

**DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 18, 2021
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
via Zoom teleconference**

Directors present: Barbara Kossy, TJ Glauthier, Adrienne Etherton

Associate Directors present: Kevin Watt

RCD staff present: Kellyx Nelson, Lau Hodges, Noah Katz, Sheena Sidhu

NRCS staff present: Jim Howard

Guests present: Meredith Kasyan, John Keener, Rinaldo Veseliza, Andrea Bauman, Keith Mangold, Barbara Baginska

1. Call to Order

Kossy called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve closed session agenda passed unanimously.

3. Convene Closed Session

3.1 Public Employee Performance Evaluation Pursuant to California Government Code §54957

Title: Executive Director

4. Adjourn Closed Session

5. Convene Open Session and Report on Closed Session

- Open Session was called order at 4:32 p.m.
- Glauthier noted the board felt very positive towards Nelson's performance and requested another closed session to allow for more time to complete the review.

6. Introductions of Guests and Staff

All in attendance introduced themselves.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Consent Agenda

Glauthier pulled items 8.1 and 8.5 and moved to approve the agenda as amended, Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Regular Agenda

9.1 Presentation by Noah Katz (San Mateo RCD Water Quality Program Manager)- “First Rain 2020 Results.” ([Presentation Link](#))

- Discussion included:
 - First Rain, AKA First Flush, as only one part of the RCD’s Water Quality Program.
 - Higher levels of copper in Princeton
 - RCD’s non-regulatory role
 - Landscape work observed in Montara Creek.
 - Included areas reflect that the RCD works where invited and funded and the value of longitudinal data
 - The event was correctly timed- there had been at least 1/10” of rain and there was sheet flow
 - Testing water samples for herbicides and pesticides in other water quality monitoring programs
 - What the data do and don’t tell us, e.g. the program isn’t designed to provide data on what management actions are working, but what larger issues might exist in a watershed
 - Total Daily Maximum Load being developed for Pillar Point Harbor

8.1 Fiscal Year 2021 Draft Second Quarter Financial Statements

- Glauthier noted the second quarter estimate is half of budget and despite the challenging year, with the COVID-19 Pandemic and CZU Fire, the RCD was still able to get out in the field; revenues are at 42% and expenses are at 41%. He highlighted the \$350K in reserves and thanked staff for budget management.
- **ACTION:** Etherton moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Financials, Glauthier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8.5 San Mateo RCD Google Earth Tour: Open Edible Garden Tour of San Mateo County

- **ACTION:** Etherton moved to receive the RCD’s Open Edible Garden Tour into record, Glauthier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

9.2 Board will consider adoption of Draft Strategic Direction.

- There was discussion about:
 - the process led by Amy Stork being inclusive and involving the Board, staff and partners resulting in the first robust strategic plan in the RCD’s recent history;
 - enthusiasm for the document, the process, and the partner feedback about the RCD;
 - desire for stable base funding for staffing and operations;
 - development of an implementation plan; and
 - rewording 4.2 be reworded to say: “Pursue opportunities to increase RCD baseline funding in perpetuity to a level that supports the core operations and staff.”
- **ACTION:** Glauthier moved to approve the Draft Strategic Direction as amended, Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

9.3 Executive Director's Report

- Cutting Green Tape is moving forward, first recommendation has been implemented, others under way.
- Black, Indigenous & People of Color (BIPOC) group of RCD staff submitted a letter to CARCD board expressing concerns and providing a list of demands.
 - Etherton asked if it was appropriate to share the letter with the RCD Board and Nelson noted she would check with the BIPOC group.
- Two members of the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone recently joined a staff meeting.
- Nelson and staff member Kaeser engaging with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee of the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network.
- RCD staff is in an evolving conversations with the Fire Safe Council about roles and partnership.
- Santa Cruz and San Mateo RCDs are developing a new tool with Coastal Commission staff to permit fuel load reduction projects, potentially a model for the state.
- Staff is engaging in policy discussions regarding climate change, financial recovery, grant funding.

9.4 NRCS report

- Howard gave a 2020 year in review and noted it had been a tough and interesting year:
 - New Platform Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool had come online.
 - \$171K in Environmental Quality Incentives Program Contracts had been administered, a bit lower than usual.
 - The pandemic was hard under the previous leadership; however, things were looking up.
 - Dealing with the fallout of the July 2020 office break-in, and stolen vehicles, had been a challenge.
 - The CZU Fire quickly became an all-hands-on deck event and he was really proud of the work NRCS and RCD had done as a team.
 - Three agricultural produces had received emergency funding.
 - NRCS new administration included: Tom Vilsack as the new Secretary of Agriculture, Terry Crosby as acting NRCS Chief and Gail Barry as Acting Associate Chief.

9.5 Directors' reports

- No reports were given.

7 Adjourn Meeting

- Kossy adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.