

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 15, 2015
Location: RCD Office**

Directors present: Neal Kramer, Barbara Kossy, Jim Reynolds

Staff present: RCD – Renee Moldovan, Adria Arko, Kellyx Nelson, Kathleen Dickey

Guests: None

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:57pm.

2. Introduction of Guests and Staff

- Kathleen Dickey, RCD Conservation Project Coordinator, was introduced.

3. Public Comment

- None

4. Approval of Agenda

- Kramer moved to approve the agenda with the following edit to the September 17th meeting minutes:
 - Add “List of RCD services in Pescadero area” to the Consent Agenda.
- Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Consent Agenda

5.1 September 17, 2015 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes

5.2 August 20, 2015 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes

5.3 September 2015 Draft Financial Statements

5.4 FY14 Audit

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Presentation from Kathleen Dickey on the Slender False Brome Eradication Project. (Attachment A).

6.2 Directors’ Reports

- Reynolds- Recently met Congressman Sam Farr. They talked about organic agriculture in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties. Farr has sponsored a lot of legislation related to

agriculture. Farr stated that between Santa Cruz and Pescadero there is a hot bed of innovation for agriculture.

- Reynolds went to a TomKat Ranch event on Sunday. They hosted a dinner for smaller agricultural producers.
- Reynolds recently attended a Pescadero Municipal Advisory Committee meeting. He learned from a California Highway Patrol officer that someone has been hosting raves on Tunitas beach. At the same PMAC meeting, Joe Issel, RCD Natural Resources Specialist, gave a presentation on large woody debris. The committee also discussed the increase in tourism in the area.
 - Kossy remembered a Blue Circle event on sustainable tourism. Thinks that it is a topic we could revisit.
 - Reynolds- Tourism is causing lots of issues, and will likely not decrease. RCD should be aware, and do what we can to deal with issue.
 - Kossy asked if Pescadero was preparing for El Niño
 - Nelson said that Issel's presentation at the PMAC meeting was in anticipation of El Niño. There was subsequent discussion about large wood in creeks, what might be expected this year if there are big storms, how the RCD is trying to be proactive on the issue, and other emergency preparations in Pescadero.
- Kossy- The upcoming Weed Management Area meeting is November 17th at the Ag Commissioner Office. Supervisor Don Horsley will be there.
- Kossy is looking forward to the Round-up on RoundUp®.

6.3 Executive Director Report – Kellyx Nelson

- Sam Farr was the person who got earmarks for the Ag Water Quality Alliance. Lots of work by RCDs over years has utilized this funding, and has been tied to the fact that we drain into Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). The northern end of MBNMS, in San Mateo County, is managed by the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. There is some interest in changing borders so Farallones Sanctuary would expand to encompass San Mateo County.
- CARCD conference is November 18-21. Kossy and Reynolds have expressed interest in going.
- Construction updates:
 - Good news- barriers are removed from Memorial Park! This project will be wrapped up on time.
 - Roads projects are about 75% done. Resource agencies have extended permits through end of October. Work should be done by end of next week.
 - Low Impact Development projects for Fitzgerald Pollution Reduction program, have one site that has been really contentious and challenging, and there is some potential for litigation. Other sites (out of 7) are going well. Hopefully doing more of these in the future.
 - Regulatory updates: New regulation called WOTUS- Waters of the United States. The EPA took much broader jurisdiction. Clean Water Act applies to this entire new

jurisdiction, and may pose new regulatory burden for our projects. WOTUS has been challenged by 18 states so far, so it may not go through.

- Statewide legislation for grazing, Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP), has been pulled.
- Grading Permit Exemption Program- Arko and Nelson met with County to improve the program for more consistency, certainty, and clarity. Arko is making revisions to the permit exemption application for County review. The program is supposed to incentivize conservation and reduce administrative burden for planning staff..
- Santa Cruz Mountain Stewardship Network approved RCD hosting the network manager.
- There was discussion of Board vacancies and potential candidates.
- The Blue Circle event, “The Round-up on RoundUp ®,” is coming up on Tuesday the 20th. Around 70 people have RSVP’d. There was discussion about the panelists, public interest in the topic, and media coverage.

6.4 Discussion of Employee Health Plan (Attachment B)

- Nelson discussed RCD’s need to balance an attractive workplace with fiscal responsibility. Moldovan described her findings from researching sustainable and affordable health care plans for staff, including CalPers, SDRMA, and brokers. We are now working with a broker to help us decide between Kaiser and Blue Shield, because it offers flexibility, and gives flexibility to employee as well. The plan is not so cost prohibitive that they would want to opt out of the plan.
 - Kossy asked if health insurance is available to Directors. Moldovan said no, only staff at 32 hours+ after a probationary period.
 - Moldovan said it was important to find something we can sustain year after year. Insurance is going up every year. There may come a time when the RCD may need to change structure of payment. There are more full time people on staff now, so it’s time to figure it out. Good thing about starting now is that we are able to stay at rate for 12 months moving forward, so prices won’t jump in January.
 - Nelson said that before the RCD didn’t have enough staff to participate. Now we have ten people on staff, with two people transitioning to full time. Now we have staff members that have expectations about benefits. They weren’t here when the RCD was smaller and don’t have patience for growing pains.

Action Items

7. 7.1: Determine November meeting date, as regularly scheduled date conflicts with the annual meeting of the CARCD
 - 7.1 ACTION: Reynolds moved that the meeting date be Thursday, November 12. Kramer will be out of town, but seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
8. 7.2 Designate a representative for the CARCD conference in November 2015
 - 8.1 Kramer moved to designate Kossy, Reynold seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- ~~9. 7.3 Consideration of approval of revisions to the CARCD bylaws~~
- ~~10. 7.4 Consideration of approval of the three year strategic plan.~~

10.1 Tabled for next meeting.

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm
- Reynold moved to adjourn the meeting, Kramer seconded, meeting adjourned.