



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

(831) 975-7775

September 22, 2022– MEETING MINUTES—Approved October 20, 2022

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, September 22, 2022, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, B. Plemmons, B. Lipe, J. Clarke, J. Gularte, A. Gonzalez

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

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), D. Little, J. Sahota

Recorders: P. Robins, M. Errea

Open Session: Director Jefferson called the meeting to Order at 10:11 am.

Public Comment: None

Consent Items:

- *Approval of Resolution 22-14 to comply with AB 361 for remote meetings*
- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the August 15, 2022 Regular Board meeting*
- *Staff Activities Report for August 2022*

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

Reports

Executive Director Report:

Robins described communications ongoing among conservation local conservation organizations to provide commentary to CDFA and USDA regarding making changes to how Adjusted Gross Income affects farmer eligibility in the next Farm Bill in order to increase effective availability of NRCS conservation program funds in our region.

Robins also informed the Board that there is partner organization interest in the RCD acquiring ag land for rental income, conservation practice demonstration and assistance for beginning small farmers, consistent with the Board's prior planning discussions in the 2010s. Robins and other RCDMC staff have had informal communications on the topic with staff from American Farmland Trust, California FarmLink and Kitchen Table Advisors. Director Lipe suggested talking to Monterey Co Ag Land Trust as well.

Director Reports:

Director Plemmons announced the upcoming Central Coast RCDs meeting to be held in the Gilroy area in late October--Directors are invited, with the specific date to be announced. He also announced that the California Association of RCDs (CARCD) will be holding its Annual meeting 11/30 – 12/2 in person in Folsom. There will be a second, virtual part of the conference held in spring 2023.

Director Lipe spoke about the Regional Water Summit held recently by the Board of Supervisors and noted that there had been some discussion about Arundo abatement at the meeting that

sounded uninformed by the RCD's current work. Robins indicated that he'd joined that meeting by Zoom and communicated with others in order to fill that information gap.

NRCS Report:

Presented by P. Robins – no new news – he gave a short presentation of the RCD connection to the NRCS.

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 September 22, 2022. The accrual account balance on September 22, 2022 was \$285,359, with a balance of \$665,266 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury (including loans and advance payments), \$756,087 in liabilities, and \$376,179 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$258,391 on August 18, 2022.

Expenses: Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid on September 22nd, including bi-weekly salary through September 11th, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of August and September, totaling \$359,611.37. Errea also requested that two additional checks be approved for payment as well, to be included in the October accounting--#10178, \$253.75 to employee Aysha Peterson for project expense reimbursements, and #10179, \$5,000 to Grizzly Corps for quarterly Fellow hosting fee, for which funding arrived shortly before the board meeting.

Director Clarke moved to approve the August financial statements and the August and September expenses along with the two additional checks #10178 and 10179. Director Gularte seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Consideration of Resolution 22-15 to authorize enrollment in CalPERS 457b retirement savings program was discussed including fund matching incentives. Director Gonzalez noted that the Monterey County Office of Education may have had a similar match structure that might be a useful reference. J. Clarke moved to approve, J. Gularte seconded, all voted to approve.

Review of New or Revised Contracts

Robins briefly reviewed the following contracts for initiation or amendment:

- ICA 2022-12 with Albion Environmental for an amount NTE \$8,525 to develop a county-wide Archaeological Assessment Report for the streamlined Master Permit for County of Monterey for future water quality improvement projects
- ICA 2022-13 with Steve Bond for an amount NTE \$7,000 to develop a Programmatic Hydrogeology Report for the streamlined Master Permit for County of Monterey for future water quality improvement projects
- ICA 2022-14 with Humboldt State University for an amount NTE \$9,821 to conduct the necessary Cultural Resources Surveys for the Weston-Champagne Fish Passage Improvement Project in summer/fall 2023
- ICA 2022-15 with Alnus Ecological for an amount NTE \$7,479 to conduct steelhead and red-legged frog surveys for the Weston-Champagne Fish Passage Improvement Project in summer/fall 2023

Robins asked if any Directors had relationships with any of the potential contractors, and none were indicated. Robins informed the directors that since all of the new contracts are under \$10,000 there is no vote required for their execution.

New business

Directors and staff present participated in an on-demand webinar for Sexual Harassment Prevention Training in compliance with the biennial 2-hour training requirement.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

Robins informed directors of the October 26th tour of bio-reactor sites near Salinas that they are welcome to attend.

1 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

Next Regular RCD meeting: Thursday, October 20th, 10am. Meeting will be held both in-person and by Zoom.