



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

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May 20, 2021– MEETING MINUTES—*Approved 6-24-2021*

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, May 20, 2021, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

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

Directors Absent: R. King, I. Mendoza (Associate), M. Ritter (Associate)

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), B. Bates (RCDMC), J. Tuitele-Lewis (RCDMC), A. Carter (RCDMC),

Recorders: B. Bates, P. Robins

Because of shelter-in-place orders for the COVID-19 outbreak, the meeting was held by Zoom conference.

Open Session: Director Jefferson called the meeting to Order at 10:09 am

Public Comment: None

Consent Items:

- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the April 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting*
- *Accept Staff Activities Report for April 2021.*

Director Gularte moved to approve the Consent Items. Director Lipe seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Reports

NRCS Report:

The new District Conservationist, Ari DeLara will be starting next week. The NRCS field office will also be filling John Warner's, Conservation Range Specialist, position that has since been void.

Executive Director Report:

Robins announced that the RCD will be losing a staff member, Natalie Solares Ag Specialist. He commented that though he's sad to see her go, she's been able to still carry a lot of weight and work remotely since she's moved south. He will be posting a job advertisement in the next couple weeks.

Robins discussed that he was contacted by Senator Laird's office regarding funding for projects that are shovel-ready. Robins and other staff have been working together on identifying Salinas River, Forest Health, and other projects that could potentially be funded via Senator's Laird's funding proposal. Robins will be submitting a list of projects to the Senator's office 5/20.

Robins introduced Cathy Carlson who was invited by Director King to potentially join the RCDMC Board as an Associate Director.

Directors Reports:

Brent Plemmons announced that he is working on scheduling the next Central Coast RCDs regional meeting. He mentioned that he is looking for other board members from within the Central Coast region that would be interested in helping at the regional level.

Old or Standing BusinessP. 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 May 20, 2021. The accrual account balance on May 20, 2021 was \$267,914.69 with \$310,527.53 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury, \$303,807 in liabilities, and \$261,194.63 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$256,949 on April 15, 2021.

Expenses: Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid on May 20, including bi-weekly salary through May 14, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of May and April, totaling \$166,095.27

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

CDFW SMP fee payment for RMU Assoc: In addition to the list of May bills, the RMU Association requested that the RCD assist them by fronting the payment for the Stream Maintenance Program CDFW Fall Work Season fees until the Association can bill the associated participants. The RMU Association committed to reimburse the RCD for the entirety of payment to CDFW by the end of June 2021. Director Jefferson moved to approve the *CDFW SMP fee payment*. Director Plemmons seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Draft 2021-22 Fiscal Year budget and workplan: Robins reviewed the budget structure and components with Directors and noted that confirmation of some of the individual project budgets from project managers need confirmation before the final draft can be prepared for Finance Committee review in early June. An updated draft will be presented to the Board for approval at the June Regular Meeting. Robins also introduced the draft annual workplan that the budget will fund. The workplan will receive additional staff and Executive Committee review in early June for Board approval at the June Regular Meeting.

Strategic Plan Update: Robins reviewed the changes included in the final draft update from May 5th, which included finalizing language regarding Guiding Principles, an updated Mission Statement, and updates to specific Goals and Strategies. Director Lipe moved to approve the *Strategic Plan Update* as presented, Director Gularte seconded the motion, and all voted to approve. The approved document is attached to these minutes.

Update regarding Salinas River Management Unit Association and Monterey County Water Resources Agency permit oversight for Stream Maintenance Program: Robins is still working with the Farm Bureau and RMU Association to establish a budget for the Stream Maintenance Program and forecast income to cover it. One option being considered by the RMU Association for addressing a near-term funding shortfall is a non event-based fundraiser.

Consideration for Reappointment of 4-year Director Terms: Directors Jefferson, Plemmons and Gularte had indicated interest in serving new 4-year terms at the prior meeting. Because each of them were present, votes to approve appointing them for new terms were held individually.

- Director Doud called for a motion to appoint Director Jefferson for a new 4-year term. Plemmons moved to approve vote, Lipe seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.
- Director Doud called for a motion to appoint Director Plemmons for a new 4-year term. Jefferson moved to approve the vote, Lipe seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.
- Director Doud called for a motion to appoint Director Gularte for a new 4-year term. Plemmons moved to approve the vote, Lipe seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

New Board Member Search: The board discussed options for filling the seat that will be made available when Director King shifts from Director to Associate Director.

Unfunded Cooperative Agreement for Vehicle and Space Sharing between NRCS and RCD: Robins briefly described the new Vehicle and Space sharing agreement with NRCS that needs RCD acceptance. The agreement details the nature of the RCD-NRCS technical partnership, office space allotment and federal vehicle access in a new format, without any actual changes in arrangement between the agencies. Director Gularte moved to approve the *Unfunded Cooperative Agreement*. Director Doud seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

New Business

Staff presentation: RCDMC Ecologist Emily Zefferman gave a brief presentation on a recent Monarch habitat grant from the CA Association of RCDs and on the Monterey Regional Monarch Alliance that she and others have been coordinating for fostering monarch habitat projects in the region.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

None.

12:00 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

Next Regular RCD meeting:

Thursday, June 17, 10am. Meeting will be held by Zoom conference.