



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

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January 17, 2019— MEETING MINUTES—*approved 2/21/2019*

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, January 17, 2019, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, R. King, B. Plemmons, B. Lipe, J. Devers

Directors Absent: L. Ferrasci, E. Gardner

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Barker (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), E. Zefferman (RCDMC), E. Boyland (NRCS), J. Flores (NRCS), A. DeDampierre, J. Gularte, J. Doud

Recorders: M. Barker, P. Robins

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topics</u>	<u>Presented by</u>
10:10 A.M.	<u>Call to Order</u>	<u>B. Jefferson</u>

No public comment

Consent Agenda

- *Minutes from the December 11, 2018 Meeting.*
- *Staff Activities Report for December 2018.*

Director King moved to approve the consent agenda. Director Plemmons seconded the motion and all voted to approve.

Reports

Executive Director Report: RCDMC staff is pursuing grant opportunities for Salinas River Programs, ag water management and fire fuels mitigation work. . The California Department of Conservation has another round of watershed coordination grant funds available for 'forest health'. Jamie Tuitele-Lewis worked on a few Cal-Fire 'Fire Prevention' grants with CSUMB (mapping), Monterey County RMA (roadside mowing), Santa Lucia Conservancy and the FireSafe Council for Monterey County. Shaun Richards is preparing an IRWMP proposal for bilingual ag water quality assistance. Emily Zefferman is preparing an IRWMP proposal for maintenance of Salinas River areas previously treated for arundo . We anticipate additional support from the Gas Tax for the Arundo work as for every dollar the Ag Commissioner spends on weed management, \$0.80-\$0.90 is reimbursed to them by the State.

Executive Committee Report: None.

NRCS Report: NRCS is exempt from the furlough and will be funded through the rest of the fiscal year which means that RCD still has access to building and vehicles. Boyland shared that this is the first time in a long time that the NRCS office is fully staffed. Javier Flores introduced himself as the engineer who has replaced Beau Schoch as a Program Engineer. He has been with the agency for 3 years; he has experience with rangeland and dairy land and is looking forward to expanding into erosion control. Javier is training with Adrienne Carter and Mark Barnett from the Templeton NRCS office. Boyland has been asked to do a four-month detail, acting as 'Area Conservationist' while Kay Joy-Barge is on a detail in the NRCS State office. Whit Haraguchi (District Conservationist from Capitola) will be brought in

to cover for Boyland's position. Haraguchi will be in the Salinas Office once or twice a week. NRCS currently has 6-7 EQIP applications almost ready to be ranked. They are preparing to be able to process the RCPP applications.

Finance Committee Report: None.

Fundraising & Education Committee Report: None.

Old or Standing Business

P. Robins / Directors

No items pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Monthly Financial Statements: M. Errea presented the financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending January 17, 2019. The accrual account balance on January 17, 2019 was \$165,423 with \$27,294.21 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$408,799 in liabilities, and \$546,927 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$187,367 on December 11, 2018.

Expenses: M. Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in January including bi-weekly salary through January 17, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of December, totaling \$559,984.34.

Director King moved to approve the January financial statements and the December and January expenses. Director Devers seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Revised MOU for Regional Water Management Group

Robins introduced the proposed revised MOU for the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning group for the Monterey Peninsula and Carmel Watershed. After brief discussion, Director Lipe moved to approve the Revised MOU as presented, Director King seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

New Business

Directors/ Staff

Staff Report: Emily Zefferman gave a report for the Salinas River 2018 Arundo Program. 500 acres were treated in 2018, approximately 166 of which was sprayed for the first time. She is working on reporting for the 2018 work season. WCB funding is pending and if approved, would move the program further downstream of the Arroyo Seco River. NRCS RCPP funding for Salinas River arundo control and bank stabilization will start in 2019.

Zefferman also gave a brief Stream Maintenance Program update. This was the first year where work was allowed prior to September 1, beginning on Aug. 7th for arundo herbicide treatment. Vegetation removal occurred in 18 channels and sediment removal in one channel. There was more than 80 acres of Arundo mitigation (spraying, mowing) conducted. Under the associated wildlife monitoring program, camera 'traps' caught bobcat, coyote, racoon, rabbit, wild pig, fox, and deer using the stream maintenance areas.

Barker gave a quick update on the outcomes of the MC Gives! year-end giving campaign for the FARMS Leadership Program. The campaign raised \$7,420 of the \$40,000 goal.

Robins noted that Spring BBQ Event planning should be getting underway in the coming weeks. The Salinas River RMU Association is on-board for partnership but would prefer an earlier start time than usual. At this point, the BBQ is still scheduled for April 12, 4pm-7pm. Directors discussed reaching out to last year's donors (including Driscoll's, Noland Hamerly, American Ag Credit, Rava Ranches, Leavitt Insurance, General Farm Investment, Granite

Rock, Scaroni Family of Companies) as a start for reaching out to large donors this year. The Fundraising Committee will meet next Tuesday, January 22nd to discuss.

Barker shared an overview of the upcoming newsletter. The Board shared ideas about how to continue fundraising efforts with our audience through annual newsletter and quarterly newsletter. Annual Newsletter should include donor recognition and possibly include a 'donate now' button on MailChimp.

Robins and Errea provided an overview of some of the updates to personnel leave-time policies to be considered for approval at the next meeting.

Robins informed Directors that the County can provide unsecured loans to Special Districts in the County such as the RCD at very low rates (recently under 3%) based on County fund pool's average rate of return. Robins indicated that County Administrative Office staff considered a \$50,000-\$100,000 loan very reasonable. Director Lipe recommended asking for \$250,000 based on an estimate of the RCD's expenses. Robins informed directors that he would present a resolution at the next meeting that would authorize submitting such a loan request to the County.

Robins discussed anticipating vacancies on the Board and requesting that members potentially stepping down from the Board consider continuing as Advisors or Associate Directors. Robins shared sample Board member agreements with meeting guests J. Gularte, and A. DeDampierre for reference regarding expectations of Board service, should they be interested. Director Jefferson emphasized to meeting guests that RCDMC is not a regulatory agency and is here to help farmers conserve resources voluntarily. Robins mentioned the value of having directors bring their community connections and awareness of community needs to the RCD. Robins reviewed the Board appointment process leading to final approval by the County Board of Supervisors. Robins also mentioned that Associate Director seats are also another option for those not ready to commit to a full board membership.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

Director King will be attending the Eco-Farm Conference to be held January 23-26 at Asilomar Conference Grounds.

1:00 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

Next Regular RCD meeting:

Date: Thursday February 21, 10am
Location: RCDMC Salinas Office