

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
February 23, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Placer County Resource Conservation District (District /RCD) Board was called to order by RCD President Steve Garcia at 4:07 p.m.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Christine Johnson
Stephen (Steve) Jones
Mica Heilmann
Claudia Smith
Robert (Bob) Wiswell, Jr.
Steven (Steve) Garcia
Thomas (Tom) Wehri

Directors Absent: None

Others Present: Elisa Noble, RCD Executive Director
Kirsten Losse, RCD Staff
Jerry Reioux, RCD Consultant
Susan Werner, Werner Accounting Services
Josh Huntsinger, Placer County Agricultural Commissioner
Carol Rutenbergs, NRCS Acting DC
Katie Maloney, Retiree

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Tom Wehri moved to approve the agenda. Bob Wiswell seconded; motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Katie Maloney, Retiree, asked if the board would consider her for an Associate Board Member position. The board of directors approved the request.

Jerry Reioux mentioned that Nevada Irrigation District is in the scoping process for the proposed Centennial Reservoir project, and there are two upcoming public meetings.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Steve Jones requested a change to the January 26, 2016 minutes to include his resignation as Alternate Board Member of Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council. Christine Johnson moved to approve the minutes as amended. Steve Jones seconded; motion carried. Tom Wehri and Steve Garcia abstained as they were not present at the January 26, 2016 meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Susan Werner of Werner Accounting Services presented the financial reports as of January 31, 2016. Tom Wehri moved to approve the financial reports. Christine Johnson seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

New Business:

a) *Discussion re: PCRCD Role in Providing Technical Assistance to Landowners Growing Marijuana:*

Josh Huntsinger, Placer County Agricultural Commissioner gave a presentation to the Board regarding the proposed Placer County Medical Marijuana Ordinance. The proposed ordinance will be presented to the Placer County Board of Supervisors at their May 17, 2016 Board Meeting for discussion and possible approval. There are town hall meetings and other opportunities for input before then. The board of directors reviewed the information presented by Josh Huntsinger, asked questions and raised potential issues such as timberland conversion, but did not take an official position on the proposed ordinance. Discussion was held regarding what kind of technical assistance the District should provide these kind of landowners. For the present time, RCD Staff was directed to not provide assistance to any landowner where marijuana is growing. Instead, the RCD can provide a list of professionals and direct the landowners where to find information for their questions. Once a county ordinance is passed, the RCD will work with the County to determine the best role for the RCD to provide technical assistance.

b) *Discussion regarding Tree Bug Kill and PCRCD Advocacy Role:*

Steve Garcia gave a presentation regarding the current tree mortality/bug kill issue throughout the state, using CalFire's online Tree Mortality Viewer mapping tool. Steve reported on his attendance and the discussions at the Statewide Tree Mortality Task Force meeting. Steve discussed the need for Placer County to develop a mitigation plan to assist with issues and solutions for the dead standing trees in Placer County. Placer RCD will participate in the County Tree Mortality Task Force that is being established. Elisa discussed the SRA Grant Applications that Placer RCD has submitted to help address these challenges. The board of

directors agreed that PCRCD should be involved in developing solutions and identifying funding to assist landowners with the removal of dead standing trees.

Old Business:

c) *Discussion regarding Office and Storage Space:*

Elisa Noble updated the board of directors regarding the storage situation. All PCRCD materials are now at our new office location. The landlords are providing the space for free and PCRCD is giving the landlord a donation letter for the value of the space.

d) *Update on FSTEP Classes:*

The FSTEP classes are filling up quickly. Susan Werner has been taking the registrations over the telephone and collecting the funds through the mail. The process is going well and the classes are almost full.

e) *Discussion and Possible Action re: Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council (SCRMC):*

Elisa Noble provided an update regarding the SCRMC board of directors meeting. She reported that SCRMC now has an approved founding Joint Powers Agreement document and bylaws, and are working with their attorney to develop the policies. The Watershed Improvement (WIP) program is moving forward and the current SCRMC members are determining which watershed assessments they will complete. Elisa is writing the American River watershed assessment as a pilot.

AGENCY REPORTS

Carol Rutenbergs, NRCS Acting DC, provided information regarding the replacement progress for the new DC and Engineer. Carol reviewed the current EQIP projects and forest land projects with the board of directors. There is a cooperative agreement between NRCS and PCRCD that is still being processed at the NRCS office.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Claudia Smith stated that the RCD should attend the upcoming March 9, 2016 town hall meeting regarding the marijuana ordinance. Jerry Reioux plans to attend one of the meetings. Claudia also said that PCWA and NID letters have been sent to canal water users indicating that full water deliveries are expected this year.

COMMUNICATIONS

Will be recorded in the minutes.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Proposed County Marijuana Ordinance
- Bug Kill / Tree Mortality Solutions and Potential grant funding sources
- Identify Alternate Board Member for SCRMC Board

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Claudia Smith moved to adjourn. Steve Jones seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Steve Garcia adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2016 from 4-6 p.m.