DECEMBER 2013– REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—approved 01/16/2014

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, December 19, 2013, 10:00 A.M. – 12 P.M.

Directors Present: P. Binsacca, B. Jefferson, J. Devers, S. Cobb, L. Ferrasci, R. King
Directors Absent: M. Duflock
Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), B. Burgoa (RCDMC), R. Shihadeh (RCDMC), J. Warner (NRCS), K. Lowell (NRCS--by phone), J. Rawitzer
Recorder: P. Robins

Time | Agenda Topics | Presented by
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10:10 A.M. | Call to Order | P. Binsacca

Comments from the public

Presentation regarding Fuel Load Management in Agricultural Areas

J. Rawitzer described need for more project coordination and support for resource protection-oriented fuel-load management projects on working lands in Monterey County and the potential role a partnership between CALFIRE, RCDMC and the FireSafe Council could play in supporting that work. He and D. Turner have engaged the Farm Bureau's support as well. B. Jefferson commented that the Cattlemen's Association should also be involved and recommended individuals for Mr. Rawitzer to contact in that regard.

President’s and Directors’ Comments

Directors debriefed each other on the information gleaned from the Annual CARCD Conference in Napa in November. R. King found the RCD futures discussion the most interesting part of the conference, which included a challenge from Mark Nechedem of the CA Dept of Conservation for RCDs to garner statewide base funding if they can self-organize and rise to a minimum standard of function statewide. J. Devers and P. Robins described the work conducted over the year by three different groups of RCD managers around the state under three work areas: ‘criteria for excellence’, ‘planning for the future’, and ‘demonstrating state value’. P. Robins was a member of the third of those groups. J. Devers noted concerns expressed at the state conference by other RCD directors regarding the need to avoid a heavy-handed approach for coordination among organizations as diverse as RCDs are. R. King commented that she gained a better understanding about how she could provide more active leadership to the RCD as a director. Directors recommended calling a Special Meeting on February 6 at 9am to devote a more focused discussion to these topics and how RCDMC could improve its function and stability.

Minutes for October 2013 Meeting (Review for Approval)

Minutes from the October 24, 2013 Meeting were presented and reviewed. S. Cobb moved to approve the October 2013 meeting minutes; R. King seconded the motion; A 4-0 vote of directors approved the motion with P. Binsacca abstaining and J. Devers not available to vote.

NRCS Update

J. Warner provided a brief presentation summarizing the year's activities in the county. K. Lowell called in by speakerphone to describe a potential new NRCS Monterey Bay Initiative to support development of a model regional water quality improvement program that pulls in multiple organizational resources along with NRCS funding to support demonstration and testing of innovative water management methods and associated potential market-based and regulatory relief-based conservation incentives for agriculture. Ms. Lowell also provided a brief
update on her work with University of CA researchers in development a nutrient management
decision support form/tool.

Budget and Finances (Review & Approval) P. Robins/Directors

Monthly Financial Statements and Bills: P. Robins presented the financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the periods ending November 21 and December 19, 2013. The accrual account balance on November 21 stood at $153,854.93, and the December 19 balance was $151,986.78, with $20,063.84 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), $54,752 in liabilities, and $186,675.04 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at $150,869.15 on October 24, 2013.

P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses paid in November and to be paid in December, including bi-weekly salary through December 6, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of November and December. Approval for the November financial statements and for November expenses from the Chase Bank account was motioned by R. King, seconded by S. Cobb and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Program Updates P. Robins/ R. Shihadeh/ B. Burgoa

- R. Shihadeh and P. Robins described a small chipper program being supported by the Air Pollution Control District through an MOU with the RCD. Up to $5,000 worth of funding is available for reimbursement to homeowners and homeowner groups conducting fire fuel load reduction projects around their homes at a maximum of $500/site or group. For 2014, Rami will assist Carmel Valley landowners with this program under his watershed coordinator grant.
- R. Shihadeh described his progress in leading the update to the Carmel River Watershed Action Plan, which he expects to have complete (in partnership with other members of the Carmel River Task Force) by spring 2014.
- Board members requested a visual presentation of various RCD projects be provided at the January meeting.
- B. Burgoa described his work distributing erosion control grass seed and straw for ~20 growers in north Monterey County in partnership with RCD of Santa Cruz. He also noted that there are 8 potential farm water quality improvement projects under development for the Proposition 84-funded Irrigation and Nutrient Management Program, as conceived by UC Cooperative Extension and Central Coast Wetlands Group partners. Mr. Burgoa has been requested to assist with engineering design for one of the latter group's projects, on a fee-for-service basis.
- R. Shihadeh described meeting with community members in Big Sur affected by the Pfieffer Ridge fire and noticed a change in how much more the RCD is recognized in the area than it was 5 years ago after the Basin Complex fire, a reflection on the higher level of activity the RCD has had in the region during that period.

Closing Discussion Directors

None.

12:20 P.M. Meeting Adjourned P. Binsacca

The next Regular RCD meeting will be held:

- Date: January 16, 2014, 10:00 A.M.
- Location: RCDMC Office, 744-A LaGuardia Street, Salinas, CA