



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

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February 21, 2019– MEETING MINUTES—approved 3/21/2019

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, February 21, 2019, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

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

Directors Absent: L. Ferrasci, E. Gardner

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Barker (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), E. Zefferman (RCDMC), J. Doud, D. Rao (UCCE), J. Gularte

Recorders: M. Barker, P. Robins

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

Public Comment: D Rao announced that the San Benito Working Lands Group will be having a meeting on prescribed fire on March 13, 2:30p-4:30p at Hollister Vets Building. There will also be another workshop in June in San Benito County or Monterey County.

Consent Agenda

- *Minutes from the January 17, 2019 Meeting.*
- *Staff Activities Report for January 2019.*

Director King moved to approve the consent agenda. Director Devers seconded the motion and all voted to approve.

Reports

Executive Director Report: Robins and Tuitele-Lewis partnered on a proposal for Forest Health Watershed Coordination together with the other Central Coast RCDs. RCDSCC was the lead on the proposal. Robins and Errea have been engaged in a CA Dept of Finance audit for the 2014 Wildlife Conservation Board grant. The first week of the audit 'field work' has been completed.

Executive Committee Report: None.

NRCS Report: None.

Finance Committee Report: None.

Fundraising & Education Committee Report: Robins, Barker, and Director Lipe met briefly after the January board meeting to discuss strategies. Lipe spoke with South County neighbors last week to discuss goals of the education program. Bill is hoping to meet with Melissa Duflock to get her opinion about strategies for approaching donors. RCD met with Lisa Dobbins from Grower Shipper Association to discuss some of the gaps in ag education so that there can be coordinated opportunities that aren't overlapping or conflicting. Mary Kimball from Center for Land-Based Learning met with Ag Commissioner Gonzales about potential funding sources for the FARMS Leadership Program.

Old or Standing Business

P. Robins / Directors

No items pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Monthly Financial Statements: M. Errea presented the financial statements regarding

Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending February 21, 2019. The accrual account balance on February 22, 2019 was \$169,852.19 with \$113,063.29 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$325,902 in liabilities, and \$382,690 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$165,423 on January 17, 2019.

Expenses: M. Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in February including bi-weekly salary through February 17, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of January, totaling \$313,609.19.

Director King moved to approve the February financial statements and the January and February expenses. Director Lipe seconded the motion, and all voted to approve. Director Devers requested that staff present a draft revised budget for the current fiscal year at the March board meeting that incorporates new projects initiated during the course of the year.

Consideration of Application for Board Service from John Doud, Jr. After brief discussion, Director Lipe moved to nominate and Director Plemmons seconded the motion, all voted to approve.

Consideration of Resolution 2019-01 authorizing submission of grant applications to CAL RECYCLE for Farm and Ranch Cleanup Grants: This grant program provides \$50K per site for ag parcels on which garbage was illegally dumped by a party unrelated to the farming operation. RCD has submitted a \$200K proposal on behalf of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation for 4 such sites. Director King moved to approve and Director Devers seconded, and all voted to approve the Resolution. Director Devers requested more background information be available for similar resolutions in the future.

Consideration of Resolution 2019-02 to request 'Dry Period' Loan from County of Monterey. Although the County is still determining how the RCD could be eligible for such a loan without having a tax-base for collateral, the RCD has been encouraged to go ahead and prepare the application for the dry period loan. Director Lipe moved to approve and Director Plemmons seconded the Resolution. All voted to approve the motion. Directors briefly discussed issues related to the RCD being able to acquire county tax base funding, which appears very costly both in terms of politics and expense.

New Business

Directors/ Staff

Staff Report: RCDMC Soil Scientist Laura Murphy provided a brief update on her winter activities, including:

- Presentation of a Cover Crop Workshop on Thursday, Feb. 28 1-3pm at ALBA, focused on small-scale, Spanish-speaking growers. Murphy shared a soil respiration (CO₂) measurement tool that will be demoed in the cover crop field day.
- Trialing the use of white gold mustard for cover crop with one new farmer.
- Building and distributing 'DIY' tensiometers as developed by UC Cooperative Extension that appears to be more reliable and less expensive than store-bought tensiometers. Murphy described ideal use and placement of tensiometers for accurately tracking field soil moisture to guide irrigation timing.
- Overall participation has been mixed, but Murphy commented that once a farmer finds a measurement tool that works, they are more likely to try out another tool. Her work is primarily funded through a subcontract with California Farmlink, under a

CDFA Specialty Crop Block Grant. A new NRCS agreement and a new RCDSCC Specialty Crop Block Grant will support much of Murphy's work moving forward.

- Murphy commented regarding the need for pesticide labels in Spanish so that Spanish-speaking beginning farmers can better understand proper application rates.

Range Camp scholarship for 2nd runner up at 2018 Land Judging Contest: the Board briefly discussed this potential for the student Hailey Higgins (of Soledad HS), who would be available to attend the next Board Meeting to present herself to the Board and express her interest. Board expressed their support for Hailey to come to the next meeting.

Robins reminded Board Members of annual and biennial compliance requirements that are due: 2-hour online ethics training, and submission of Form 700 Statements of Economic Interest.

The annual plan and budget 6-month review discussion was postponed to the March meeting in the interest of time.

Robins reminded Board Members that the RCDMC Spring BBQ will be held on Friday April 12, 4-7pm at the Rodeo Room, and noted that the Salinas River Channel Coalition will not be holding a separate BBQ at their final meeting in April in order to avoid a logistical conflict. Robins encouraged board members to solicit BBQ sponsorships as they did in 2018. Possible event program ideas include a trivia game similar to the 2017 BBQ or showing the KION news coverage of the arundo project along with 'Pathways for Wildlife' footage from the past season.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

No announcements.

12:10 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

Next Regular RCD meeting:

Date: Thursday March 21, 10am
Location: RCDMC Salinas Office