



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

(831) 975-7775

December 16, 2021– MEETING MINUTES—*approved 01/20/2022*

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, December 16, 2021, 9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, J. Clarke, J. Gularte (via Zoom), B. Plemmons (via Zoom), J. Doud (via Zoom), B. Lipe (via Zoom)

Directors Absent: I. Mendoza (Associate), M. Ritter (Associate)

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC), B. Bates (RCDMC), A. Rodoni

Recorder: P. Robins

The meeting was held in hybrid format at the Monterey County Farm Bureau office at 1140 Abbott Street, Suite C, Salinas, CA, and by Zoom conference

Call to Order: Director Jefferson called the meeting to Order at 9:35 am.

Public Comment: Alex Rodoni introduced himself as interested in Board service and attending in order to learn more about the RCD.

Consent Items:

- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the November 18, 2021 Regular Board meeting*
- *Staff Activities Report for November 2021*

Director Clarke moved to approve the Consent Items. Director Doud seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Reports

Executive Director Report:

Robins gave a brief update on new FEMA Coastal Resilience grant funding collaboration with the Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the Nature Conservancy for comprehensive planning of River Management and Arundo work in the Salinas River. This will be Phase I with the intent to followup with a large-scale (>\$10M) implementation proposal. Director Jefferson asked what the longevity of current arundo program funding was. Robins responded that there was currently 2-3 years of existing grant funding in place for the program.

NRCS Report:

District Conservationist A DeLara noted upcoming Farm Bill program costshare application deadlines: January 28, 2022 for resubmitted applications and end of March 2022 for new applications. DeLara highlighted a special January 6, 2022 deadline for a special cover crop costshare program. DeLara expressed support for the RCD's FEMA application and noted that NRCS would like to engage in such federal applications where possible.

Directors Reports:

- Director Plemmons noted that the CARCD Annual Conference was coming up in January, and that it would be all on Zoom. He reported out that the Finance Committee met to review the meeting's financial reports and to discuss a 401k program option with the RCD's current finance consultant. Robins added that he and Plemmons met with a Salinas-based consultant two weeks prior, who provided a different opinion regarding the type of program (he pitched a 403b) best for the RCD. Robins indicated he's seeking a third proposal/opinion so that the RCD has three options for consideration in spring 2022 for initiation in January 2023. In response to a question by Director Lipe, Robins confirmed that all staff would be engaged in the discussion and decision-making process for the ultimate recommendation to the Board.
- Director Lipe reported that the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency was preparing to approve and submit the remainder of their Groundwater Sustainability Plans to Dept of Water Resources for approval, and that all of the Salinas Valley plans support the RCD's work on the river. The GSA and other regional efforts such as Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) will be valuable resources for supporting RCD work in the future.

Old or Standing BusinessP. Robins / Directors

No items pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Monthly Financial Statements:

Errea presented the financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending December 16, 2021. The accrual account balance on December 16, 2021 was \$, with \$352,466.76 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury (including loans and advance payments), \$824,414 in liabilities, and \$714,501.58 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$243,130.28 on November 18, 2021.

Expenses:

Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid on December 16, including bi-weekly salary through December 5, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of November and December, totaling \$207,187.78. In addition, she requested the Board consider approval of an additional reimbursement to the Esselen Tribe for Cachagua Creek project monitoring, for which funding was received after the financials had been prepared. The check, #10064 for \$8,795.28 would appear in the following meeting's financial report and be dated 12/17/2021.

Director Lipe moved to approve the December financial statements and the December and November expenses, with the addition of check #10064 to the Esselen Tribe. Director Clarke seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Robins requested that an agenda item be added to the January meeting to authorize new Chase checking account Board Member signatories, specifically Directors Clarke, Doud and Gularte.

New Board Member search:

Robins noted that the search continues and thanked Alex Rodoni of Springfield Farms for his time at the meeting and reviewing materials (sent earlier) to learn more about the RCD in consideration of application.

Consideration of Resolution 21-05 to authorize grant application to US Bureau of Reclamation for Salinas River Arundo Eradication Program Phase 5:

Robins briefly reviewed the Resolution and the subject matter of the grant proposal it authorizes. Director Clarke moved to approve Resolution 21-05. Director Plemmons seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Consideration of Resolution 21-06 to comply with AB 361 for remote meetings:

Director Clarke moved to approve Resolution 21-06. Director Doud seconded the motion, and all voted to approve. Clarke recommended that the monthly remote meetings resolution be moved to the beginning of the meeting and included in the Consent Agenda for future RCD Board Meetings.

New business

CEQA Notice of Completion of Mitigated Negative Declaration for East Pico Blanco Fuelbreak Project Public Input Process:

Robins requested Board Members identify a date for holding a Special Meeting before Christmas to approve a Notice of Completion for the East Pico Blanco Fuelbreak CEQA MND. He noted that the MND had received no public comment during the 30-day review period, and that Forest Health Coordinator Jamie Tuitele-Lewis will incorporate any state agency comments (if any are received) prior to that meeting. Board members identified Wednesday, December 22 at 2pm as a mutually-agreeable time. Robins indicated he would draft and post the agenda for that date and time once he confirms it with Tuitele-Lewis.

Spring BBQ Planning

Director Gularte noted that she and Director Jefferson would be visiting a winery site on River Road near Chualar as a potential venue, and that the preferred dates are the last two Wednesdays or Thursdays in April 2022. She confirmed that no other ag organizations she reached out to had conflicts with those dates.

Robins indicated he would reach out to Supervisors in the Salinas Valley and North County districts for a potential 'board meeting/mini-tour' for the February Board meeting.

Presentation regarding 2021 Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program work

RCDMC Program Coordinator Brandt Bates provided 'story map' ArcGIS presentation with an overview of season outcomes and future work on the river.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

None.

11:30 A.M. Meeting Adjourned by Director Jefferson

Next Regular RCD meeting: Thursday, January 20th, 10am. Meeting location is to be determined.