

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 17, 2011
Time 6:30-8:30
Location: RCD Office**

Directors Present: Rich Allen, Jim Reynolds, Roxy Stone, Neal Kramer

Staff present: RCD- Renee Moldovan, Karissa Anderson, Marti Johnson
NRCS-Jim Howard

Guests: Meghan Scanlon

1 Call to Order

Allen called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

2 Introduction of Guests, Committee, and Staff.

Meghan Scanlon was introduced to staff and Board members.

3 Public Comment.

- Renee reminded Board that their Conflict of Interest documents are due April, 1st, or there will be a penalty.
- Jim R asked for the headlines from NRCS. What are people asking for when they call (landowners) etc.
- Jim H gave update:
 - Most requests for tech assistance over past several months have been varied.
 - He is on the tail end of conservation program sign-ups now. He had \$66k in first allocation, and only able to fund one EQIP and one forestry project.
 - He has been helping out RCD with projects in Kellyx's absence.
 - Jim discussed NRCS budget proposal for 2012, (Feds) will cut some conservation tech assistance funding (approximately 50 mil this year), a significant chunk of the total. Discretionary funding is on the block, travel has been cut back, and Jim would not be surprised to see a hiring freeze soon as well.

4 Approval of Agenda

- Jim moved to approve and Neal seconded. Agenda approved unanimously.

5 Consent Agenda

- Jim moved to approve and Roxy seconded. Consent agenda approved unanimously.

6 Discussion Items

6.1 Community Wildfire Protection Plan

- Jim wants Board to be appraised of a new item that has come up this year – Community Wildfire Protection Plan. CCPI – partnership with Farm Bureau and NRCS partnered to do irrigation efficiency assistance; proposed to adopt a SoCal program for fuel thinning, etc. to Central Coast Counties.
- Jim was on board but thought timing to get a proposal out would be difficult. Jim will meet with Monterey and San Benito Counties to discuss a proposal for 2012 for Farm Bill contracts for wildfire fuels reduction work.
- Big Creek is already on board, also thinking Redtree, MROSD, POST, etc.
- Will need a match from SM County.
- CAL Fire will likely be primary partner with NRCS and probably will be doing most of initial outreach. Also probably partner with SCC RCD and Monterey & San Benito County RCD's. J
- Jim would encourage the Board, as they interact with forest land customers, to throw out info and to have them contact Jim.

6.2 Mid-Coast Groundwater Study

- Marti reported that some of the project is waiting for Kellyx to return. Had a meeting in Fall with a variety of water monitoring partners, asked everyone to verbally review historic and present activity – what they are monitoring and frequency. Marti has just received comments on notes from that meeting and will send to County.
- Holly Van Hauten and Chelsea are working on a matrix of stakeholders and funding sources and limitations. Will take that to the County for review as a first step for a groundwater management plan.
- Roxy was concerned if we have funding for this?
 - Marti: We have funding for what we're currently doing.

6.3 Americorps

- Marti: Plan last Fall was to take on a half-term person since Dustin did not come when Alyssa did. In the meantime staff have worked with Alyssa and she has proved to be a great asset.
- Alyssa is working with Jim on a protocol for evaluating success of IPM.
- She is also project manager on Hypericum removal project.
- Marti gave background as to why the RCD hired Chelsea (CPR certs, second field person).
- Updated Board on letter to Americorps asking to be excused from second member requirement, we are waiting to see what happens.

6.4 SGWEP

- KA and Renee advised that the RCD was awarded funds from DFG, will move forward on implementation of Watershed Plan. Instream flows is primary issue in that watershed, and is a tough issue to move on. Will address water budget, Jim predicts that we can work with individual landowners doing water conservation work first, as opposed to doing fish habitat instream work now.

- Could integrate Ponds program, Rural Roads program – possible that one large project (rearing habitat, fish passage) might happen with a willing landowner. Jim said that he had heard from ex-DFG that more water had been adjudicated than is actually available – upcoming TAC meeting will address instream flows study done by Stillwater Sciences.

7 **Action Item**

7.1 Resolution 2011-1: Approval to enter into agreement No. P1030400 with the California Dept. of Fish and Game for the Pilarcitos Watershed Road Assessment Project.

- Karissa gave update so board understood that this resolution is about.
 - Neal moved to authorize entering into agreement No. P1030400 with the California Dept. of Fish and Game for the Pilarcitos Watershed Road Assessment to assess sediment sources along roads within the Pilarcito's and Frenchman's Creek watersheds. Jim seconded. Unanimously approved.

8 **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.