



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

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November 18, 2021– MEETING MINUTES—*Approved 12/16/2021*

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, November 18, 2021, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

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

Directors Absent: B. Lipe, I. Mendoza (Associate)

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

Recorder: P. Robins

The meeting was held by Zoom conference

Reports

Executive Director Report:

Robins gave a brief update on new grant funding opportunities, including a partnered effort with the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for a US Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant to support arundo treatment work in the Salinas River.

NRCS Report:

Robins relayed a brief report from the District Conservationist regarding upcoming Farm Bill program costshare application deadlines.

Directors Reports:

- Director Plemmons described the initial Finance Committee meeting to initiate solicitation of retirement program alternatives for staff with a focus on low-cost to the employee with higher investment options.
- Director Doud described a field meeting at Marks Ranch where a range drill for seeding native pollinator plants was demonstrated and could be available for RCD work.

Open Session: Director Jefferson called the meeting to Order at 10:30 am after quorum was reached.

Public Comment: none.

Consent Items:

- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the October 21, 2021 Regular Board meeting*
- *Staff Activities Report for October 2021*

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

Old or Standing Business

P. Robins / Directors

No items pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Monthly Financial Statements:

Robins presented the financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending November 18, 2021. The accrual account balance on November 18, 2021 was \$243,130.28, with \$373,204.05 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury (including loans and advance payments), \$926,412 in liabilities, and \$796,338.05 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$236,729.01 on October 21, 2021.

Expenses:

Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid on November 18, including bi-weekly salary through November 7, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of October and November, totaling \$168,457.96.

Director Doud moved to approve the November financial statements and the October and November expenses. Director Gularte seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

New Contract reviews:

Robins presented ICA 2021-08 to be awarded to SummitWest for an amount NTE \$135,000.00 to conduct biological research and field surveys on 93 acres of US Forest Service and adjacent private lands for the Los Padres Strategic Community Fuel Break Collaborative Project. No Directors noted any relationships or interests with the awardee. Director Clarke moved to approve the contract award of ICA 2021-08 to SummitWest as described. Director Doud seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Consideration of Resolution 21-04 to comply with AB 361 for remote meetings:

Director Clarke moved to approve Resolution 21-04. Director Plemmons seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

New Board Member search:

Robins noted that the search continues. Director Jefferson suggested he would reach out to Alex Rodoni of Springfield Farms as a potential candidate.

New business*CEQA Notice of Completion of Mitigated Negative Declaration for East Pico Blanco Fuelbreak Project Public Input Process:*

Robins noted that the MND had received no public comment during the 30-day review period, but requested to postpone the item to the next Regular Meeting to include state agency comments (if any are received).

Spring BBQ Planning

Directors discussed potential dates and venues for a spring fundraiser barbecue event, with April appearing to be the most likely month (as in the past). Robins and Gularte committed to following up after the meeting to coordinate further on specific date and locale recommendations to bring back to the Board in December.

Update regarding Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plans:

Emily Gardner of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency provided an update on the progress of the agency and the Groundwater Sustainability Plans in draft or approved. Director Gularte asked if there may be overlap between Sustainable Groundwater Management Act enforcement and the Ag Order 4.0. Gardner replied that it was the GSA's intent to coordinate with other regulatory agencies in order to avoid duplication.

Presentation regarding recently-installed fish passage improvement projects

RCDMC Environmental Scientist Megan Barker provided a presentation of the two fish passage improvement projects installed this year by Trout Unlimited with her permit acquisition support. Tim Frahm of Trout Unlimited complemented Barker and the RCD for their partnership and the quality of Megan's work.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

None.

12:00 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

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