

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
November 12, 2015
Location: RCD Office**

Directors present: TJ Glauthier, Jim Reynolds, Barbara Kossy

Staff present: RCD – Renee Moldovan, Kellyx Nelson, Shannon Mann

NRCS – Jim Howard

Guests:

1 Call to Order

- 6:34pm called to order.

2 Introduction of Guests and Staff

3 Public Comment

- None

4 Approval of Agenda

- TJ moved, Jim seconded. Approval of the agenda passed unanimously.

5 Consent Agenda

5.1 October 15, 2015 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes

5.2 October 2015 Draft Financial Statements

6 Discussion Items

6.1 Directors' Reports

- Kossy will not be going to the CARCD conference. There will be no SMCRCDD directors attending the conference this year.
- Reynolds went to the latest PMAC meeting. Reynolds stated that the meeting had a good agenda wherein the PMAC Board discussed sustainability and all the important issues now existing in Pescadero. There was lot of support for the RCD amongst the PMAC Board members.
- Discussed permit procedures and the long length of time to receive permits.
- Discussed that flood mitigation is unlikely to happen this year in Pescadero and a bad flood year is expected. The ability of the County to declare an emergency was discussed. There was discussion of short term solutions for emergency action in the event of flooding, dredging options as a midterm solution, and longer term solutions involving managing sediment at its source and the feasibility of a causeway.

- Glauthier went to a Brews and Views forum about climate adaptation and mitigation at which Dave Pine and Rich Gordon were speakers for the discussion. Glauthier sees an importance for the State to provide information to cities and counties as tools to help them anticipate sea level rise because of lack of consistency in planning at the city and county level.

6.2 Statewide Perspective – Kellyx Nelson

- At the last meeting of the Central Coast area RCDs, Conservation Strategy Group reported on State actions:
 - A new water bond will fill gaps in the current water bond. Nelson requested including language for prompt payment.
 - RCDs are closer than they've ever been to potentially receiving operating funds from the State general fund. Two of the legislators who have been in support of this effort are terming out this year. Kellyx will report back to the Board after the CARCD conference, and lobbyists will continue to help inform us as to what action to take for this effort.
 - Our RCD will participate in the CARCD Leadership Academy. We were seen as high performing, so originally we weren't included in the capacity building program. Nelson noted it is still important for our RCD to continue to grow into a place of sustainability.
 - David Bunn, new Director of the Department of Conservation is reportedly increasingly aware of RCDs. John Lowry continues as the Assistant Director.
 - State Assemblyman Rich Gordon is terming out.
 - NOAA is working on a multi species recovery plan which includes steelhead. Nelson wants to make sure that wherever possible within that plan that we have our watersheds prioritized and included and that the plans are broad in scope.

6.3 Executive Director Report – Kellyx Nelson

- A recent report by Jon Jankovitz from the Ca Department of Fish and Wildlife reported “no detects” for steelhead in Pescadero.
- The RCD's annual appeal is going out within the next few weeks. Board members would like to know who donates so that they can thank them appropriately. The RCD annual appeal is sent via snail mail to a couple hundred people and a digital campaign to 1400 people. The link to the new website will be included in this upcoming appeal. The website will be going live in approximately one week.
- The RCD is asking for a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board, submitted by CALIPC on our behalf, to assist in eradicating the hypericum invasive weed. This weed supplants coastal scrub at an alarming rate and is so nasty that it kills pampas grass.
- A financial audit for fiscal year 2014-2015 is in progress and will bring the RCD to current with financial audits.
- The mid-year budget review will be presented to the Board in January.
- A Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) is in the works, which helps determine the RCD staff billing rates for grants.
- Kellyx presented a list of current agricultural programs and projects to be included with these meeting minutes (ATTACHMENT A)

- Program Assistant Adria Arko has been producing a monthly article for the La Honda voice. She's also been spearheading new communications efforts including the website.
- The Blue Circle event, "The Round-Up on RoundUp®" had 85 people in attendance. The panel and volunteers were great. It was a nuanced conversation for practitioners who do or don't use RoundUp®, or want to use RoundUp minimally and know how to best use it.
 - Nelson was recognized for her artful moderation of the panel.
- Construction is complete to remove the barriers to fish passage at both Memorial Park sites. Construction is still underway for Fitzgerald Pollution Reduction. Slender False Brome is complete for this year. The RCD is planning to celebrate at the next Board meeting with presentations showing time lapse of what has been done. Next month will be a showcase of the completed projects.
- First Flush occurred last week. Brittani Bohlke and her team are in the process of entering and assessing data and will report on the findings next year. Bohlke has done a great job expanding the number sites and improving the program. She will be doing three public presentations on the findings. The first will be at a meeting of the RCD Board.

