



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

(831) 975-7775

February 17, 2022– MEETING MINUTES—Approved March 24, 2022

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, February 17, 2022, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

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

Directors Absent:

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), M. Barker (RCDMC), A. Carter (RCDMC), A. DeLara (NRCS), Aaron Johnson

Recorders: P. Robins, M. Barker

The meeting was held by Zoom conference

Open Session: Director Jefferson called the meeting to Order at 10:03 am.

Public Comment: None.

Consent Items:

- *Approval of Resolution 22-03 to comply with AB 361 for remote meetings*
- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the January 20, 2022 Regular Board meeting*
- *Staff Activities Report for January 2022*

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

Reports

NRCS Report:

NRCS Salinas District Conservationist Ari DeLara provided a summary of funded cost-share requests, noting only 20% of Monterey County EQIP requests were approved. There is a surge of EQIP requests coming in for forest fuels management projects that will have priority access to Joint Chiefs funding dedicated to the Santa Lucia mountains, and \$1.5M in post-fire assistance projects were funded this year.

Executive Director Report:

Robins gave a brief update on staff grant-writing activities of the past month: namely a \$3.67M CALFIRE proposal for the Carmel Valley Fuel Break, a \$515K Monarch habitat improvement project funding request through CARCD to the Wildlife Conservation Board, a \$384K portion of a regional Forest Resiliency proposal through RCD Santa Cruz to the Coastal Conservancy, a \$599K Water Efficiency Technical Assistance proposal to CDFA, and a \$10k Urban Conservation planning proposal to the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Directors Reports:

Director Jefferson inquired about getting some support from NRCS to revise the AGI limit for

EQIP, and if that limit was why EQIP applications were turned down. DeLara acknowledged the issues Monterey County producers have with the current AGI limits, but noted that contract non-approvals were due to lack of funding.

Old or Standing Business

P. Robins / Directors

No items pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Monthly Financial Statements:

Finance Manager Errea presented the financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending February 17, 2022. The accrual account balance on February 17, 2022 was \$224,031.13, with a balance of \$353,601.28 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury (including loans and advance payments), \$485,758 in liabilities, and \$356,187.39 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$222,740.05 on January 20, 2022.

Expenses:

Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid on February 17, including bi-weekly salary through February 13, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of January and February, totaling \$140,735.75. She requested an additional check be approved for sending after the meeting in order to reimburse a subcontractor (Burluson Consulting) for whom the funds arrived after the meeting packet had been prepared.

Director Lipe moved to approve the February financial statements and the January and February expenses along with check #10092 for \$15,111.16 to Burluson Consulting as requested by Errea. Director Gularte seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Mid-year Work Plan Review: Robins walked Board Members through a review of progress on the 2021-2022 RCDMC Annual Work Plan.

New Board Member search: There has not been any movement on this. Ignacio Mendoza is interested in engaging more with the Board but will not be applying to serve as a Director at this time. Aaron Johnson (in attendance) was invited by Director Lipe.

New Contract reviews: Robins presented ICA 2022-01 for Camara Environmental Consulting for Permit streamlining process for an amount NTE \$25,950.00 to guide our process to create a streamlined Monterey County Master Permit for conservation projects. The costs for her contract would be covered under our existing SWRCB-Blanco grant, and the contract has an NTE of \$25,950 based on a negotiated budget through February 28, 2023.

Director Gularte moved to approve the contract award of ICA 2022-01 as described. Director Plemmons seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

New business

Compensation Policy Updates. The RCDMC staff organization and compensation policy updates will be presented to the Board in March or April for approval and implementation by June.

Resolution 2022-04 to authorize a proposal for submission of an NACD Urban Conservation Assistance Proposal to help enhance urban agriculture technical assistance. The National

Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has solicited applications for proposals to enhance districts' urban agriculture conservation technical assistance activities.

Director Gularte moved to approve Resolution 2022-04 to authorize submission of a proposal for NACD Urban Conservation Assistance funding. Director Clarke seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Consideration of MOU for Monterey Regional Monarch Alliance. The Monterey Regional Monarch Alliance is inviting participating organizations to sign a Memorandum of Understanding establishing membership in the alliance. The commitments include promoting and practicing cooperation with other MRMA members, using evidence-based information, regularly attending meetings, developing an action plan with short- and long-term goals, refraining from speaking on behalf of MRMA unless the information has been approved by the General Assembly, and acting with courtesy and respect.

Director Lipe moved to approve the MOU for Monterey Regional Monarch Alliance. Director Clarke seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Presentation about the Blanco Drain Bioreactor Project

RCDMC Engineer Adrienne Carter gave a presentation on the Blanco Drain Bioreactor Project, which was implemented this past fall with funding from a State Water Resources Control Board 319 grant. Carter shared that the physical components of the bioreactor have been placed, the pump has been turned on, and the only remaining component yet to be completed is placement of a grate on the pump intake box.

Announcements

None.

Directors/ Robins

12:13 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

Next Regular RCD meeting: Thursday, March 24, 10am. Meeting will be held both in-person and by Zoom. The location will be at the American Ag Credit Office in Salinas.