



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

(831) 975-7775

January 19, 2023– MEETING MINUTES—Approved February 23, 2023

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, January 19, 2023, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, J. Doud, B. Plemmons, & A. Gonzalez in person; B. Lipe, J. Clarke, & J. Gularte via Zoom

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

Others Present: P. Robins (staff), M. Errea (staff), J. Tuitele-Lewis (staff), B. Bates (staff), A. DeLara (NRCS), C Bunn.

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 23-01 to comply with AB 361 for remote meetings*
- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the December 1, 2022 Regular Board meeting*
- *Staff Activities Report for December 2022*

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

Spring 2023 Fundraising BBQ Planning

Director Gularte briefly updated board members regarding the site, and Robins invited Board Member input regarding outreach for fundraising. Names and organizations mentioned as possibilities in addition to past sponsors included Santa Lucia Preserve, Carmel Valley Association, Community Association of Big Sur, Pebble Beach Company, Ventana Inn, Big Sur River Inn, Cal Am, ALCO, El Sur Ranch, and insurance companies. Robins informed board members that he would work with other staff to draft a fund-raising letter and brochure for use with sponsorship solicitations. Tuitele-Lewis asked Robins to reach out to Big Sur Land Trust regarding event support and cooperation. Robins, Tuitele-Lewis and Gularte resolved to meet the week after the meeting to finalize outreach materials for sponsorships and other donations. C Bunn indicated that he would like to engage with that as well. A comprehensive theme incorporating fire, flood and forests was encouraged. Director Gularte exited the meeting after this segment.

Reports

NRCS Report:

District Conservationist Ariel DeLara described agency communications about potential USDA disaster assistance related to recent flooding. He also report that they are processing 46 'Batch 1' applications for CSP and EQIP that are to be ranked by March 1, 2023. They expect to have

three different student interns in the office this summer for 4-week assignments from CSUMB, Hartnell College, and the OPPE 1890 scholars program.

Executive Director Report:

Robins announced the recent hire of Tony Tapia as the RCD’s new full-time bilingual Ag Field Tech to be working with the RCD Soil Scientist and Ag Technical Specialist starting February 6. Robins has interviews scheduled on January 25 for the new part-time Programs Assistant position that will hopefully be filled by mid-February.

Director Reports:

Director Plemmons announced that the CA Association of RCDs recently hired a new Executive Director and that the virtual Annual Conference will be taking place in March and encouraged other Directors to attend.

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 January 19, 2023. The accrual account balance on January 19, 2023 was \$320,731.54, with a balance of \$506,195.02 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury (including loans and advance payments), \$457,372 in liabilities, and \$271,908.97 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$329,073.15 on December 15, 2022.

Expenses: Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid on January 19, 2023, including bi-weekly salary through November 4th, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of October and November, totaling \$108,130.19.

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 described two agreements for review:

- ICA 2022-17 with Ventana Forestry for \$223,270 for implementation of the 29.5 acre East Pico Blanco Shaded Fuelbreak Project. Robins explained that this was the lower (by approximately \$60K) of two bids received for this project and is with a local forest contractor. Directors present indicated no potential conflicts of interest with this contractor.
- ICA 2021-08 with SummitWest Environmental, Inc., modification #2 to support a required second protocol survey for marbled murrelet, a Federally Threatened bird species that has habitat along parts of the project area. This would require an addition of \$26,561.25 to the budget, increasing the NTE amount to \$204,669.25 in order to complete these surveys. This second modification will not exceed the budget for the overall grant project. Directors present indicated no potential conflicts of interest with this contractor.

After brief discussion, Director Doud moved to approve entry into new agreement 2022-17 and modification #2 for agreement 2021-08. All voted to approve.

New business

Robins presented Resolution 2023-02 to memorialize the RCD Board’s December 15, 2022 public review and approval of the Monterey County Forest Health and Fire Resilience ‘Public

Works Program' (PWP) to meet the requirements of Coastal Commission consideration. After brief discussion, Director Doud moved to approve resolution 2023-02, which Director Plemmons seconded. All present voted to authorize the resolution.

Watershed Program Manager Brandt Bates provided a brief summary of the outcomes of the fall 2022 Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program followed by a report out (with copious photos) from his Jan 13 flyover of the river for flooding assessment with the County Sheriff's Department.

Due to time constraints, Robins provided only a brief comment regarding progress on the RCD's 2022-23 Annual Workplan. He passed out a copy showing tasks completed, in process, and yet to be completed, and offered to make a full report in February after upcoming meetings with all staff for their mid-year progress reviews.

12:05 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

Next Regular RCD meeting: Thursday, February 16, 10am. Meeting will be held in-person at a location to be announced within Supervisorial District 3 and include Supervisor Chris Lopez with a brief business session followed by a project site visit, likely along the Salinas River.