



MARCH 2012– REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—approved 4/19/2012

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, March 15, 2012, 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Directors Present: P. Binsacca, S. Cobb, R. King, J. Devers, M. Duflock , B. Jefferson
Directors Absent: T. Roberts (Associate)
Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), R. LaFleur (NRCS), Ken Ekelund (Garrapata Creek Watershed Council, David Feliz (Elkhorn Slough Reserve Manager)
Recorder: P. Robins

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topics</u>	<u>Presented by</u>
10:15 A.M.	<u>Call to Order</u>	<u>P. Binsacca</u>
	<u>Comments from the public</u>	
	K. Ekelund introduced himself and expressed gratitude to the RCD for their assistance with completion of the Garrapatos Road improvement project. He also expressed support for the RCD in pursuing clear communication from Dept of Fish and Game staff regarding negative commentary received in the recent FRGP grant review process based on mistaken associations with other entities and individuals.	
	<u>President’s and Directors’ Comments</u>	<u>P. Binsacca/ Directors</u>
	None.	
	<u>NRCS Update</u>	
	R. LaFleur described almost \$1M in new funding coming available to the region for EQIP under the ‘America’s Great Outdoors’ program and the hiring of a new agronomist for the area. The agronomist will be located in the Salinas Field Office and start work in late April.	
	<u>Minutes for February 2012 Meeting (Review for Approval)</u>	<u>P. Robins/Directors</u>
	Minutes from the February 16, 2012 Meeting were presented and reviewed. J. Devers commented that the record of the board’s discussion regarding the RCD potentially needing to apply for a line of credit to maintain cash flow was inadequate. S. Cobb moved to approve the February 2012 meeting minutes with the inclusion of language regarding the board’s discussion about application for a line of credit; J. Devers seconded the motion; the motion was approved by 4-0 vote.	
	<u>Budget and Finances (Review & Approval)</u>	<u>P. Robins/Directors</u>
	<i>Monthly Financial Statements and Bills:</i> P. Robins presented financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending March 15, 2012. The accrual account balance on March 15 stood at \$171,797.97, with \$62,458.02 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$5,350.88 in liabilities, and \$114,690.97 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the corrected Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$178,758.29 on February 16, 2012 (incorrectly reported as \$184,153.81 on 2/16/12).	
	P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in March including bi-weekly salary through March 15, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of March. Approval for the March financial statements and for March expenses from the Chase Bank account was motioned by J. Devers, seconded by M. Duflock and passed by a 5-0 vote.	
	<u>New Business</u>	<u>P. Binsacca/Directors</u>

Board members briefly discussed the Audit Report for Fiscal Years 2009-10 & 2010-11 that had been presented at the February meeting. S. Cobb moved to accept the report as presented. B. Jefferson seconded the motion, the motion was approved with a 6-0 vote.

Program Updates

P. Robins/D. Feliz

D. Feliz introduced himself as the CA Dept of Fish and Game (DFG) Reserve Manager for the Elkhorn Slough Reserve and described the arrangement DFG has already with the Dixon RCD for the Yolo Basin Wildlife Refuge for assistance with ag and grazing leases. He would like to use that model for similar assistance from the RCDMC with their DFG-owned ag parcels. He outlined the benefits of the arrangement being: increased quality of lease management and relationships with the lessees, increased availability of lease income for improvements on the subject parcels, and improved relations in general between DFG and the agricultural community as a result of increased interactions with the RCD Board. The benefits to the RCD would be a small source of stable income and increased opportunities for conservation demonstration projects.

Mr. Feliz described three parcels that could be included in the arrangement and noted that there are several others that would benefit as well. All but one of them would be managed by grazing, with the remaining parcel currently farmed in row crops. In short, the RCD would become the leaseholder on all the parcels and handle the subleases and arrangements with local ranchers and farmers (although the farmed parcel would stay under its current lease arrangement until it ends in 2014). Board members asked Mr. Feliz numerous questions about the possibilities and potential issues with such an arrangement and agreed to follow up on any lingering questions in the coming month.

New Business

P. Robins/Directors

In the interest of time, this item regarding the draft Conflict of Interest policy was postponed to the April meeting.

Closing Discussion

Directors

Board members briefly discussed possible candidates for the remaining empty 7th board seat and the expression of interest by L. Ferrasci of Carmel Valley. Ms. Ferrasci has been sent information about board service and will attend the April Board Meeting in order to introduce herself to the Board of Directors.

12:50 P.M.

Meeting Adjourned

P. Binsacca

The next regular RCD meeting will be held:

Date: **April 19, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**

Location: **Salinas Service Center: 744-A LaGuardia St., Salinas, CA 93905.**

