



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

(831) 975-7775

December 19, 2019– MEETING MINUTES—Approved 01/16/2020

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, December 19, 2019, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, J. Clarke, B. Plemmons, J. Gularte, R. King, B. Lipe, J. Doud

Directors Absent: None

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Barker (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), E. Boyland (NRCS)

Recorders: M. Barker, P. Robins

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topics</u>	<u>Presented by</u>
11:03 A.M.	Call to Order	<u>B. Jefferson</u>

Public Comment: None.

Consent Agenda

- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the November 21, 2019 Regular Board Meeting*
- *Accept Staff Activities Report for November 2019.*

Director Lipe moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Director Clarke seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Reports

Executive Director Report: Natalie Solares, the new Ag Water Management Specialist will be starting on January 7th. Natalie, who is a native Spanish speaker and UC Riverside grad, has a background in Plant Pathology and formerly worked with Driscoll’s.

Robins will participate in a series of CARCD webinars which will continue the thread from the Annual Conference about issues of inclusion, equity and diversity in order to assist RCDs to better serve their entire communities.

Robins is also participating in a CARCD-led discussion with other RCD Managers about the means, costs and benefits of revisiting and updating Division 9 of the Public Resources Code.

NRCS Comments: New Farm Bill rules are still being written for EQIP and other NRCS programs. Staff are receiving training on CART software which aims to streamline the project ranking process. NRCS planners will continue to go out to do site visits to help aid the screening and ranking process, but the February or March software rollout will delay 2020 NRCS batching dates. NRCS staff are also currently being trained on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) administered by FSA.

Board Member Comments: 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 December 19, 2019. The accrual account balance on December 19, 2019 was \$190,359.16 with \$73,094.44 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$803,318 in liabilities, and \$920,582.85 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$199,317.60 on November 21, 2019.

Expenses: M. Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in November including bi-weekly salary through December 19, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of November and December, totaling \$392,827.08.

Director King moved to approve the December financial statements and the November and December expenses as presented. Director Doud seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Robins noted that the Dry Period Loan Request from Monterey County Treasurer is being prepared by the Auditor-Controllers Office for Board of Supervisors approval on January 7. The funds would be transferred into the RCDs fund later in January.

Draft multi-RCD comment letter to Regional Board regarding riparian setbacks: Robins provided a brief update regarding comments on the draft letter presented at the November RCD board meeting. Robins has received comments from Clarke and will follow-up with RCD partners to solicit any remaining comments before distributing a more final draft for Board review. Director Lipe expressed a concern for the farmland located within the riparian setback of the Salinas River.

Review of New or Revised Independent Contractor Agreements: None to report.

Fundraising Update:

Spring 2020 BBQ date, theme and sponsorships planning: P. Robins met with Director Clarke and Gularte as part of the BBQ planning sub-committee to discuss the upcoming Annual BBQ, which will be held on April 24th at 4pm at the Salinas Rodeo Grounds. It was decided that a partnership with the Salinas River RMU Association would be desirable again this year, especially given the interest in the Salinas River arundo work included in the upcoming Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Fundraising Plan progress review: Director Lipe offered to make a donation towards an emergency reserve fund and said he will begin asking other members of the community about potential contributions towards the fund.

Monterey County Gives! Campaign Center for Land-Based Learning: Robins came to an agreement with the Center for Land-Based Learning to evenly divide all Monterey County Gives! contributions from RCDMC Board Members or partners.

New Business

Directors/ Staff

Board Member Retreat: The RCDMC board planning retreat will be held on Thursday, January 16 from 8am to 2pm at the Buena Vista Grange Hall. The building is available for free, although a donation of \$100-200 would be fair. Directors Lipe and Jefferson concurred that they would be good for that.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

Director King announced a Healthy Soils Workshop to be held January 28th, 8am-4pm, starting at Moss Landing Marine Labs and then moving to Monkeyflower Ranch.

12:16 P.M. Meeting Adjourned for the RCD holiday potluck

Next Regular RCD meeting and Board Retreat:

Date: Thursday, January 16, 8am

Location: Buena Vista Grange Hall