



744 La Guardia Street, Building A, Salinas, CA 93905

(831) 424-1036, ext. 124

JULY 2014– REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—approved 08/21/2014

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, July 17, 2014, 10:00 A.M. – 12 P.M.

Directors Present: P. Binsacca, J. Devers, R. King, L. Ferrasci
Directors Absent: M. Duflock, B. Jefferson
Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), R. LaFleur (NRCS), E. Paddock, S. Violini, T. Violini
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>	
	T. Violini described his experience at Range Camp as sponsored by RCDMC the week of June 15-20 and thanked the RCD for the opportunity, which he both enjoyed and learned a lot from.	
	<u>President's and Directors' Comments</u>	<u>Directors</u>
	None.	
	<u>Minutes for May Meeting (Review for Approval)</u>	<u>P. Robins/Directors</u>
	Minutes from the June 19, 2014 Meeting were presented and reviewed. R. King moved to approve the June 2014 meeting minutes with the addition of detail regarding the vote taken to approve E. Paddock's Board Member Application (namely that M. Duflock moved and B. Jefferson seconded the motion); R. King seconded the motion for approval of the minutes as revised; A 4-0 vote of directors approved the motion.	
	<u>NRCS Update</u>	<u>R. LaFleur</u>
	R. LaFleur briefly updated the board on Service Center staff activities, which have been focused on meeting EQIP contract completion deadlines.	
	<u>Budget and Finances (Review & Approval)</u>	<u>P. Robins/Directors</u>
	<i>Monthly Financial Statements and Bills:</i> P. Robins presented the financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending July 17, 2014. The accrual account balance on July 17 was \$149,795.20, with \$44,846.51 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$58,421 in liabilities, and \$163,369.66 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$155,729.19 on June 20, 2014.	
	Board members requested more information about the chipping voucher program, for which there was a \$4,000 check to a contractor in the monthly bill packet. R. Shihadeh was invited to join the meeting briefly to describe the outcome, which chipped vegetation cleared from around 24 houses for 'defensible space' in Carmel Valley over four days. S. Violini inquired if CALFIRE funding could help augment such work in the future.	
	P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in July including bi-weekly salary through July 13, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of July. Approval for the June financial statements and for July expenses from the Chase Bank account was motioned by J. Devers, seconded by R. King and passed by a 4-0 vote.	
	<u>New Business</u>	<u>Directors</u>

P. Robins introduced Resolution 2014-02 regarding approval of the revised IRMWP for the Monterey Peninsula and Carmel Valley region. He requested that the board consider approval of the resolution at the August board meeting after he had reviewed the document.

P. Binsacca notified fellow board members that he would be stepping down as a board member after the August Board Meeting but would like to continue with the RCD as an Associate Director. He submitted documentation of his intention to P. Robins as well. Board members indicated that while they were sad to have him leave the board, they were very interested in having him remain as an Associate Director.

R. King and P. Robins led a discussion regarding meetings of finance committee members over the past two months, most notably a discussion in late June with Bob Scowcroft (former ED of the Organic Farming Research Foundation and currently on the Nell Newman Foundation Board of Directors) regarding his thoughts for means by which the RCD could augment its support from private donors.

J. Devers noted that she thought using the RCDMC annual 'admin' budget of ~\$40k as a target for annual fund-raising.

Board Members discussed the need to 'tell the RCD story' better in order to communicate the value of supporting the RCD to potential donors/funders. Members of the public have a hard time seeing why an 'agency' would need financial assistance, not understanding that the RCD does all of its work independently of tax-base funding. RCDSCC was presented as successful as this, with a good example of a 'why donate' page on their website.

S. Violini noted that Professor McGinnis from Carmel Valley might be a good informational resource for connecting with potential project-funding donors.

R. King described the fund-raiser she would like to organize for the RCD and suggested holding it in spring or summer of 2015 rather in fall 2014

Board members concurred that the focus of the next meeting could be formalization of RCD committees and board positions to chair them, followed by breaking into committees with agendas established prior to the meeting, focused on developing each committee's workplan for the coming year. E. Paddock indicated she could join the Outreach/BBQ Committee with L. Ferrasci. P. Robins informed board members that he would contact the respective committee chairs (Binsacca/Jefferson, Executive Committee; King, Finance/Fundraising/Development Committee; Ferrasci, Outreach Committee) to help develop agendas for their respective committee meetings on those days.

Program Updates

P. Robins

P. Robins gave an update on the progress of the Salinas River Arundo Eradication Program and opportunities for collaboration with the 'River Management Unit' Demonstration Projects that start near Gonzales and Chualar in the fall as well. J. Devers will join Robins on July 22 for site visits to potential project sites with the Wildlife Conservation Board grant manager. R. King indicated she would like to join staff in the field some day to see some of the work this fall. S. Violini recommended Robins share an update on the program with the Monterey County Agricultural Advisory Committee on July 24 and commended the RCD on getting this work permitted and funded.

Closing Discussion

Directors

The next meeting will be held at P. Binsacca's house with lunch provided. Potential board member applicant B. Plemmons indicated by email that he may attend that meeting.

12:05 P.M.

Meeting Adjourned

P. Binsacca

The next Regular RCD meeting will be held:

Date: **August 21, 2014, 11:30 P.M.**

Location: **Binsacca residence, 56789 Jolon Rd., King City, CA**