



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

(831) 424-1036, ext. 124

## AUGUST 2015– REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—*approved 09/17/2015*

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, August 20, 2015, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, E. Paddock, J. Devers, B. Plemmons, L. Ferrasci  
Directors Absent: R. King, M. Duflock, P. Binsacca (Associate)  
Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), J. Warner (NRCS), D. Rao, D. Meyers, K. Surgalski  
Recorders: P. Robins

### Time                      Agenda Topics

### Presented by

10:10 A.M. Call to Order

B. Jefferson

#### Comments from the public

D Rao announced Central Coast Rangeland Coalition meeting to be held in Hollister on October 15.

#### President's and Directors' Comments

Directors

None.

#### Minutes for July Meeting (Review for Approval)

P. Robins/Directors

After reviewing the minutes, Director Plemmons moved to approve the July 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Director Ferrasci seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

#### NRCS Update

J. Warner

J Warner noted that the Salinas office has obligated about \$1 Million in contracts in Fiscal Year 2015, with ~80% of them on rangeland, 15% on cropland, and 5% on forestland. He encouraged the board members to meet the new District Conservationist, Bobette Parsons, after she starts in Salinas August 24. There will be four funding cycles in the 2016 fiscal year (starting Oct 1), which means a grower coming in now could have a new contract executed as soon as November

P Robins mentioned he will work with Parsons to plan the next Local WorkGroup Meeting, potentially to coincide with the September Board Meeting.

#### Special Presentation

K. Surgalski

Kelly Surgalski introduced herself as the staff hired to assist CA State Parks and Point Blue with monitoring Western snowy plover nesting on State Parks beaches in Monterey County this fiscal year. She noted it is a good year for nesting success, with over 200 fledged chicks, although skunks have been a significant predator. She's wrapping up monitoring for the season and shifting towards data management.

#### Special Presentation

D. Meyers

Donna Meyers gave an overview of the Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program and her role in developing the Demonstration Program that initiated work in fall 2014. She described the planning process underway for extending that model along the entire length of managed river corridor and the RCD's role as biomonitoring resource and potentially holder of the 1600 permit for the program. She emphasized that the RCD has a strategic role as a partner in the long-term management of the Salinas River for multiple resource issues. Director Paddock asked if groundwater recharge would be a factor in the modeling conducted for the program.

Budget and Finances (Review & Approval)P. Robins / Directors

*Monthly Financial Statements and Bills:* P. Robins presented the financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending August 20, 2015. The accrual account balance on August 20, 2015 was \$198,745.22 with \$49,062.15 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$116,570 in liabilities, and \$266,253.39 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$202,701.01 on July 23, 2015.

P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in August including bi-weekly salary through August 9, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of August. Approval for the August financial statements and for August expenses from the Chase Bank account was motioned by Director Devers, seconded by Director Plemmons and passed by a unanimous vote of directors present (5-0).

New BusinessDirectors

Robins noted that staff are preparing for the Annual Audit with consultant Grace and Associates. The time frame of the audit is yet to be scheduled.

District Policy Development Calendar for Finance Committee:

Robins shared a table of policies required and recommended for RCDs in California and indicated that the RCD lacks a reimbursement policy, should update some of its other standing policies, and would benefit from adopting new policies that are not required but which would provide clarity for the RCDs growing areas of work. District Treasurer Devers offered to have the Finance Committee work with Robins to develop policies for consideration over the next several months. Robins and the Finance Committee members committed to meeting before the September Regular Meeting to develop a schedule and initial policy proposals for consideration at that meeting.

Late Summer Fund-Raising Farm Dinner:

Robins informed the board that the event was rescheduled to October 10, but a chef has not yet been finalized. Director Paddock described preparations for the upcoming event. The chef will propose a dinner menu based on available ingredients. Director Devers offered to provide walnuts. Driscolls has agreed to sponsor a table. Directors are needed to assist with soliciting sponsorships for the event. Director Paddock mentioned she may have musicians available for the event on October 10. She has contacted Earthbound for sponsorship, flowers, and produce. She also offered to contact Taylor Farms.

Director Devers disclosed with other Board Members that she has had conducted work as an independent contractor with Donna Meyers and Conservation Collaboration, and that while she does not have a financial or legal connection with Donna's business, she would recuse herself from discussions or decisions regarding agreements and work Conservation Collaboration to avoid potential appearance of any conflict of interest.

Program UpdatesP. Robins

Robins briefly described new grant solicitations coming from Proposition 1 funding and mentioned that the RCD is preparing one for Wildlife Conservation Board support of another 300 acres of Arundo treatment on the Salinas River, due September 30.

Closing Discussion

Directors

Agenda items for the next meeting to include Farm Dinner fund-raising, Finance policies review and introduction of the new NRCS District Conservationist.

12:10 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

B. Jefferson

The next Regular RCD meeting will be held:

Date: **September 17, 2015, 10 A.M.**

Location: **American AgCredit office**

