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December 15, 2022– MEETING MINUTES—*Approved January 19, 2023*

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, December 19, 2022, 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

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

Directors Absent: B. Plemmons, A. Gonzalez, M. Ritter (Associate), I. Mendoza (Associate)

Others Present: P. Robins (staff), M. Errea (staff), J. Tuitele-Lewis (staff), B. Bates (staff), Z. Curcio (Grizzly Corps), A. Tokunaga (NRCS), E. Lundquist (County of Monterey HCD), and several members of the public via Zoom including M. Caplin, B. Eichorn, Alexis, and MP.

Recorder: P. Robins

Open Session: Director Jefferson called the meeting to Order at 10:05 am.

Public Comment for items not on agenda: None

Consent Items:

- *Approval of Resolution 22-19 to comply with AB 361 for remote meetings*
- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the November 17, 2022 Regular Board meeting*
- *Staff Activities Report for November 2022*

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

Public Hearing regarding Monterey County Forest Health and Fire Resilience 'Public Works Program (PWP)

RCDMC Forest Health Program Manager J Tuitele-Lewis provided an overview of the need for a Public Works Program and what the proposed program covers. He also noted changes that had made to the draft in response to comments received (all by the CA Coastal Commission) during the Public Comment period: 'Defensible Space' areas are removed from the PWP because they are not included in the California Vegetation Treatment Program EIR that the PWP tiers off from.

Directors offered appreciation for the staff's work and the need for a PWP. Tuitele-Lewis clarified that Defensible Space projects could still proceed on their own outside of the PWP. Monterey County Housing and Community Development Director Lundquist also echoed appreciation for the RCD's work and support from District 5 County Supervisor Adams for this effort.

M Caplin shared the following series of questions that Tuitele-Lewis addressed in turn:

1. Will there be a 1–2-page summary document for landowners and project proponents to use more simply than the large PWP document? Tuitele-Lewis appreciated the suggestion. He also indicated that the workload associated with preparing projects for coverage under the PWP would limit us to one or two per year, so coordination will be

important.

2. Who decides when a project or treatment is allowed under the PWP? Tuitele-Lewis indicated the RCD would work with individual project proponents to confer regarding alignment with PWP, and the RCD will have a checklist to support that purpose. Ultimately, the Coastal Commission will be the final decision-maker regarding new projects.
3. How will experts/consultants be funded to support assessments and document development for individual projects? Tuitele-Lewis and Robins responded that such funding would have to be raised by the project proponent and/or RCD, but that there is not currently a standing funding source to support those expenses.
4. How will potential project proponents know where Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) are located for project planning? Tuitele-Lewis commented that for the purposes of the PWP, all of the Coastal Zone areas are considered ESHA.

At the end of discussion, Director Doud moved to approve the Monterey County Forest Health and Fire Resilience 'Public Works Program' (PWP) as presented. Director Gularte seconded the motion, and all voted to approve. This concluded the Public Hearing on this topic.

Reports

Executive Director Report:

- Robins is in communication with the ag program at Rancho San Juan High School in north Salinas regarding possible collaboration as they develop their school/student farm.
- Robins and Barker met with the Esselen Tribal Chair and the Tribe's archeological consultant regarding project communication and collaboration. There is shared interest in developing an MOU between the Tribe and the RCD to confirm how we cooperate going forward.
- Robins and Zefferman worked with Monterey County Water Resources Agency staff to draft an agreement for RCD monitoring procurement assistance for Salinas River lagoon breaching activities and potential associated mitigation.

NRCS Report:

Soil Conservationist Allison Tokunaga reported that ranking and fund allocation for the current batch of CSP and EQIP Applications is scheduled for March 2023. They are still awaiting word regarding additional funding from the Inflation Reduction Act to support an additional batching round.

Director Reports:

Director Lipe noted that the Finance Committee met earlier in the week to review the financials being presented at this meeting.

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 December 15, 2022. The accrual account balance on December 15, 2022 was \$329,073.15, with a balance of \$515,110.94 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury (including loans and advance payments), \$424,215 in liabilities, and \$238,177.40 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$361,465 on November 17, 2022.

Expenses: Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid on December 15, including

bi-weekly salary through December 4th, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of November and December, totaling \$80,805.60. In addition, Errea presented two additional checks that are time-sensitive payments but which weren't ready in time for inclusion in the financial documents. Check #10225 for \$890.84 is reimbursement for expenses Seasonal Biologist Jasmine Ruvalcaba, and check #10226 for \$15,428 is for the fees associated with the submission of our Environmental Enhancement Streamlining Program master permit application to the County of Monterey.

Director Doud moved to approve the December financial statements and the November and December expenses, including the additional checks #10225 for \$890.84 and #10226 for \$15,428. Director Clarke seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Review of New or Revised Contracts

Robins noted no new contracts were ready for review at this meeting, but that ICA 2022-17 with Ventana Forestry would be ready for review in January 2023.

Fundraising

Spring 2023 Fundraiser: Director Gularte confirmed that the RCD has reserved the Monterey room at the Monterey Fairgrounds on April 20th. Gularte is still acquiring details regarding other potential required expenses such as a bartender (\$350). Gularte recommended that the RCD provide tickets to Monterey Fair personnel in appreciation for the deep discount they have offered. She also confirmed that the CA Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) are still in for a \$500 sponsorship for the event. Tuitele-Lewis indicated that he's still reaching out to Peninsula and coastal partners for engagement for fundraising and outreach for the event. Robins, Tuitele-Lewis and Gularte resolved to meet early in January 2023 to follow up prior to the next Board meeting.

Permit Streamlining update

Robins provided a brief summary and walkthrough of the Programmatic Restoration Permit application submission for an Environmental Enhancement Streamlining Program (EESP) that would be going to the County the week of December 19.

New business

Robins presented Resolution 2022-20 to approve the updated Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for Greater Monterey County. Robins explained that the RCD Board approved the original plan in 2012, and that the IRWMP required an update to comply with state requirements developed since then, so this acknowledges those changes and keeps the RCD eligible to participate in the next IRWM grant round, for which the RCD has prepared an arundo-retreatment project. After brief discussion, Director Clarke moved to approve resolution 2022-20, which Director Doud seconded. All present voted to approve the motion.

Robins presented an initial Employer Match structure for employee contributions to CALPERS 457b retirement savings plans (starting January 2023) in accordance with the RCD's compensation policy updated in June 2022. Under the proposal, the RCD would provide up to 8% employer match to employee tax-advantaged savings plans at varying match rates based on hourly rates with the intent of encouraging savings among lower-compensated employees. Employees earning less than \$30/hour would have their savings program contributions matched at a 2:1 rate; those earning \$30-\$39.99/hour would be matched at a 1.5:1 rate; those earning \$40-\$49.99/hour would be matched at a 1:1 rate; and those earning over \$50/hour would be matched at a 0.75:1 rate. Director Lipe complemented staff in developing the proposal and voiced his support as part of the Finance Committee that provided review as it was developed, along with the Executive Committee. Director Lipe moved to approve enactment of the proposal.

Director Clarke seconded the motion. All Directors presented voted to approve the motion, to be effective during the first full pay period in January 2023.

RCDMC Holiday Potluck

Board and staff shared a potluck lunch and white elephant gift exchange until 1pm

1:00 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

Next Regular RCD meeting: Thursday, January 19, 10am. Meeting will be held both in-person and by Zoom.