



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

(831) 424-1036, ext. 124

OCTOBER 2015– REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—*approved 11/12/2015*

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, October 22, 2015, 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

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

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topics</u>	<u>Presented by</u>
2:10 P.M.	<u>Call to Order</u>	<u>B. Jefferson</u>
	<u>Comments from the public</u>	
	None.	
	<u>President's and Directors' Comments</u>	<u>Directors</u>
	Directors Ferrasci and Paddock gave brief descriptions of discussions and activities at the Central Coast Rangeland Coalition meeting held on Oct. 15 in Hollister.	
	<u>Minutes for September Meeting (Review for Approval)</u>	<u>P. Robins/Directors</u>
	After reviewing the minutes, Director King moved to approve the September 17, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Director Plemmons seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.	
	<u>NRCS Update</u>	<u>B. Parsons</u>
	B Parsons noted that during the prior federal fiscal year, the Salinas NRCS office approved nearly \$1.1M in contracts, primarily for rangeland and cropland, but also a couple for forestland and a confined animal feeding operation. She requested input from the Board regarding the most appropriate coverage for the diverse resources and landuse types in the county, noting that in just the prior 3 weeks, the office had received 50 requests for assistance, far more than the existing staff can handle. She is hopeful that cooperative agreements with RCD staff can help, but that it's not enough to bridge the gap.	
	Parsons described some of the local response for assistance needs regarding the Tassajara Fire. The county has requested Emergency Watershed Protection assistance, but she's not sure how good a match for that area EWP could be, as it's meant to protect infrastructure and residences from imminent erosion or other hazards associated with the burned areas, and much of the lands so exposed in the Tassajara Fire area don't directly affect roads or homes.	
	Parsons advised the board that the best time for the next Monterey County Local Work Group meeting for providing guidance for fiscal year 2016-17 would be some time before June 2016.	
	<u>Budget and Finances (Review & Approval)</u>	<u>P. Robins / Directors</u>
	<u>Monthly Financial Statements and Bills:</u> P. Robins presented the financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending October 22, 2015. The accrual account balance on October 22, 2015 was \$ 189,103.91 with \$52,440.85 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$80,862 in liabilities, and \$217,524.64 due to the RCD as receivables from	

various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$201,042.50 on September 17, 2015.

P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in October including bi-weekly salary through October 18, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of October. Approval for the September financial statements and for October expenses from the Chase Bank account was motioned by Director Devers, seconded by Director King and passed by a unanimous vote (7-0).

New Business

Directors

District Policy development calendar

P Robins provided brief descriptions of the proposed policy development calendar and the draft policies up for consideration at this meeting and the December meeting. After brief discussion, Director King moved to approve the RCD Personnel Policy and Non-discrimination Policy as submitted. Director Plemmons seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

Harvest dinner fundraiser

Director King noted that the Harvest Celebration Dinner had been rescheduled to November 14. Ticket prices were set at \$100 and so far there were 15 sold (including sponsors' seats). The event will be held in the Barrel Room because of the time of year. She appealed to fellow board members regarding solicitation of additional sponsorships and day-of volunteers. She had produce donation commitments from Coke Farms, Ferrasci family, Pacific Harvest, Paddock family, Garden Variety Cheese, Schoch Dairy, Jefferson Farms, and Driscolls, but still needed commitment of flowers for decoration. There were musicians available for hire on the original date and she was to follow up with them regarding the rescheduled time.

Director Devers suggested assignments for posting flyers. Director Plemmons offered to post in Carmel Valley; Devers offered to post in Salinas at Zeph's and Star Market; King offered to post in Carmel-by-the-Sea and Santa Cruz, as well as the Marina Wine and Cheese Shop.

Director Devers proposed that each director should either buy tickets themselves or get sponsorships. Director King said she would offer tickets to members of select publications if there's already adequate attendance.

Program Updates

P. Robins

The RCD has advertised the position opening for a Conservation Ecologist to oversee the Arundo and Salinas River programs as well as provide key program support for permit development, project development, and project reporting. Robins briefly described the grant proposal submitted on September 30 for Proposition 1 funding through the Wildlife Conservation Board to support another 350 acres of Arundo treatment on the Salinas River. He also noted that Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program work had been underway since October 1 and that the current crew of biomonitors were doing very well as a team.

Closing Discussion

Directors

The next meeting will be held on November 12.

3:50 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

R. King

4:00 P.M. 2015 RCD Speak-Off Competition

After meeting adjournment, Jose Hernandez, of King City High School presented his speech on 'How RCDs be involved in Conservation Education.' Judges reviewed his presentation and provided critique and complements after. As the sole contestant, he was automatic winner and was awarded a certificate and \$50 from RCD Petty Cash, and invited to advance to the Area Competition on November 2, in Aptos, CA.

The next Regular RCD meeting will be held:

Date: **November 12, 2015, 10 A.M.**

Location: **American AgCredit office**

