JULY 2013—REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—approved 08/22/2013

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, July 18, 2013, 10 A.M.—12 P.M.

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

B. Burgoa introduced himself to the RCD board as a new employee of the RCD to be starting on July 22 as Program Engineer for the RCD's irrigation, nutrient, and erosion management work.

President’s and Directors’ Comments

None made.

Minutes for June 2013 Meeting (Review for Approval) | P. Robins/Directors

Minutes from the June 20, 2013 Meeting were presented and reviewed. S. Cobb moved to approve the June 2013 meeting minutes; R. King seconded the motion; all voted to approve.

Special Presentation | J. Rawitzer

J. Rawitzer addressed the Board regarding the recently-formed Central Coast Prescribed Fire Council. The Council is modeled after two other existing councils in California. Of primary concern to the Council is the relatively small number of acres that benefit from prescribed fire each year on the Central Coast nowadays and the associated build-up of fuel that can contribute to destructive, high intensity fires. The Council's intent is to be pro-active in supporting the use of prescribed fire, and to that end just held its first training south of Salinas, which was covered by the local television news. At least 10 ranches with over 20,000 acres have expressed interest in having prescribed burns with the Council's assistance.

NRCS Update

K. Lowell provided a brief overview of the status of EQIP and CSP contracts in process at the Salinas Service Center; announced the Farm, Food Safety, and Conservation Forum to be held in Watsonville on August 21; and mentioned that there is an opportunity for a new cooperative agreement between the RCD and NRCS to support the two agencies' shared work, with emphasis on irrigation and nutrient management.

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 period ending July 18, 2013. The accrual account balance on July 18 stood at $144,176.69, with $58,586.38 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), $52,199 in liabilities, and $137,789.08 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. In comparison, June 20, 2013 balance was $149,920.74. P. Robins expressed concern about the apparently decreasing account balance and indicated he would work with the RCDMC bookkeeper to identify any issues of concern and propose measures to resolve them if needed.
P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in July including bi-weekly salary through July 14, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of July. Approval for the July financial statements and for July expenses from the Chase Bank account was motioned by R. King, seconded by M. Duflock and passed by a unanimous vote.

New Business

- In light of the recent credit card ‘scandal’ at another government entity in Salinas, P. Binsacca had requested a review of the RCD’s credit card management policy, which P. Robins shared with the Board. After reviewing the document, the Board members present concurred that the current version of the policy (approved April 7, 2008) appeared adequate and no changes were brought forward for action.
  - The 2013-14 Annual Workplan review was delayed until a later meeting.
  - The Board agreed to set the annual Local Work Group meeting for the afternoon of August 15, following the next RCDMC Regular Meeting of the Board.

Program Updates

P. Robins provided brief updates regarding the following programs:

- The Proposition 84-funded Irrigation and Nutrient Management Program: Ben Burgoa recently hired to manage that program along with the Santa Rita Creek watershed project.
- Big Sur River Watershed Plan: Resource assessments wrapping up by the end of summer for presentation to the Big Sur community in September.
- Santa Rita Creek Urban Greening project: all permit applications are submitted and approvals expected by end of August.
- Lower Post Creek culvert replacement project: technical reviewers for the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) are conducting a site visit with the project team (RCD, State Parks, and Balance Hydrological) regarding the RCD’s proposal for project implementation funding. Potential award of the grant will not be announced until early 2014.
- Big Sur River low-water bridge replacement project design: staff have solicited proposals from a variety of engineering firms for a 60% design to be prepared by early 2014, with the intent that the design would inform a proposal for implementation funding from the FRGP.

Closed Session

Board members held a closed session to discuss the Annual Performance Review for the RCDMC Executive Director.

Report from Closed Session

No action taken during closed session. Completion of the review to be held in closed session during the August Regular Meeting.

Closing Discussion

The next meetings were scheduled for August 15 in Salinas, and September 19 at Petrovic Park in King City.

Meeting Adjourned

12:20 P.M.

The next Regular RCD meeting will be held:
Date: August 15, 2013, 10:00 A.M.
Location: RCDMC Office: 744-A LaGuardia St., Salinas, CA 93905