



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

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November 17, 2022– MEETING MINUTES—Approved December 15, 2022

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

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

Directors Absent: M. Ritter (Associate), I. Mendoza (Associate)

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), A. DeLara (NRCS), J. Balmagia (CCWG), Z. Curcio (GC Fellow), J. Tuitele-Lewis (RCDMC-Staff)

Recorders: P. Robins, M. Errea

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

Public Comment: None

Consent Items:

- *Approval of Resolution 22-17 to comply with AB 361 for remote meetings*
- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the October 20, 2022 Regular Board meeting*
- *Staff Activities Report for October 2022*

Director Gonzales moved to approve the Consent Items. Director Doud seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Reports

Executive Director Report:

Robins described upcoming grant proposals:

- Fine-Scale Vegetation Mapping for Monterey, San Luis Obispo and San Benito Counties, to be funded by a combination of CDFW (primarily, ~\$8M), CALFIRE and USGS, to be submitted Dec-March, depending on the funding component. Coastal SLO RCD would be the CDFW grantee with RCDMC having a ~\$200k subcontract to cover our staff time for the Monterey County ground work.
- Arundo retreatment project to be included in the next round of Greater Monterey County IRWM Implementation grant funding: \$496k, to be submitted in early 2023.
- Salinas River program rescoping and Ag Water Use Efficiency Technical Assistance components of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency's implementation grant proposal due in December.

Robins also described the following upcoming items:

- consultation with CDFA regarding a pilot 'block grant' program they are developing for Healthy Soils and State Water Efficiency Enhancement Programs that would shift the administrative and grant-awarding work to entities such as ourselves.
- Pending interviews for an Ag Field Tech to be hired before 2023.
- Submission of the streamlined permitting program application to the County in

December (at long last).

- Participation in the Ag Order 'Alternative Compliance Pathways' Stakeholder Advisory Committee and presentation to the December 8 Water Board meeting regarding the Blanco Drain Bioreactor project
- Preparation of employer match proposal for RCD Employee pre-tax savings and retirement program contributions for consideration at December meeting.

NRCS Report:

District Conservationist Ariel DeLara noted that the CSP and EQIP Applications Batch Period 1 closes 12/9 with details due in March and contracts selected in April. He expects that the Inflation Reduction Act will add more funding to those programs, so an additional batching timeline will be established after those funds are applied.

Director Reports:

Director Plemmons reminded the board that the California Association of RCDs (CARCD) will be holding its Annual meeting 11/30 – 12/2 in person in Folsom. More information on the Website. He also spoke of the need to involve state politicians to keep them informed about what RCDs do. Bill AB1069, which impacts indirect cost rates for nonprofits, was discussed.

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 November 17, 2022. The accrual account balance on November 17, 2022 was \$361,465, with a balance of \$767,434 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury (including loans and advance payments), \$588,714 in liabilities, and \$182,744 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$308,121 on October 20, 2022.

Expenses: Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid on November 17, including bi-weekly salary through November 6th, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of October and November, totaling \$444,668.74.

Director Gularte moved to approve the October financial statements and the October and November expenses. Director Doud seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Review of New or Revised Contracts

Robins briefly reviewed the following contract for discussion:

- ICA 2022-17 Ventana Forestry with CalFire grant funds (pending)
They were the lowest of two bids for Skinner Ridge fire break work. Because the bid was above the originally forecast budget but within our grant's ability to pay, the contract itself is still being negotiated, and will be presented to the board after that process is completed.

Fundraising

Spring 2023 Fundraiser: Director Gularte spoke with K. Violini regarding the use of facilities at the Monterey Fairgrounds. Two rooms (Seaside and Monterey rooms) were available April 19th or 20th and the Monterey room only on April 27th. Directors expressed general preference toward the Monterey room as the bathroom facilities are located within the building. Both rooms in consideration have kitchen facilities. The cost of the room would be about \$450 and possibly as much as \$600 if more tables and chairs are needed. Gularte is still acquiring details from

Violini regarding other potential required expenses such as a bartender (\$350). There will also be research on hiring help for serving and clean-up. It was agreed more planning meetings are needed before the event.

Robins reported that in a recent conversation the RMU Association Chair was fine with the Salinas River possibly not being the focus of the 2023 BBQ fundraiser and that they would likely continue with a separate t-shirt fundraiser for the SMP.

New business

Robins presented Resolution 2022-18 authorizing grant application to the CA DOC Prop 68 Working Lands & Riparian Corridors Program for the Porter Ranch Marsh Protection Project with Elkhorn Slough Foundation as a subgrantee. After brief discussion, Gularte moved to accept and Gonzalez seconded – Motion carried.

Zoe Curcio presented information on her work to date as a Grizzly Corps Fellow in support of the RCD’s urban pollinator gardens and forest health projects and her expectations and experience to date.

Jenny Balmagia of the Central Coast Wetlands Group (CCWG) provided an overview of the goals of the \$10 Million ‘Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program’ grant awarded to the CA Marine Sanctuary Foundation (CMSF) on behalf of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. At the RCD’s request, the grantee partners (CCWG, CMSF and the GSA) have included RCD staff in their budget—specifically for Robins to chair the land acquisition subcommittee and for potential design services to be requested of Civil Engineer Adrienne Carter. Directors engaged Balmagia in a discussion of anticipated land purchase vs easement costs, food safety buffer considerations for habitat projects, and long-term financing strategy.

Jamie Tuitele-Lewis presented information on the Public Works Program (PWP) for Forest Health and Fire Resilience that he, Brent Bates and Megan Barker have developed in coordination with the County and the Coastal Commission to help streamline approvals for forestry projects in the Monterey County coastal zone. The PWP is out for public review and will be the subject of a public hearing at the December Board Meeting before being submitted to the Coastal Commission for final approval in early 2023.

Robins requested that Director Plemmons be approved to represent RCDMC at the CARCD annual business meeting. Director Lipe made the motion and it was approved under general acclamation.

Directors briefly discussed logistics for the December meeting that would need to accommodate the PWP hearing, regular business and the annual holiday potluck with staff. Directors recommended asking if the Farm Bureau office could be available.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

12:19 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

Next Regular RCD meeting: Thursday, December 15, 10am. Meeting will be held both in-person and by Zoom.