



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

(831) 424-1036, ext. 124

JUNE 2015– REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—*approved 07/23/2015*

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, June 18, 2015, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, R. King, E. Paddock, B. Plemmons, L. Ferrasci, J. Devers
Directors Absent: M. Duflock, P. Binsacca (Associate)
Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), J. Warner (NRCS), D. Rao (UCCE)
Recorders: P. Robins, R. King

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topics</u>	<u>Presented by</u>
10:15 A.M.	<u>Call to Order</u> <u>Comments from the public</u> D Rao announced that the next semi-annual Central Coast Rangeland Coalition meeting will be held October 15 in either San Benito or San Luis Obispo County with an emphasis on water quality. They're currently soliciting input for the meeting.	<u>R. King</u>
	<u>President's and Directors' Comments</u> Director King provided an update on the local slaughterhouse discussion. She shared a feasibility study done regarding the effort. Consensus is for a brick-and-mortar facility with cut and wrap service, but the study indicates that more producers are needed to participate in order for it to be economically viable. Director Jefferson recommended including County Fairs for business, too.	<u>Directors</u>
	<u>New Business</u> Director Devers, Treasurer, introduced the proposed Compensation Policy for board consideration, which fellow directors requested be voted upon after the Closed Session.	<u>Directors</u>
	<u>Closed Session</u> The Board met in closed session to conduct the Annual Performance Review for the RCDMC Executive Director.	<u>Directors</u>
	<u>Report from Closed Session</u> Director Jefferson reported that the board gave P Robins a positive review for his performance over the past year and commended him for doing an exceptional job. Director King will summarize the commentary for Robins's review for inclusion in his personnel file. In closed session, the Board voted to approve 3% increase in salary for Robins effective July 1.	<u>Directors</u>
	<u>Compensation Policy</u> After brief discussion, Director Plemmons moved to accept the Compensation Policy as drafted. Director King seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.	
	<u>Minutes for May Meeting (Review for Approval)</u> Director Jefferson expressed concern that NRCS is not adequately staffing the field office to meet conservation technical assistance needs. P Robins noted a typographical error in the Minutes for the May 21, 2015 meeting that had meeting adjournment recorded as 4:45 rather than 12:15. Director Devers moved to approve the May 2015 Meeting Minutes	<u>P. Robins/Directors</u>

with that item corrected. Director King seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

NRCS Update

J. Warner

J Warner shared the following:

- There is a lot of old steel furniture available for pickup from the office as a result of the remodel in progress.
- July 19 is the next deadline for batched contract approvals. They expect 6 more contracts to be funded this round. Money is available for rangeland assistance
- A new range conservationist and a new forester are coming to the area under NRCS. The range con will be located in Hollister.
- The Forestry Foundation is marketing 'forest restoration' credits that could support conservation work in forested properties
- The next Local Workgroup Meeting should be held soon. Board members discussed aligning it with the August or September board meetings.

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 June 18, 2015. The accrual account balance on June 18, 2015 was \$184,907.35, with \$42,311.37 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$86,108 in liabilities, and \$228,704.13 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$177,747.48 on May 21, 2015.

P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in June including bi-weekly salary through June 14, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of June. Approval for the June financial statements and for June expenses from the Chase Bank account was motioned by Director Devers, seconded by Director King and passed by a unanimous vote of directors present (6-0).

New Business

Directors

Draft Budget:

Robins reviewed the draft budget that he had worked with the Finance Committee on the week prior. The budget under consideration was balanced but somewhat lean, reflecting the absence of two large agreements that are yet to be approved. Robins noted that after those agreements are approved he would ask the board to modify the budget to include them. That is anticipated by September. Director Devers moved to approve the draft budget as proposed. Director Plemmons seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

Salinas River Stream Management Program Partners MOU

Robins introduced the MOU for Salinas River Stream Management Program partner organizations: RCDMC, Monterey Co Water Resources Agency, Grower Shipper Association, and The Nature Conservancy. Director Devers made two requests for modification: 1. Correction of RCD name in agreement from 'MCRCD' to 'RCDMC', and 2. Clarification regarding the lack of a 'hold harmless'/mutual indemnification clause—

should there be one? Director Devers offered to review other similar-type MOUs for reference. Robins will take that request to the MOU group

Draft Workplan:

Board Members requested this item be postponed to the July meeting in the interest of time.

Late Summer Fund-Raising Farm Dinner:

Director King announced that Odonata Winery was interested in hosting either August 29 or September 12, and Brad Briske (recently voted top chef by *Edible Monterey*) is available to prepare the meal. She thought many ingredients could be donated, including her pork and cheese, and vegetables from other friend producers. One cost might be service staff in addition to Board Members volunteering. She proposed a fee of \$200 per plate, with the idea of inviting 100 people. Sponsorships would help cover costs so that the proceeds could be purely for fund-raising. A story posted about the event in the fall issue of *Edible Monterey* could be a good outreach vehicle for the RCD and the work on the Salinas River. For promotion of the event, it could be posted in the weekly email news of Edible Monterey, Monkeyflower Farms, Brad Briske and other similar sources. The RCD Annual Report could be source material for event outreach as well. Directors asked if either the Monterey or Santa Cruz County fairs might be good places to advertise if the timing is right.

Help needed for the event includes:

- Solicitation for donated produce, donations (tables)
- 'Day of' help, including RCD staff if needed
- A program for the event
- A brief presentation (focus on Salinas River?)

There will be some expense for the Chef's staff and material rentals. Odonata already has tables and chairs available for the event.

Program Updates

P. Robins

Robins provided a brief review of the next phase of the arundo re-treatment (herbicide) work that was conducted on previously mowed lands between May 27 and June 10 and which will resume on July 13 pending wildlife agency permission in order to touch up locations that had to be bypassed in order to protect active bird nests. He hired two new seasonal biologists in order to properly staff the project: Leslie Howitt and Mason Hyland.

Robins also described ag water conservation and water quality work underway and planned through the CDFA 'SWEEP' program and a pending agreement with Sustainable Conservation to assist in trialing water and nutrient conservation metrics for the Sustainability Index for Specialty Crops in the Salinas Valley. The SWEEP work consists of the RCD Program Engineer conducting verifications of projects installed by area farmers with CDFA grant funds, and the SISC work will commence on thirty different fields associated with three companies that are cooperating with SISC under the auspices of an NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant awarded to SISC in 2014.

Closing Discussion

Directors

Agenda items for the next meeting to include consideration of the revised MOU, consideration of the draft Annual Work Plan, Farm Dinner fund-raising, and hopefully introduction of the new NRCS District Conservationist (yet to be selected).

12:30 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

B. Jefferson

The next Regular RCD meeting will be held:

Date: **July 23, 2015, 10 A.M.**

Location: **To Be Determined**

