



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

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August 18, 2022– MEETING MINUTES—Approved September 22, 2022

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, August 18, 2022, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, B. Plemmons, B. Lipe, J. Clarke

Directors Absent: J. Gularte, J. Doud, Ritter (Associate), I. Mendoza (Associate)

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), Jamie Tuitele-Lewis (RCDMC), A. DeLara (NRCS)

Recorders: P. Robins, M. Errea

The meeting was held in hybrid form, both in-person and by Zoom conference.

Open Session: Director Jefferson called the meeting to Order at 10:07 am.

Public Comment: None

Consent Items:

- *Approval of Resolution 22-13 to comply with AB 361 for remote meetings*
- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the July 28, 2022 Regular Board meeting*
- *Staff Activities Report for July 2022*

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

Reports

Executive Director Report: Robins informed Directors of an upcoming CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) tour for state legislative aides that will include a ‘what RCDs are doing for fire prevention’ stop at a Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association project site as hosted by RCDMC and RCD Santa Cruz—at the Watsonville Wetlands Farm—on September 12. RCDMC Directors are welcome to join for the 1 hour site visit that afternoon. Robins also summarized discussion items from Aug 8 outreach/fund-raising meeting with RCD Directors Clarke, Gularte and Lipe: development of a brochure regarding donations of stock, inserting estate planning donation information/links in newsletters, need for a cost/income comparisons table for the last few years of BBQs, having a water focus for the next spring BBQ, possibly alternating years for SMP t-shirt fundraisers, options for donated vehicles, and options for a late-fall friend/fund-raiser at a Carmel Valley or River Road winery.

Director Reports: Supervisor Plemmons announced that CARCD will be holding its Annual meeting 11/30 – 12/2 in person meeting in Folsom. There will be a second, virtual part of the conference held in spring 2023.

NRCS Report: NRCS Salinas District Conservationist Ari DeLara noted that the Infrastructure Act has \$40 billion for conservation support, although the income cap for eligibility means most Salinas Valley growers won’t qualify. Robins noted he and others are hoping to have the income

cap limitations modified for conservation funding in the new Farm Bill. DeLara also noted that NRCS Ag engineer Javier Flores and several other engineers are going on detail over the next month or two in New Mexico to help with fire and flood issues.

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 August 18, 2022. The accrual account balance on August 18, 2022 was \$258,391, with a balance of \$561,038 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury (including loans and advance payments), \$921,592 in liabilities, and \$618,945 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$232,924 on July 28, 2022.

Expenses: Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid on August 18th, including bi-weekly salary through August 7th, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of July and August, totaling \$145,963.63.

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

Board Applicant, Aurelio Gonzalez: Robins provided a brief review of Mr. Gonzalez's application and introduction to the board at the July meeting. Since then, Robins and other staff spoke with his references—a tenant farmer (in Spanish), a former school administrator/employer/colleague, and an organizational manager for whom Gonzalez serves on a Board of Directors—all of which were extremely positive. Director Clarke moved to appoint Mr. Gonzales to the currently vacant 7th seat on the RCDMC Board, and Director Lipe seconded—all voted to approve

Directors briefly discussed other skillsets still needed as advisors or Associate Directors, including an attorney. Director Clarke offered to reach out to contacts at Noland Hammerly.

Review of New or Revised Contracts

1. *ACS Habitat, ICA 2019-13 modification #6* to adjust rates (to accommodate anticipated payment delays from Dept of Water Resources based on prior experience) for arundo herbicide treatment this year, with no change to contract total. Director Lipe moved to approve, Director Clarke seconded. Motion passed with Lipe, Clarke and Jefferson voting to approve, with no votes opposing, and Director Plemmons abstaining from vote and discussion.
2. *Waterways Consulting, ICA 2022-11* for an amount NTE \$50,000 to conduct hydrologic modeling and develop designs for streambank improvement projects along Santa Rita Creek under the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP) funded by the Coastal Conservancy. Director Clarke moved to approve, Director Plemmons seconded. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

New business

Staff Report: Jamie Tuitele-Lewis presented his work on the Carmel Valley Fuel Break Project. Robins noted that the CEQA Initial Study for the Rancho Rico fuel load management is out for Public 30 day review, available for download from the RCD website. The September Board meeting will include an agenda item for Board authorization of the CEQA Notice of Completion

once public comments have been received and incorporated into the CEQA document. Tuitele-Lewis described the work underway to develop a 'Public Work Program' (PWP) in order to help streamline permitting for vegetation management work in Coastal Zone. This will be out for public review later this year.

Tuitele-Lewis also described the recent fire prevention community meeting in Prunedale, which was attended by about 50 people and provided good information for initial project planning. There is a video of the meeting on the RCD web site, and there will be two more similar meetings in other parts of north Monterey County (possibly Aromas and Castroville) in hopes of generating enough information to support a CALFIRE grant proposal that would fund work.

Resolution to authorize entry into CalPERS 457b retirement program. Robins informed directors that the RCD was recognized and is eligible to participate as a Special District, and that the Board will need to approve a resolution authorizing entry. Robins will have the resolution prepared so it can be presented for vote at the September meeting. Robins noted that the RCD will be able to enact increased employer contributions under the 457b program in accordance with the policy approved at the June 23, 2022 meeting, and will have to close the SIMPLE IRA program once the 457b program is in place.

Outreach and Fundraising

Directors and Robins discussed how spring BBQ proceeds have been allocated between the RCD Arundo and Stream Maintenance Programs and about general strategy for not 'saturating' donors with fundraising requests.

Directors also discussed possibilities for a fall event that could focus on coastal and mountain issues such as Forest Health or Carmel Valley fire protection. Directors noted that events are for awareness-building as well as fundraising. Two potential sites discussed were the Twisted Roots winery or Odonata Winery back patio.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

None.

11:49 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

Next Regular RCD meeting: Thursday, September 22nd, 10am. Meeting will be held both in-person and by Zoom. The location will likely be at the American Ag Credit Office in Salinas. Agenda items to include CEQA NOC for Rancho Rico project, Resolution 2022-15 authorizing CalPERS 457b program, and possible Speak-Off contest