



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

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## August 19, 2021– MEETING MINUTES—Approved 9/16/2021

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, August 19, 2021, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, B. Plemmons, R. King, J. Clarke, B. Lipe, J. Doud, J. Gularte, M. Ritter (Associate)

Directors Absent: I. Mendoza (Associate)

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), M. Barker (RCDMC), C Keller (public)

Recorders: M. Barker, P. Robins

*The meeting was held by Hybrid Zoom conference/in-person at the Monterey County Farm Bureau office in Salinas, CA.*

Open Session: Director Jefferson called the meeting to Order at 10:12 am

Public Comment: None

### Consent Items:

- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the July 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting*
- *Accept Staff Activities Report for July 2021.*

Director Clarke moved to approve the Consent Items. Director Plemmons seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

### Reports

#### *Executive Director Report:*

Robins shared that RCDMC has a new Ag Water Management Specialist, Aysha Peterson, who will introduce herself at the next board meeting. Robins has been working on the preparations for two new IRWMP grant-funded projects, one of which has an advanced payment option that will help with cash flow. RCDMC recently received the paperwork from a Salinas River landowner to allocate RCPP funds for arundo work after a long paper chase. He shared that the Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program has all the work approvals from CDFW well in advance of September work start date. Robins shared that Donna Meyers requested a spot on a future Board Meeting agenda in order to give a presentation on the new Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

#### *NRCS Report:*

Robins gave the NRCS report on behalf of Ari DeLara who was unable to attend the meeting. NRCS is working diligently to wrap up their end of the year paperwork. A new Range Conservationist has been selected for the Salinas Office, but the hiring process should extend

for several months yet. The recently-hired Agronomist starts in late August--this is the first time that the Salinas Office has had an Agronomist of its own. The new Agronomist will be working closely with Karen Lowell the Area Agronomist who is responsible for covering 11 counties. With the Delta COVID variant becoming more widespread, NRCS is requiring that all staff in the Service Center (including RCDMC) declare vaccination status and proof of weekly testing if they are not vaccinated.

#### *Directors Reports:*

Director Plemmons shared that CARCD Conference will be virtual again this year. Director Clarke announced that the Leafy Greens Research Board is funding a new project with UCCE and ARS about winter cover crops to help growers develop a user's guide to put their Nitrogen credit towards the Ag Order. Clarke will be setting up a contract with RCDMC Soil Scientist Laura Murphy to help with data collection. Clarke shared that UCANR has announced the position for a new plant pathologist, and the application date closes at the end of October.

Director King joined an organic farm-site meeting with Congressman Jimmy Panetta hosted by the California Climate Action Network (CalCAN) to discuss a number of programs.

#### 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 August 19, 2021. The accrual account balance on August 19, 2021 was \$226,081.97 with \$500,474.84 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury, \$650,548 in liabilities, and \$376,155.07 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$222,732.40 on July 22, 2021.

#### *Expenses:*

Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid on August 19, including bi-weekly salary through August 15, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of July and August, totaling \$76,294.60.

Director King moved to approve the August financial statements and the July and August expenses. Director Doud seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

#### *Fall RCD Central Coast meeting:*

Robins shared that other Central Coast RCDs have a desire for an in-person meeting as opposed to a solely virtual option. The RCD Fall Meeting will likely be held on a Wednesday or Thursday in late October. Four sites would include fish passage projects in Carmel Valley and Cachagua. Director Lipe suggested the Corkscrew Café in Carmel Valley Village as a central location to have lunch that day.

#### *New Board Member search:*

Director King is still trying find a replacement for her pending Board vacancy (starting in October). She reached out to Todd Champagne from Happy Girl Kitchen but he is too busy so she will also try to reach out to Beau Schoch of Schoch Dairy to see if he is interested. Beau is

also former NRCS Engineer from the Salinas Office. Director Doud reached out to Chanel Keller of Dirt House Farms, who joined this meeting as a member of the public.

New business

*Fundraising and event planning:*

Robins shared the t-shirt design that Christopher Bunn (RMU Association) commissioned for the Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program fundraiser. Bunn has already raised \$10,000 of the \$20,000 goal to offset program costs. RCDMC will own the rights to the fundraiser graphic, which is a beautifully designed watercolor showing the river and a great egret flying above. Robins will check in with Bunn about getting more t-shirts to sell separately. Gularte shared that ALCO Water Service (Tom Adcock) might be another potential sponsor for the fundraiser. She will reach out to her contact there.

Robins recommended that the RCD not hold a fall fundraiser this year given the lingering unknowns with the pandemic and many other fall activities already in planning such as the fall RCD Central Coast Regional meeting in October and Land-judging contest in November. The Annual BBQ is still tentatively planned for Spring 2022 (assuming that there is not another delay due to COVID).

Finance Manager Errea made an emergency request that a separate check be issued for Laura Murphy's July mileage reimbursement because they were inadvertently left out of the check bundle for the month. Robins requested board approval of the off-cycle check, and Director Clarke motioned to approve the separate issuance of Murphy's mileage check. Director Lipe seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

None.

11:16 A.M. Meeting Adjourned

Next Regular RCD meeting: Thursday, September 16, 10am. Meeting location is to be determined.