



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

(831) 975-7775

July 2018– REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—approved 08/16/2018

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, July 26, 2018, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, L. Ferrasci, B. Plemmons, B. Lipe, E. Gardner, R. King (remote)

Directors Absent: J. Devers

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Barker (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), Chelsea Rutt (NRCS intern), E. Boyland (NRCS), J Dixon (2017 range camper), K Monroe (2018 range camper)

Recorders: M. Barker, P Robins

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topics</u>	<u>Presented by</u>
10:13 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.

Consent Agenda B. Jefferson

- Minutes from the June 21, 2018 Meeting.
- Staff Activities Report for June 2018

Director Plemmons moved to approve the consent agenda. Director Gardner seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Special Presentations

Jacob Dixon, who recently graduated from Watsonville High School and was the 2017 Range Camp scholarship recipient, gave a presentation on “Fire’s effect on California Rangeland”, which he presented at the Range Society Conference in January 2018. Jacob had been invited to present because he won a Top Camper award while at Range Camp.

Kyla Monroe, who recently graduated from North Salinas High School and was the 2017 land-judging contest winner and Range Camp 2018 scholarship awardee, gave a presentation on her experience this summer at the CA Natural Resources and Range Camp in Half Moon Bay. She showed pictures and described how the experience further fostered her interest in soil science. Kyla won the third top camper award but was not able to attend the Range Society Conference because she was over 17 years old.

Reports

Executive Director Report: P. Robins briefly described a meeting with RCD of Santa Cruz County (RCDSCC) Board of Directors, which was further elaborated by Director King (below).

Executive Committee Report: Director King provided a summary about the meeting that she and P. Robins attended with the RCDSCC Board. The purpose of their attendance was to initiate a system of better communication between each RCD for working collaboratively across county lines. There was also a discussion about possibly

establishing a MOA to establish guidelines for such communication.

NRCS Report: Erika Boyland reported that she is still covering the Hollister District Conservationist position, so she continues to split her time between the Salinas and Hollister offices. NRCS has developed a three-year \$360,000 contract with RCDMC for services in Engineering, Spanish-language Technical Assistance and Outreach, as well as an additional \$45,000 to carry the current engineering support agreement through 2018. Boyland expressed intent to hold a Local Work Group meeting in March or April of 2019 in order to identify resource concerns for the county that can be incorporated into the state-level prioritization discussions that will take place that summer. She also shared that NRCS, FSA and Rural Services are now organized under a government unit called "FPAC".

Finance Committee Report: None

Outreach/Education/Fundraising Committee Report: Director Gardner provided an overview of the fundraising and education meeting held on July 9th, where they discussed potential corporate partners for RCD educational programs. She described how the FARMS Leadership program in Monterey County intersects well with RCDMC's goals for its own education program. At the meeting, the committee assessed gaps in the existing educational program and also identified that FARMS leadership might be looking for a new local partner organization. It was also discussed that instead of only operating the land-judging contest, we could potentially expand our role in the FARMS Leadership program and also potentially house the program so that it can continue in Monterey County. P. Robins estimated the cost of running the first 'year' of the FARMS leadership program including six field trips, would be approximately \$40,000-\$50,000 annually.

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 July 27, 2018. The accrual account balance on July 27, 2018 was \$172,036.44 with \$13,556.40 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$141,933.51 in liabilities, and \$300,413.55 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$186,987.27 on June 21, 2018.

Expenses: P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in July including bi-weekly salary through July 27th, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of July, totaling \$96,942.05.

Approval for the July financial statements and for June and July expenses from the Chase Bank account was motioned by Director Lipe, seconded by Director Gardner and passed by a unanimous vote of directors present (5-0).

New Business

Directors/ Staff

Fund-raising/Education Planning: P. Robins discussed how RCDMC may partner with FARMS Leadership on the Monterey County Gives application, should they apply by the deadline on July 31st. We are also planning apply for a small Community Impact Grant for an amount under \$12,000 with the Community Foundation by the deadline on September 7th.

District Calendar: Director King confirmed that the fall wine fundraising event will be held at Happy Girl Kitchen in November. She said she has reached out to vendors from last year and is in the processing of confirming which producers will attend and which dates are best. Director Lipe offered to pay for advertising of the event. Directors requested that the

Fall Bus Tour also be held this year, preferably in October. Director Lipe recommended an impressive water quality project site to visit south of Salinas. Robins will inquire with Supervisors first regarding what dates will work best for public leaders. The Land-judging Contest will also be held on November 15th, assuming that date works for NRCS Soil Scientist Ken Oster, who leads the contest.

Conflict of Interest Code Review: Paul shared the findings of his review of the updated Conflict of Interest code and cited specific, minor language updates needed from the 2012 version to be consistent with current law. Director Gardner asked Robins to inquire about the significance of the addition of a clause referencing 'business positions' in the new language prior to the next meeting.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

None.

12:15 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

B. Jefferson

Next Regular RCD meeting:

Date: **THURSDAY, August 16, 2018, 10 A.M. – 12 P.M.**
Location: **RCDMC Office, Salinas**