7 Action Items

Board will determine contribution to 401K by RCD employees eligible for calendar year 2014.

- The profit-sharing 401K retirement plan allows eligible employees to contribute to retirement and for the RCD to contribute both in lean years and abundant years. Contribution is based on prior fiscal year. The percentage the board deems appropriate will be based on that entire year. Six employees are currently enrolled in the plan.
- Reynolds moved to contribute 6% for employees based on the prior fiscal year. Glauthier seconded. Unanimous support to contribute 6% to employees.

8 Adjourn

Reynolds proposed that the Board hold a special meeting to discuss personnel questions to take a look at potential adjustments in salaries in a closed session. The Board determined that the special closed session meeting will occur on December 3, 2015 at 6:30pm.

Next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be December 17, 2015.

7:58pm adjourned.

*List of Current Agricultural Projects and Programs
October 2015*

		Partners	Funding
1.	<u>Agricultural Ombudsman</u> Help agricultural interests navigate County permitting process and help the County improve its agricultural permitting process. The ombudsman serves as a liaison between farmers and County officials.	San Mateo County Ag Commissioner, Department of Planning and Building, agricultural stakeholders	San Mateo County (SMC)
2.	<u>Biochar Field Trials</u> Field test incorporation of biochar into Brussels sprouts crops for benefits to soil, carbon sequestration, water quality, and economic benefits to grower.	NRCS, UCCE, Cabrillo Farms	NRCS, Cabrillo Farms
3.	<u>Good Earth</u> Build rangeland and soil health, increase forage yield on a working ranch, sequester carbon, manage weeds, reestablish native vegetation, reduce erosion, and improve water quality by eradicating invasive eucalyptus trees and converting them into soil amendments. [Demonstration project in development.]	NRCS, USFWS, Point Blue, landowners, others pending	NRCS, landowners
4.	<u>Irrigation Efficiency</u> Conduct irrigation and energy audits on individual farms and provide technical assistance and cost share to make improvements that conserve water and energy.	Landowners, agricultural operators, NRCS, Trout Unlimited, American Rivers	IRWMP via DWR, NRCS
5.	<u>100 Ponds</u> Create, restore, and enhance ponds benefitting agriculture, recovery of threatened and endangered species, drought resilience, and climate benefits and resilience.	NRCS, landowners, agricultural operators, Trout Unlimited, American Rivers	IRWMP via DWR, landowners, NRCS, Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Attachment A

6.	<p><u>Permit Streamlining</u></p> <p>Provide technical assistance for regulatory compliance, exemption from County Grading Permit requirements, and reduced permit fees for landowners undertaking conservation projects. Assist in efforts to reduce regulatory barriers to voluntary conservation.</p>	SMC, resource agencies with permitting authorities, Sustainable Conservation, others as appropriate	Grading Permit Exemption fees are paid by applicants. Other efforts are currently unfunded.
7.	<p><u>Carbon Farm Planning</u></p> <p>Work with individual farms to increase their capacity to capture carbon from the atmosphere and store it in soil organic matter and vegetation.</p>	NRCS, landowners, other RCDs and NGOs tbd	NRCS, landowners
8.	<p><u>Water Quality Monitoring</u></p> <p>Develop monitoring plans, collect and process water samples, analyze data, and make recommendations to improve water quality and help meet food safety objectives.</p>	Landowners, agricultural operators, Surfrider Foundation	Landowners, agricultural operators

Recently Completed:

9.	<p><u>San Mateo County Agricultural Workshops</u></p> <p>Assisted the office of Supervisor Don Horsley with planning for the 2012 and 2014 agricultural workshops.</p>	Office of Supervisor Horsley	SMC
10.	<p><u>Cloverdale Pond Habitat Enhancement Project</u></p> <p>Repaired and improved a series of ponds on Cloverdale Ranch for the mutual benefit of the cattle ranching operation and the recovery of threatened and endangered species- the California red-legged frog and the San Francisco garter snake.</p>	Peninsula Open Space Trust	Caltrans mitigation agreement
11.	<p><u>Livestock and Land Program</u></p> <p>Provided outreach and technical assistance for livestock and equestrian facilities to implement best management practices to protect water quality.</p>	Confined animal operations and landowners, Ecology Action, Santa Cruz RCD, Monterey RCD, NRCS	State Water Resources Control Board