SEPTEMBER 2013—REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—approved 10/24/2013

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, September 19, 2013, 11:30 A.M. – 2 P.M.

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

11:30 A.M. Call to Order

P. Binsacca

Comments from the public

J. Rawitzer described meeting on 9/18 with FireSafe Council of Monterey County, RCDMC and NRCS regarding collaboration to support fire-safe programs and projects. He expressed gratitude for the RCD's and NRCS engagement in that work.

President’s and Directors’ Comments

Directors briefly discussed potential locations for the 2014 Fundraiser BBQ, including Elkhorn Slough Foundation, Petrovic Park, and Monkeyflower Ranch (R. King's place). Directors thanked Catherine Petrovic for hosting the meeting and President Binsacca for arranging and preparing food for the meeting.

Minutes for August 2013 Meeting (Review for Approval)

R. King moved to approve the August 2013 meeting minutes; S. Cobb seconded the motion; all voted to approve.

NRCS Update

R. LaFleur reported that the comments made at the August Local Work Group meeting had been forwarded to the NRCS 'funding pool', including items regarding soil compaction and salinity. Final incorporation of those comments is yet to be confirmed from the NRCS State office. R. LaFleur also noted that he and his staff have finally wrapped up the paperwork for over 1.5 Million in conservation cost-share contracts.

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 September 19, 2013. The accrual account balance on September 19 stood at $158,087.46, with $52,215.97 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), $44,691 in liabilities, and $150,562.77 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at $157,964.61 on August 15, 2013.

P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in September including bi-weekly salary through September 8, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of September. Approval for the September financial statements and for September expenses from the Chase Bank account was motioned by S. Cobb, seconded by L. Ferrasci and passed by a 4-0 vote.

New Business

Directors
• ‘Premium-Only Plan’ (POP): Board members reviewed the language for establishing a POP to enable staff making voluntary payroll deductions for dependent health care premiums to have those deductions made ‘pre-tax’. According to P. Robins, the POP would reduce both the RCD’s and the employees’ tax burdens by over $500 per year, and the program fee would be $50 annually, giving the organization a net gain. R. King moved to approve a POP for the RCD. S. Cobb seconded the motion and all voted to approve it.

• Draft Annual Work Plan: Board members reviewed the draft document and requested P. Robins make several revisions and resubmit it to the board for consideration at the October meeting. The specific revisions requested were:
  1. Double-check the ‘80% reduction in sediment movement from five miles of rural roads’ 5-year objective under the ‘Water Quality’ goal in relation to the RCD’s or partners’ ability to verify meeting the goal.
  2. Incorporate prescribed fire projects planned under existing EQIP contracts as ‘annual tasks’ under the Vegetation and Wildlife Management goal.
  3. Remove ‘support dairy waste management projects’ 5-year objective from Air Quality Goal.

Program Updates

P. Robins provided the following brief updates:

- The Hillslope Runoff Management Practices Guide is nearly complete.
- Staff are investigating means of re-instituting a hillslope farm winter preparedness program on a small scale this fall, and soliciting input on best sources of barley seed and straw and how to distribute it to interested growers. Board members mentioned several different sources and discussed pricing and considerations as guidance for staff present at the meeting.

B. Burgoa provided a brief update on his progress in meeting with potential grower cooperators for the Irrigation and Nutrient Management program, hillslope runoff management, and Santa Rita Creek watershed programs that he is managing.

Closing Discussion

Board members discussed timing of the next meeting and the level of interest in the Speak-Off Competition scheduled to follow that meeting.

2:00 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

The next Regular RCD meeting will be held:
Date: October 24, 2013, 2:00 P.M.
Location: RCDMC Office, 744-A LaGuardia Street, Salinas, CA