

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
September 22, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Placer County Resource Conservation District (District /RCD) Board was called to order by RCD Chair Claudia Smith at 4:00 p.m. on a Zoom online meeting.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Claudia Smith
Stephen (Steve) Jones
Thomas (Tom) Wehri
Patricia (Patti) Beard
Christine Johnson

Absent Directors: Steven (Steve) Garcia
Mica Heilmann

Others Present: Sarah Jones, RCD Executive Director
Allison Erny, RCD Employee
Cordi Craig, RCD Employee
Kate Espinola, RCD Employee
Brian Pimentel, Grizzly Corp Fellow
Chris Robbins, District Conservationist, NRCS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tom Wehri moved to approve the agenda, Steve Jones seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Steve Jones, Tom Wehri, Patti Beard and Christine Johnson)

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board introduced themselves to Brian Pimentel, Grizzly Corp Fellow. Brian introduced himself and gave his background in Ag.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Patti Beard moved to approve the meeting minutes from the regular Board meeting held on August 25, 2020. Steve Jones seconded, and the motion passed. A vote was taken with four members in favor and one abstention.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Steve Jones, Tom Wehri, and Patti Beard)

Tom Wehri moved to approve the meeting minutes from the Special Board meeting held on September 9, 2020. Steve Jones seconded, and the motion passed. A vote was taken with four members in favor and one abstention.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Steve Jones, Tom Wehri, and Christine Johnson)

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Sarah Jones presented the financial report. The Board accepted the financials as presented.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Steve Jones, Tom Wehri, Patti Beard and Christine Johnson)

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS REPORT

Chris Robbins, District Conservationist for NRCS Auburn Field office presented his agency report. Chris reported September is the end of NRCS's fiscal year. NRCS had 29 new contracts this year however there is a backlog for cultural resource review. Chris reported he is working on the tech report for the Local Working Group Meeting. He will meet with the area office to review the results. Tom Wehri would like to see the results. The Local Working Group results was added to the future agenda items.

BUSINESS

New Business:

a) Reappointment of Board member Positions – Recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors

Sarah Jones reported the District will need to send a recommendation for the renewal of Board member terms for upcoming vacancies or abandoned seats. The Board directed Staff to send the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Steve Jones, Tom Wehri, Christine Johnson, and Patti Beard)

b) Wildfire Smoke Protection Policy

Tom Wehri made a motion to discuss the policy. Patti Beard seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Sarah Jones presented the details of the Policy. Tom Wehri moved to adopt the Wildfire Smoke Protection Policy. Patti Beard seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Steve Jones, Tom Wehri, Patti Beard and Christine Johnson)

c) Board By-Laws

Sarah Jones presented the Board By-laws to the Board. Christine Johnson moved to adopt the By-laws. Tom Wehri seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Steve Jones, Tom Wehri, Patti Beard and Christine Johnson)

d) Chipper Program Update

Sarah Jones reported the hiring for the Chipper Program is going well. The District offered the Crew Supervisor and a crew position. There are two more interviews scheduled for the other two crew positions. The Chipper Program will open the request lines October 1 and start service early October.

e) Chipper Program Cost-Share

Sarah Jones presented the details of increasing the Cost Share program. Previous rates were based off using the inmates. The inmates are no longer available due to Covid-19. The District is hiring a full-time crew which has increased the program cost. The District proposed to increase the cost share to \$80.00 an hour. Tom Wehri moved to increase the Chipper Program Cost-Share to \$80.00 an hour. Steve Jones seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Steve Jones, Tom Wehri, Patti Beard and Christine Johnson)

Old Business:

f) Staff Reports

Sarah Jones gave thanks to Staff for everyone's hard work. Sarah reported the District's annual audit will be mid-November.

Allison Erny reported crews will start working on Phase 2 of the Auburn Shaded Fuel Break. Also, the Prescribe Burn on Private Lands program is coming along.

BOARD COMMITTEE/LIASON REPORTS

No report.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Patti Beard announced she spoke with Josh Huntsinger, Placer County Ag Commissioner, and Placer Growers would like to be involved with the virtual Ag Tour this year.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items to include – Local Working Group meeting results, Chipper program updates, November/December joint meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve Jones moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Tom Wehri seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The regular meeting was adjourned at 5:09 pm.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Steve Jones, Tom Wehri, Patti Beard and Christine Johnson)

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2020 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on a Zoom online meeting call, details to follow.