



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

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FEBRUARY 2018– REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—approved 3/23/2018

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, February 22, 2018, 10:00 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, J. Devers, R. King, L. Ferrasci, B. Plemmons, B. Lipe

Directors Absent: E. Gardner

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), M. Barker (RCDMC), K. Fletcher (consultant), E. Boyland (NRCS), M. Crow (Water Bond Rep)

Recorder: M. Barker

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topics</u>	<u>Presented by</u>
10:10 A.M.	<u>Call to Order</u>	<u>B Jefferson</u>

Meeting was called to order once a quorum of Board Members was present. Approval of Agenda: No changes requested.

Public Comment: Matteo Crow spoke on behalf of a state proposition (Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018) to garner support to get it on the fall 2018 ballot. He described funding that would be available for restoration efforts in Monterey County if the proposition were passed. Director Jefferson requested more information regarding funding for agriculture and environmental groups in the proposition.

Consent Agenda B Jefferson

- Minutes from the January 18, 2018 Meeting.
- Staff Activities Report for January 2018

Director King moved to approve the consent agenda items. Director Ferrasci seconded the motion, which was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Special Presentation

Business Planning – Session II: Consultant Kristen Fletcher summarized the findings from results of the survey that she distributed to RCDMC Board Members and staff. Four Board Members and four Staff members completed surveys. Fletcher also reviewed the financials for the last three fiscal years. RCDMC continues to get its main revenue source from State funds. Donations have increased by a few thousand dollars over the past 3 years (in-kind donations not included).

Fletcher introduced key considerations regarding future revenue streams and outlined possible additional sources of revenue for RCDMC. Staff and Board seemed to agree that one of the areas with the most fundraising potential is youth education. There is also potential for corporate giving and individual donations. The RCD board members already have corporate relationships that could be leveraged.

Fletcher mentioned that an End-of-Year Campaign (ex. Monterey Gives via Community Foundation of Monterey County) could be a low-cost means of raising individual donations. In general, the RCD needs to do a better job of letting people know that it can accept and needs their donations.

It is possible that RCDMC could expand existing fee for service projects but not without succession planning.

Fletcher noted that messaging is a key component to outreach and that the RCD needs an elevator pitch that clearly states what we do. The following words or phrases were described as 'Buckets' for Marketing: Collaborative approach, site-specific and community wide, helping landowners make positive changes for conservation, non-regulatory, liaison.

Reports

Executive Director Report. Robins informed Board Members of the staff assessment and RCDMC staff wish to meet with board members more often. Lunches following Board Meetings could be held monthly so that staff and board members can get to know each other better. An open invitation was voiced to Board for the staff's new monthly (4th Wednesdays, 4pm) after-work informal off-site gatherings, too.

Robins was accepted to participate in the Water Solutions Network for 2018. There is a refundable \$1,000 deposit due by April 4. All expenses are covered by the program for the six monthly 2-3 day meetings in different parts of the state.

Robins noted that USLT RCD recently posted an announcement for a Salinas River watershed planning consultant based on funding that RCD is managing from a non-profit (Biodiversity First!) in SLO County. Robins has been in communication with USLTRCD and our Salinas River partners (MCWRA, SRCC and the RMU Association) about how best to proceed with this.

Executive Committee Report. Directors King and Jefferson had brief communications with Robins regarding consent for his attendance to the Water Solutions Network, for which he had been nominated by a colleague from the Public Policy Institute of California.

NRCS Report. Erika Boyland (NRCS District Conservationist) announced that there could be training on Title 6 and Title 7 Civil Rights training at the RCDMC Office. Training could be 30-60 minutes long. Staff and Board agreed this would be beneficial. NRCS agreements for RCDMC need to be discussed, and existing agreements can be augmented by adding funds. Erika has been meeting with State Office about the new RCPP award that will support the Salinas River arundo program. Engineers from Hollister and Templeton will be shifted to assist the Salinas NRCS Field Office now that the office lacks NRCS engineers, in order to accommodate work load. NRCS received 16 pre-approved applications for EQIP funds amounting to \$547,000. Erika and Megan Barker (RCDMC) will be doing an erosion tabling activity at Monterey County Fairgrounds on Farm Day on March 1st.

Finance Committee Report. Directors Devers and Plemmons reviewed the draft Travel Reimbursement prior to this board meeting.

Outreach/Education Committee Report. None.

Old or Standing Business (Review & Approval)

P. Robins / Directors

Monthly Financial Statements: P. Robins presented the financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending February 18, 2018. The accrual account balance on February 18, 2018 was \$202,370.91 with \$23,873.99 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$354,980 in liabilities, and \$533,477.43 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$206,157.79 on January 18, 2018.

Expenses: P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in February including bi-weekly salary through February 18, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of January, totaling

\$336,926.81.

Approval for the February financial statements and for January and February expenses from the Chase Bank account was motioned by Director King, seconded by Director Plemmons and passed by a unanimous vote of directors present (6-0). After the vote, Director Devers excused herself due to a time constraint.

Travel Reimbursement Policy: Board members briefly discussed an update to the RCD’s travel reimbursement procedures that incorporates a per diem reimbursement option based on State-approved rates. The policy was introduced to the Board at the December 2017 meeting with further review by the Finance Committee in January. Changes proposed by the finance committee were to clarify that on a given trip, reimbursement for lodging could be either per diem or direct reimbursement, but not a combination of the two. Director Lipe moved to approve the policy as modified and presented. Director King seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board members present (5-0).

New Business

Directors/ Robins

Indirect Cost Rate proposal: Maggie Errea outlined the method that she and Robins are using to prepare an ICR proposal for use with NRCS and other funding agencies that will accept it. She explained that current ‘de minimus’ rates are typically 10%, which does not adequately reimburse RCD for its actual indirect costs. Using this method (accepted by NRCS for other RCDs) would enable the RCD to charge a rate of 29% and fairly recover indirect costs if accepted as proposed. Errea and Robins will submit the ICR proposal to USDA Health and Human Services (as directed by NRCS) for approval in early March.

Spring BBQ Planning: RMU Association will partner with RCDMC on the event, for which details such as title and sponsorship appeals need to be firmed up prior to sending out a ‘save the date’ announcement. Megan Barker and Bill Lipe will coordinate the planning.

Staff Presentation: E. Zefferman presented an update on the 2017 Salinas River Arundo river eradication project. There was 120 acres of new mowing and 323 acres sprayed in 2017. We have permission to eradicate from Soledad to King City for the most part, but there are a few gaps for which we need landowner consent. Ben Lipe is helping reach out to some of them in south county. 2017 was first year that we were able to spray on smaller, unmowed stands. We’ve been working on the river since 2014 and have not found any special status species.

Emily also provided a recap of the 2017 Stream Maintenance Program work. The work season lasted from Oct 3 - Nov 13. Work occurred in River Management Units (RMUs) 1, 3, 4, and 6. Landowners removed vegetation in 16 channels and removed sediment in San Lorenzo Creek. As mitigation, landowners removed 70.4 acres of arundo outside of secondary channel boundaries and planted 120 cottonwood trees.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

Director Lipe announced that he is running for State Assembly as a Democrat in District 30. The primary election is June 7th. Bill does not expect this would impact his ability to serve on the RCDMC board.

12:45 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

B Jefferson

Next Regular RCD meeting:

Date: **THURSDAY, March 15, 2018, 9 A.M. – 1 P.M.**
Location: **RCDMC Office, Salinas**