



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

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October 17, 2019– MEETING MINUTES—approved 11/21/2019

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, October 17, 2019, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Directors Present: R. King, J. Doud, J. Clarke, L. Ferrasci, B. Lipe, B. Plemmons, J. Gularte (appointee)

Directors Absent: B. Jefferson

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), M. Barker (RCDMC), E. Boyland (NRCS)

Recorders: M. Barker, P. Robins

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topics</u>	<u>Presented by</u>
10:05 A.M.	<u>Call to Order</u>	<u>R. King</u>

Public Comment:

None.

Consent Agenda

- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the September 19, 2019 Regular Board Meeting*
- *Accept Staff Activities Report for September 2019.*

Director Clarke moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Director Doud seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Reports

Executive Director Report: Robins was unable to attend the Central Coast Regional Area Meeting due to a back injury. Speak Off Contest Finalist Hailey Higgins presented via Skype to the area meeting to receive one additional round of feedback before advancing to the State Finals. Hailey is the de facto Central Coast finalist because no other Central Coast RCDs had any contestants to compete.

NRCS Report: NRCS District Conservationist Erika Boyland provided an update on her activities for the year. Boyland noted that NRCS is on-boarding a new CART software system for screening and ranking projects and they are waiting for the new Farm Bill rollout, which will determine the fiscal outlook for NRCS in 2020.

Ninety million dollars of EQIP funds were made available state-wide in the 2019 fiscal year, with \$20 million dollars of that allocated to Area 2. In 2019, NRCS obligated 28 contracts for over \$1,000,000 through EQIP for Monterey County, which benefited 18,000 acres. Boyland noted that essentially all eligible applications for the Program in Monterey County were funded. She also provided an update on the CSP-GCI grazing contracts and shared that five (5) project applications were funded this year, amounting to \$100,000 in funds, mostly for conservation cover-related projects. Erika noted that Field Office Engineer Javier Flores has been on detail in Puerto Rico the past two months and is scheduled to return in mid-November.

Board Member Comments: Director Plemmons attended the Central Coast Regional Area

Meeting. CARCD has developed a \$250,000 loan fund accessible to RCDs needing short-term financial assistance. At the meeting, CARCD also stated that there is a marketing specialist available to provide local RCDs with fundraising assistance. Other topics presented at the meeting included the Project Tracker and the Rancher to Rancher program.

Director Lipe shared that there is a local shipper consortium working with the World Wildlife Fund around water efficiency and the need for conservation-related marketing. Taylor Farms, Fresh Express and a few other growers provided surveys to their producers to inform the consortium conservation efforts. Director Lipe also shared that his employer, Rava Ranches, just completed construction of 5.3 MW solar farm on non-prime farmland to supply power to their farm and sell their excess energy to the regional grid.

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 October 17, 2019. The accrual account balance on October 17, 2019 was \$235,208.18 with \$79,125.44 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$580,868 in liabilities, and \$736,950.25 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$200,938.97 on September 19, 2019.

Expenses: M. Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in October including bi-weekly salary through October 13, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of September and October, totaling \$299,768.47.

Director Plemmons moved to approve the October financial statements and the September and October expenses as presented. Director Lipe seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Review of New or Revised Independent Contractor Agreements for Board Approval: Robins and the Board reviewed two independent contractor agreement modifications and one new ICA.

- **ICA 2019-14, Amendment 1** would authorize California Reforestation, Inc. (CRI) to continue working beyond the dates listed in Exhibit B of existing ICA 2019-14 in order to continue working from October 8 – November 15, as authorized by the RCD. This work will include retreatments of arundo mowed in 2017 and sprayed in 2018, as well as initial treatments. This amendment increases the Not to Exceed amount of \$91,000 listed in Exhibit C to \$291,000 through November 15, 2019. Rates will continue to follow those in the contract.
- **ICA 2019-17, Amendment 1** would authorize Washburn Grove Management to continue working beyond the scope of work outlined in Exhibit A of ICA 2019-17. This amendment increases the Not to Exceed amount of \$200,000 listed in Exhibit C to \$325,000.
- **ICA 2019-18** with University Corporation at Monterey Bay to fund CSUMB Professor Forrest Melton to direct an Arundo Evapotranspiration Study to generate estimates of the amount of water saved by controlling Arundo each year. The Agreement is not to exceed \$35,623, and is funded by the RCD's 2016 WCB-SFEP grant.

Directors confirmed that they had no relationships with the contractors. Director Plemmons moved to approve, Director Doud seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Fundraising Update:

County 'Dry Period loan' request: A special board meeting was held on October 8th where the RCDMC Board granted permission for RCDMC to begin storing funds with the County Treasury so that we can become eligible for County dry period loans. RCDMC will keep our funds in the County Treasury but continue to administer checks out of Chase Bank via electronic fund transfers. All 'Dry Period' loans would need to be paid off in April of the fiscal year in which they are granted.

October 25 'Meet your Makers' Cheese & Wine event: Director King confirmed we are currently at 24 total ticket sales. Director King and M. Barker are going to meet with Annette from Cima Collina Tuesday at 2:15pm to check out the event layout. King is offering a \$10 discount per ticket for wine industry partners like Talbott Vineyards, who expressed interest in attending the event.

Spring 2020 BBQ date, theme and sponsorships planning: A date, location and theme for the Annual RCDMC BBQ still needs to be selected. Two potential dates are April 17th and April 24th, which avoids Good Friday on April 10th and the Mens' Hospital Ride in early May. Robins has reached out to Abby Taylor Silva and Norm Groot to make sure there are no conflicts in April. Director Lipe will reach out to Kendall Jackson to see if we could host the event at their tasting room.

Director Lipe suggested a theme of sustainability and asking for some tax-deductible legacy donations for long-term support to the RCDMC. Robins suggested separate smaller fundraising meetings for the larger donation requests are needed.

Monterey County Gives! Campaign Center for Land-Based Learning: The Monterey County Gives Campaign begins on November 7th. RCDMC will need reimbursement for M. Barker's time for marketing as well as recognition of the RCDMC partnership on the MC Gives Center for Land Based Learning campaign page.

New BusinessDirectors/ Staff

Next 'In-District' Board Meeting location/planning: The Santa Lucia Conservancy will host the District 5 meeting and site tour on November 21st. District 5 Supervisor Mary Adams and her staff will be in attendance.

Director application from Jynel Gularte: Jynel Gularte from Rincon Farms has submitted an application to join the RCDMC Board of Directors in order to replace outgoing Director Ferrasci. Director Ferrasci moved to appoint Jynel Gularte to the Board. Director Plemmons seconded the motion. All present voted to approve.

Annual Plan/Budget progress review: Robins shared a progress review of the 2019-20 Annual Plan and solicited Directors' feedback separate from the meeting.

RCD Staff Presentation from Brandt Bates: Stream Maintenance Program Coordinator Brandt Bates provided a progress report using a story map created in ArcGIS Online. Work is being conducted in 23 secondary channels in RMU 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 this year. There are eight (8) arundo mitigation areas and one tree planting area this year. Brandt used three RMU 1 maintenance areas to serve as examples to demonstrate the program's data collection process. Eighty acres of Arundo has already been treated outside of the maintenance areas. Twenty-nine days remain in the work season and work is approximately 80% complete to date. This year, a four-year report will be completed to summarize program activities for the period as well as an annual report for MCWRA, and Brandt will be assisting the RMU Association with outreach.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

No announcements.

12:26 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

Next Regular RCD meeting & Site Tour:

Date: Thursday November 21, 10am

Location: Santa Lucia Conservancy office, Carmel