



SEPTEMBER 2015– REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—*approved 10/22/15*

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, September 17, 2015, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

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

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topics</u>	<u>Presented by</u>
10:10 A.M.	<u>Call to Order</u>	<u>R. King</u>
	<u>Comments from the public</u>	
	None.	
	<u>President's and Directors' Comments</u>	<u>Directors</u>
	None.	
	<u>Minutes for August Meeting (Review for Approval)</u>	<u>P. Robins/Directors</u>
	After reviewing the minutes, Director Paddock moved to approve the August 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Director Plemmons seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.	
	<u>NRCS Update</u>	<u>B. Parsons</u>
	B Parsons introduced herself to the board as the new District Conservationist for the Salinas Service Center, and gave a brief report regarding current NRCS activities in the county. In order to manage the volume of calls made to NRCS relative to the low staff level in the office, she is developing a system to prioritize cooperator assistance requests. She mentioned engaging private sector consultants for developing 'Conservation Activity Plans' as a means of relieving some of the workload.	
	<u>Budget and Finances (Review & Approval)</u>	<u>P. Robins / Directors</u>
	<i>Monthly Financial Statements and Bills:</i> P. Robins presented the financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending September 17, 2015. The accrual account balance on September 17, 2015 was \$201,042.50 with \$67,773.17 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$87,704 in liabilities, and \$220,973.49 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$198,745.22 on August 20, 2015.	
	P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in September including bi-weekly salary through September 6, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of September. Approval for the September financial statements and for September expenses from the Chase Bank account was motioned by Director Plemmons, seconded by Director Ferrasci and passed by a unanimous vote of directors present (4-0).	
	<u>New Business</u>	<u>Directors</u>

- In the absence of the Board Treasurer, Robins provided an overview of the draft District Policy development calendar that he would be working through with the Finance Committee to bring forward District operational and financial policies over the coming year. For illustration, he shared three samples of policies that are of the highest priority for consideration: a District Director reimbursement policy, a Board acknowledgement of RCD Personnel Policy, and a Non-discrimination Policy. The District Employee Handbook, originally approved in 2006, includes a reimbursement policy and non-discrimination policy for personnel, but should also have those same policies for the Board of Directors. The Finance Committee will meet in mid-October to prepare a subset of new policies for board consideration at the October board meeting.
- Robins presented the County of Monterey's Special District Board signature card for Directors each to sign, as it was due for update with the change in Board members over the past several years. Signatories for warrants and check requests to be included on the card include: Benny Jefferson (President), Rebecca King (Vice President), and Joanna Devers (Treasurer) as primary signatories; and Linda Ferrasci, Brent Plemmons, and Emily Paddock as secondary signatories. Director Plemmons moved to approve the updated signature card with the named signatories and requirement of one signatory per check, and Director Paddock seconded the motion, which all voted to approve.
- Director King described preparations for the Harvest Celebration Dinner:
 - o They have found a chef from Street_social dinner club.
 - o They will rent a kitchen at Pajaro Community Center
 - o Odonata will provide wine at cost
 - o Director King will contact Coke Farm regarding donations of food and flowers
 - o Robins is to contact the Driscolls website for berry donations
 - o Edible Monterey Bay will post the announcement on their e-newsletter
 - o Each board member should try to line up at least one, if not two sponsorships and/or donors
 - Driscoll's is on-board. Potentials include Coke Farms (produce/flowers), Taylor Farms, Earthbound (produce?), Pacific Harvest (seafood)
 - o Director Paddock is still searching for musical entertainment.

Program Updates

P. Robins/ D. Meyers

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 350 acres of Arundo treatment on the Salinas River, due September 30.

Robins requested a board vote regarding the RCD carrying the 1600 Permit (Streambed Alteration Agreement with CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife) for the Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program. He pointed out that he and Donna Meyers would be engaged in the permit development process, but that the Monterey County Water Resources would be funding a contractor to develop the documentation for the permit itself while they are developing their Army Corps, Water Board and Federal Wildlife permits for the same program, sparing the RCD most of the cost. Any cost associated with the RCD's role in submitting, holding and managing the permit would have to be funded by either landowner contributions or grants. Meyers described the means by which landowners along the river are considering organizing in order to generate the funding and manage River Management Unit projects: either an association (similar to a Road Association) or an LLC. For either, membership fees would cover the RCD's permit administration costs. Meyers described possible permit fees as follows: \$30,000 for a 10-year permit and under \$10,000 for a 5-year permit (it was less than \$3,000 for the Chualar and Gonzales RMUs). Robins and Meyers explained that landowner agreements for participants would make clear that the responsibility for possible issues or problems would rest with the respective landowner. Director Paddock noted that language should be included to the effect that

'participation in this program does not guarantee that a given property won't flood.' Meyers noted that the Grower-Shipper Association and other ag leadership organizations are still determining how fees will be assigned per parcel or river mile (for example), and that an Association-type structure would be simpler for completing the signatory process than that of an LLC.

Director Paddock moved to approve the RCD moving forward as the 1600 Permit-holder for the Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program. Director King seconded the motion. All present voted to approve the motion (4-0).

Closing Discussion

Directors

Agenda items for the next meeting to include Farm Dinner fund-raising, Finance policies review and 2015 SpeakOff Competition.

12:10 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

R. King

The next Regular RCD meeting will be held:

Date: **October 22, 2015, 2 P.M.**

Location: **American AgCredit office**