



JULY 2017– REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—approved 08/17/2017

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 2017, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, R. King, E. Gardner, B. Lipe, B. Plemmons, J. Devers (after 11am)
Directors Absent: L. Ferrasci
Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), E. Boyland (NRCS)
Recorder: P. Robins

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topics</u>	<u>Presented by</u>
10:20 A.M.	<u>Call to Order</u> <i>Approval of the Agenda:</i> Robins briefly noted the new meeting and agenda format. Board members requested no changes to the Agenda as presented. <i>Public Comment:</i> none.	<u>B. Jefferson</u>

<u>Consent Agenda</u>	<u>B. Jefferson</u> <i>Minutes from the June 15, 2017 Meeting.</i> <i>Staff Activities Report for June 2017</i> Director King moved to approve the consent agenda items. Director Gardner seconded the motion, which was approved by a 5-0 vote.
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Reports

Executive Director Report: Robins reported that he'd received communication from a cannabis producer desiring resource management assistance. Board members were supportive of staff assisting all producers. Robins reported that he was in communication with the Monterey Bay Air Resources District regarding an invoice and contract dispute and would keep the Board apprised and possibly engage Directors if needed in discussions. Robins informed board members that he and the Finance Manager would prepare Board Member binders for future board meetings.

NRCS Report: E. Boyland introduced herself as 'acting' District Conservationist for Monterey County and provided an update regarding NRCS activities: 18 contracts obligated this year, about \$1M in value, up from an average of \$500K/year. 3 contracts pending, and 30 applications to catch up on in coming year, with help from Range Conservationist. The State Conservationist is supporting new Cooperative Agreements with Districts. Director Jefferson expressed concern about delays with Technical Assistance and that the pace of EQIP contracting and support is not a fit with the fast-pace of Central Coast agriculture.

Executive Committee Report: Director King reported that she is still in communication with the potential chef and venue for a Fall Harvest Celebration Dinner and hopes to have settled on arrangements in the coming week.

Finance Committee Report: none

Outreach/Education Committee Report: none

Old or Standing Business (Review & Approval)P. Robins / Directors

Monthly Financial Statements: P. Robins presented the financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending July 27, 2017. The accrual account balance on July 27, 2017 was \$208,003.84 with \$54,971.87 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$370,639 in liabilities, and \$523,670.85 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$187,163.46 on June 15, 2017.

Expenses: P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in July including bi-weekly salary through July 23, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of June.

Approval for the July financial statements and for June & July expenses from the Chase Bank account was motioned by Director King, seconded by Director Plemmons and passed by a unanimous vote of directors present (4-0).

New BusinessDirectors/ Robins

Upcoming Grant Applications: Robins briefly described grant programs for which the RCD would be leading proposals or supporting others' in August and September: Wildlife Conservation Board Proposition 1 grant for continuing Salinas River arundo work (likely ~\$3.5M, due August 31); USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant with US-LT RCD for continuing and expanding scope of Salinas River riparian improvement (mostly arundo control) work watershed-wide (~1.8M, due Sept 7); and possible CALFIRE grants for coastal fuelbreak restoration work due in early September. Robins was skeptical that he could contribute much to the latter with the other proposal preparation obligations, but wanted to make sure the RCD remained engaged in such coastal efforts

District Projects/Conservation Ag Tour Planning for October: Directors provided input regarding outreach and preparation for a fall tour. Director Devers recommended using the participants list from the 2016 strategic planning listening sessions as a base group, which could be valuable follow-up with them to demonstrate how their input was used by the RCD. Directors asked to define the goal and desired outcomes of the tour: education regarding conservation agriculture efforts, more consistent funding from County or shift County's perception of RCD as that of a more reliable partner, communicate progress on RCD's new Strategic Direction. Director King advocated for inviting the media. Directors wanted partner organizations engaged in the event, but cautioned that it should be RCD-focused, especially regarding maintaining focus on RCD's Strategic Direction. Director Jefferson recommended it not be on a Wednesday or Friday after mid-October.

Business Planning: Robins noted that the RCD has funding for hiring a Business Planning consultant this fiscal year, consistent with the RCD's Strategic Direction and requested a meeting with the Finance Committee to propose an approach for shaping the process and consultant selection. Finance Committee members agreed to meet the morning of August 10..

Fall RCD Area Meeting & November Annual CARCD Meeting attendance: Directors Plemmons, Ferrasci and King expressed intent to attend August 31 Area Meeting in San Mateo County. Director Devers also expressed interest. Director Gardner commented that she found the Annual CARCD Conference to be very valuable. Robins requested that Directors

interested in attending the conference confirm their intent by the August meeting if possible in order to take advantage of 'early bird' registration rates.

Strategic Discussion

Directors/ Robins

Board Development Planning: Director Devers noted that she accepted a seat on the County Parks Commission but will remain on the RCD Board as long as she can balance the workload of the two and will provide 3 months' notification if she needs to change her status with the RCD. Director King suggested that each director provide two names of potential Directors, Associate Directors or Advisors to submit to the Executive Committee for consideration in the next two months. Director Devers recommended referring to the list of those who participated in the Strategic Planning listening sessions as a candidate pool. Director Paddock emphasized communicating what a potential Director would 'get' from being on the Board, citing an example from a recent board recruitment fair she attended. Director King requested completion of an information packet for potential directors. The Executive Committee agreed to meet to discuss this on August 8.

Board Work Plan for 2017: Director King proposed that each Board Committee meet to identify the tasks their members would lead or contribute to in the Annual Calendar and propose these as their work plans for the coming year at the September meeting.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

Robins reminded board members that the Range Camp scholarship recipient would be making a presentation at the August Board Meeting. Director Devers suggested the press be invited.

12:05 P.M.

Meeting Adjourned

B Jefferson

The next Regular RCD meeting will be held:

Date: **August 17, 2017, 10 A.M.**

Location: **RCD Office, 744A LaGuardia St, Salinas**