association of Resource Conservation Districts conference is in Sacramento this year, November 14-18th. Watt is planning to attend.
- On Aug 31st, San Mateo will be hosting the Central Coast RCD Regional Meeting at TomKat Ranch, focused on climate.
- Nelson is working on an overall project tracker to share with Board. Typically, only a few projects are shared during Board meetings. This would enable the Board to be apprised of all of the other projects.
- RCD is partnering with State Parks to help the Amah Mutsun Land Trust with traditional vegetation management near Costanoa.
- There will soon be two new staff members. One to replace Slender False Brome management and to assist with other vegetation projects, and another to serve as a general conservation assistant to assist with habitat restoration projects.
- On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the RCD received a Silicon Valley Water Conservation Award. Several staff members and Reynolds attended.
- Nelson and Arko attended Communications Institute at Compass Point Nonprofit Institute.
- Some staff attended Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference. Irina Kogan, Project Manager, presented about Butano Creek Floodplain Restoration Project. Nelson, Chris Coburn of the RCD of Santa Cruz, and Jim Robins of Alnus Ecological gave a presentation titled, “Engineering is the Easy Part.”
- The RCD submitted an application for the Department of Conservation’s RCD Capacity Building grant, which will be for about \$40,000 and will allow for training, a financial strategy consultant, and with work that will feed into strategic planning,
- Howard mentioned that Carlos Suarez, NRCS California State Conservationist, visited this office recently. They talked about the Butano Creek Floodplain Restoration project, and visited Pie Ranch. Both Suarez and the NRCS Area Conservationist are very supportive of the work that this RCD and NRCS office do as a partnership.

- Nelson provided an update to the work in Pescadero Marsh. She has attended Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council meetings, has been presenting about floodplain restoration project and dredging project, hopes to hold a field visit to floodplain restoration project, and the RCD is also engaged in other analytical projects to show how the marsh operates, which will lead to a larger Pescadero Marsh restoration plan.
  - The grant to NOAA to dredge Pescadero Marsh was submitted. Nelson is also working with State elected representatives to find additional funding and working to get funding for designs and permitting.
  - The RCD is also working to find an emergency solution to the fish kills in Pescadero Marsh. Looking at holding back anoxic water with a barrier, possibly sandbags. The solution needs to be affordable, easy to permit, not permanent, involving community, something that can be raised and lowered, and put in and removed quickly depending on tides.
- RCD is going to construction on several water storage projects this summer.
- Paychex made a mistake with 401k allocation. Allocation was not given, and interest was not gained. RCD is asking Paychex to correct the issue and pay for counsel. RCD will start to look at other companies.
- RCD got a California Irrigated Management Information System (CIMIS) station as part of the Water Needs Assessment project. Watt said that TomKat weather station info could be helpful.
- Kossy asked for an update from the Stanford University archival project. Stanford had staff turnover and is still working on archiving.
- Ranz, Howard, and Nelson discussed fields have been water logged and planting has been delayed, which is impacting workers and causing cash flow issues for farms.
- Howard said that labor has become a bigger issue than water in the past few years. Watt agreed that annual employment is challenging.
- Kossy asked if/how RCDs are involved in labor, housing, etc. Arko said that RCD is involved in Farm Labor Housing Pilot Program through the Agricultural Ombudsman Program, and that labor impacts agriculture which is a RCD program area. Nelson said she is looking forward to having a larger conversation about it in the strategic planning process.

## 6.2 Directors' Report

- Glauthier: Sent email to Nelson that she read aloud (Attached).
- Kossy: Weed Management Areas (WMA) were defunded in 2008ish. The San Mateo WMA is trying to get them refunded. The WMA continued to meet despite no funding. Next meeting is Picnic in the Weeds, and will be sometime in late May. Kossy sent out a request for letter writing in support of funding WMAs. Kossy uses iNaturalist phone application for citizen science. May be a good tool for the RCD.
  - Nelson: Kossy celebrated a birthday and asked gifts to be donations to the RCD. Thank you!
- Watt: Recently joined the California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment. Watt has been attending CARCD board meetings to understand State level work. Nelson said they are exploring having Watt join the CARCD board. Watt spoke to California Department of

Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross about the farm bill. It is an uncertain future. Conservation, research and EQIP were popular with the stakeholders she has spoken with, and California will push for funding those in the farm bill. Healthy Soils initiative will kick off in June. \$2.5 million will be available to support agricultural projects to increase soil health for climate mitigation. Comet Planner has been accepted for the quantification metrics. **And Watt had a son!**

- Reynolds: Went on field visit to Butano Creek Floodplain Restoration Project with RCD staff and John Klochak from US Fish and Wildlife. He has been noticing siltation on his property. Klochak wanted to thank him and thank the RCD for the project.
- Ranz: Attended PMAC and liked the Butano Creek Floodplain Restoration Project presentation. Pescadero Farmers Market opens June 1<sup>st</sup>, it may be a good opportunity for outreach. Pescadero Arts and Fun Festival is also coming up.
- Nelson and Ranz discussed youth programs and potential partnerships.

### 6.3 Discussion about lessons learned and questions from recently completed ethics training

- Reynolds asked about location of Board meetings in relation to our district, Nelson said that it is not an issue.
- Watt asked about free and discounted travel, which apparently includes personal travel.
- Ranz asked if he should take the training. Nelson said not required, but recommended.

### 6.4 Discussion about new law pertaining to public officials' and employees' communication on private devices and accounts that may be public records subject to disclosure

- Your personal devices may be subject to the California Public Records Act.

### 6.5 Discussion about the calendar of agenda items for the next twelve months of regular meetings of the Board of Directors

- The Board discussed and prioritized topics for regular meetings over the next year, including a learning agenda and action items. Three topics were chosen for in-depth study sessions: agriculture in San Mateo County, Pescadero Marsh, and water quality.

## 7 **Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at 6:11pm.