



SEPTEMBER 2016– REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—approved 10/20/2016

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, September 22, 2016, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

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

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topics</u>	<u>Presented by</u>
10:20am	<u>Call to Order</u>	<u>R. King</u>

Comments from the public
None.

President's and Directors' Comments Directors
Director King noted that there will be a Holistic Management conference at Paicines Ranch in October.

Minutes for August 2016 Meetings (Review for Approval) P. Robins/Directors
After reviewing the minutes for the August Regular Meeting and Special Meeting. Director Devers moved to approve the August 18, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes and the August 30, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes. Director Plemmons seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

NRCS Update B. Parsons
B. Parsons updated the Board with the following:
The Salinas NRCS Field Office has 85 contracts in place, with 22 new EQIP contracts developed in 2016 for \$764,000 obligated. There are 40 standing requests for assistance going into the new fiscal year. NRCS is partnering with UC Cooperative Extension on developing forage production projections in five climatic & soil zones in Monterey County. NRCS co-hosted a workshop with Xerces Society regarding use of native vegetation for hosting beneficial insects on farms in late August. With assistance from Rich Casale, NRCS has conducted over 70 site risk assessments for Emergency Watershed Protection support/eligibility in the Soberanes Fire burned areas. NRCS will use the results of the BAER (Burned Area Evaluation Report) to identify additional priority risk areas for potential assistance and/or assessments.

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 22, 2016. The accrual account balance on September 22, 2016 was \$180,801.88 with \$14,740.01 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$115,628 in liabilities, and \$281,689.56 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$165,039.21 on August 18, 2016.

P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in September including bi-weekly salary through September 18, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of September including check #2135 for \$921 to CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife for a 1600 permit for a Partners for Fish and Wildlife project (to be reimbursed by USFWS). Approval for the September financial statements and for September expenses from the Chase Bank account including check #2135 was motioned by Director Devers, seconded by Director Plemmons and passed by a unanimous vote.

New BusinessDirectors

Directors discussed outreach for the fall Speakoff Competition. Director Paddock asked if MEarth at the Carmel Valley Middle School might be a good avenue for getting word out. Director Plemmons recommended using the public school directories in order to broaden outreach to all high school teachers, not just FFA. Director King suggested a friend in Rotary who works a lot with students. B Parsons asked if Let's Go Outdoors could still accept an add to announce the opportunity. Director Devers suggested the students in the Monterey County Office of Education Home School program might be interested

Directors considered the Notice of Determination to approve the North Monterey County Amphibian Habitat Restoration Project. Robins noted that this was a duplicate of the NOD approved in spring 2016, but for which he was unable to submit it in a timely manner. Robins requested that the Board approve another NOD for the same project in order for him to complete the submission in accordance with the timelines dictated in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Since no fee was paid the first time, there would be no duplication of filing fee. Director Devers moved to approve the NOD. Director Paddock seconded the motion. All directors voted to approve the motion.

Robins notified directors that he would be submitting the RCD's biennial review of the RCD's Conflict of Interest Code with indication that there were no changes needed because the Code had been updated within the last five years and there were no new positions created within the RCD subject to the Code requirements.

Program UpdatesRobins

Robins described two new grant awards to the RCD or RCD partners with whom the RCD is a subcontractor:

1. National Conservation Innovation Grant (\$1.3M) for 'Nutrient Management Cooperatives in California's Lower Salinas and Monterey Bay--Modeling Partnerships for Improving Water Quality in Irrigated Lands';
2. CA Dept of Water Resources Proposition 1 Ag Water Use Efficiency Grant (\$296,368) for 'On-Farm Spanish-language Irrigator Certification Training in Water Use Efficiency' .

Director Devers recommended recording workshops to post on the RCDs website or Facebook page as promotional or educational materials. Director Paddock suggested including information sharing the stories of willing participants (individuals and companies) in our outreach as well.

Devii Rao from UCCE shared three flyers for upcoming events with the Board: Livestock Health on October 12, Low Stress Livestock Handling on October 23, and Noxious Weed Management on November 16.

Robins showed the RCD Facebook page with video of the Arundo reduction work in progress and the newly-installed CIMIS station near Soledad.

Closing DiscussionDirectors.

Directors agreed that **the next Regular RCD meeting will be held on October 20, 1-3pm at the RCDMC Office, 744-A LaGuardia St., Salinas, CA 93905**

11:50 A.M. Meeting Adjourned

R. King

12:15 – 2:00 P.M. The Board and RCD staff reconvened for a two-hour Strategic Planning Listening Session with Solid Ground Consulting.