



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

(831) 975-7775

April 16, 2020– MEETING MINUTES—Approved May 28, 2020

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, April 16, 2020, 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, J. Gularte, R. King, J. Doud, B. Lipe, B. Plemmons, J. Clarke

Directors Absent: none

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Barker (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), N. Solares (RCDMC), J. Tuitele-Lewis (RCDMC), E. Boyland (NRCS), Marissa Ritter

Recorders: M. Barker, P. Robins

Note: Because of shelter-in-place orders for the COVID-19 outbreak, the meeting was held by teleconference at <https://www.uberconference.com/rcdmonterey>. Participants also had the option to call in to 831-278-5140.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topics</u>	<u>Presented by</u>
10:02 A.M.	Call to Order	<u>B. Jefferson</u>

Public Comment: None.

Consent Agenda

- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the March 19, 2020 Regular Board Meeting*
- *Accept Staff Activities Report for March 2020.*

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

Reports

Executive Director Report: Robins elected not to submit a request for leniency to Monterey County because RCDMC has ample reserves in the bank to pay back the loan due to payments being paid in a timely manner by state agencies, particularly the Wildlife Conservation Board. RCDMC will be requesting another dry period loan from the County for the next fiscal year. The board will be reviewing that dry period loan request at the May Board meeting.

RCDMC staff have been working remotely and participating in weekly team meetings with video conferencing service Uber Conference. Robins submitted two letters to local public representatives asking for inclusion of RCDs in the next stimulus bill with the regards to the CARES Act. While the Act creates a requirement to provide supplemental paid sick time and health leave related to COVID-19, RCDs and other special districts are not provided any CARES Act funding in order to be able to cover the costs of such leave.

NRCS Comments: Robins related on behalf of NRCS that their staff have all been working remotely, with the exception of Range Conservationist Allison Tokunaga, who has been assisting RCDMC with receiving mail. The EQIP batching deadline is late June 2020.

Directors' Updates & Committee Reports: none.

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 April 16, 2020. The accrual account balance on April 16, 2020 was \$184,232.16 with \$119,783.57 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$433,207 in liabilities, and \$497,655.49 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$194,567.89 on March 19, 2020.

Expenses: Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in April including bi-weekly salary through April 12, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of March and April, totaling \$79,735.44.

Director Plemmons moved to approve the April financial statements and the March and April expenses as presented. Director Gularte seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Review of New or Revised Independent Contractor Agreements: The Board reviewed the FlowWest subcontract SC-2017-09 for an augmentation of \$5,087.10. The contract is for hydraulic modeling services to the RCD of Monterey County under our Stream Flow Enhancement grant from the CA Wildlife Conservation Board, awarded in 2016. The previous not-to-exceed amount under this subcontract was \$51,410. With the augmentation the contract will increase to a total amount of \$56,497.10, to be billed before April 30, 2021.

Director Gularte moved to approve the augmented contract as presented. Director Lipe seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

New Business

Directors/ Staff

Staff Presentation regarding the Los Padres Strategic Community Fuelbreak Collaborative and new funding awards: RCDMC Forest Health Coordinator Jamie Tuitele-Lewis informed the Board that the Fuelbreak Collaborative has been awarded funding from two sources: a USDA Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership and a CAL FIRE California Climate Investments (CCI) Fire Prevention Grant. Both sources will cover collaborative fuelbreak work in the northern Santa Lucia Mountains. Collaborators include California State Parks, El Sur Ranch, Graniterock, Los Padres National Forest, Pico Blanco Boy Scout Camp, Rancho Rico, San Clemente Rancho, and Santa Lucia Conservancy. Other partners include the Monterey County 5th District Supervisor's Office, Big Sur Fire Brigade, CAL FIRE, Fire Safe Council of Monterey County, and NRCS.

\$2.5 Million of Joint Chiefs' funding was awarded to the NRCS and US Forest Service for the Forest Service and private landowners to conduct fire fuels reduction treatments and fuelbreak enhancement across approximately 1,400 acres in the project area. The private partners will be utilizing funding through the NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which helps landowners create a Forest Management Plan and receive money to offset costs of treatment implementation. This funding will last until 2023 and will be managed in conjunction with the USDA and the RCDMC.

The CCI CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grant was awarded \$4.8 million for the RCD to administer directly, with disbursement beginning approximately in September 2020. This grant covers a wide variety of hazardous fuels treatments and forest health management proposed by the partners in the grant, ranging from largescale fuelbreak maintenance and enhancement, enhanced ingress and egress in remote areas, defensible space creation for a community in Big Sur, creating a shaded fuelbreak connecting adjoining Forest Service fuelbreaks, prescribed fire (for native habitat restoration) and invasive plant control. This grant covers approximately 1,735 acres of proposed treatments spread over the northern Santa Lucia mountains in an area of Big Sur that is important strategically for fire prevention and is a large wildland-urban interface.

Consideration of Resolution 2020-02 to authorize entry into contract with CALFIRE for \$4.8M 'Los Padres National Forest Fuelbreak Collaborative' grant: Robins informed the board that in order to be able to enter into the grant agreement with CALFIRE, the RCD Board would need to approve a resolution authorizing him to sign the agreement on their behalf. Director King moved to approve Resolution 2020-02 for that purpose. Director Clarke seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Preparatory discussion of 2020-21 Annual Workplan and Budget: Robins and Errea will be working with the Board finance committee (Lipe and Plemmons) in the coming weeks to plan for the next fiscal year. The goal is to provide a budget for best case scenario as well as a budget for the worst-case scenario with regards to the uncertainties presented by COVID-19.

Robins will also be creating work plans with individual staff members in the coming weeks. The work plans will also need to be coordinated with Board Executive Committee (Jefferson, King, Clarke).

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

None to report.

11:53 A.M. Meeting Adjourned

Next Regular RCD meeting:

Date: Thursday, May 28, 10am
Location: Meeting will be held by teleconference