



MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 12, 2010

Directors Present: Craig Blencowe; Larry Desmond; Jerome Dix ; Tyler Nelson departed @ 11:15am; Jerome Dix

Directors Absent: Geri Hulse-Stephens

Associate Directors Present: None

Associate Directors Absent: Peter Braudrick

Staff Present: Jan Olave; Nicole Porter; Ursula Butler

NRCS Staff Present: Carol Mandel

Other: Ann Cole

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1. Call to Order – 9:08 am.

2. Consent Calendar – Tyler motioned to approve the consent calendar; Larry seconded. 4 ayes, 0 nays.

3. Administration

- a. Update on Projects and Financials – The Forsythe Creek project is billable prior to the contract execution. The RCD staff will be taking a bigger role in the Russian River Draft Watershed Management Plan project through DWR. When complete the plan will be rolled up into the North Coast Plan. The Kenny and Mudd Creeks project must be completed this coming construction season with PWA. The Caltrans funds that we have in hand are mostly expended. Jan is working to finalize the next agreement. Financially the RCD is currently running below projected income..
- b. Larry motioned to approve 2 days of holiday paid time off for staff for this fiscal year; Tyler seconded. 4 ayes, 0 nays.

4. New Business

- c. Update on Caltrans project – The RCD received the final draft HMMP and Jan submitted her comments and she is of the opinion Jones & Stokes created a good document. The final plan will be sent to the resource agencies by the end of January. The mitigation properties have been selected in the amount of approximately 1500 acres. We will hire a professional to determine the endowment needs and terms. Tyler expressed concern that the RCD will lose money. DFG has suggested separate funds for implementation, monitoring, etc.
- d. Discussion and possible approval of legal representation – Best, Best & Krieger understands RCD's. They are a large firm with offices in many cities. They have experience working with Caltrans. Conservation Partners is a smaller firm. They would have to bring in additional attorneys to handle the volume of work. Ann suggests using Best, Best & Krieger because of their capacity and ability to ramp up when needed. She also suggests that

Conservation Partners could be used for easement agreements with DFG. County Council is our legal representative and agrees to our request to have Best, Best & Krieger represent the MCRCD. Tyler motions that Jan sign the retention letter with Best, Best & Krieger, Larry seconded. 4 ayes, 0 nays.

- e. Discussion and possible action to approve MCRCD Land Acquisition Policy – sections 1 and 2 address the requirement of Board approval. Section 3 covers the required information to present to the Board for use in decision making. This policy does not include mitigation properties. The mitigation properties policy will have to undergo legal review. Tyler motions to approve the land acquisition policy subject to County Council review; Larry seconded.
- f. Discussion of DFG holding easements for mitigation parcels – The HMMP states that there will be oversight on the properties. One of the resource agencies providing oversight on the project wants easements instead of deed restrictions. We will not be working with the regulatory arm of DFG. Jan will see if a representative from DFG will attend a future board meeting to discuss the matter.
- g. Motion to approve biomass funding – the biomass project is currently at a standstill. Craig asks the MCRCD to fund Bill Carlson’s work to acquire funding for the EIR. The focus of the EIR is traffic noise. The City of Fort Bragg is supportive but do not want to be involved in a private venture. The possible property for the biomass facility is not in Fort Bragg city limits. The county is not able to participate at this time. Jan suggests Proposition 84 funding but is unsure when it will be available. Tyler feels that the money should not be approved because of the financial situation of the RCD. Jerome motioned to approve funding \$3,000.00 to the biomass project, Larry seconded. 3 ayes 0 nays (Tyler left the meeting before the vote was taken).

6. Partner Reports

Carol reports on potential projects for collaboration. The CCPI – Cooperative Conservation Partner Initiative. Requires a partner to write a proposal. The proposal should be in line with state priorities. The decision is made at the state level. This program could fund projects that may have failed in the past.

Emma Chow will be filling the vacant position with NRCS at an entry level.

A developing project for waste water usage is a possible grant opportunity for the RCD. AWEP funds may be used for installing lateral lines to property owners. Carol suggest the RCD send a letter explaining our interest in helping the project move forward. Craig suggests a mapping workshop. Tyler spoke with Carol previously about an irrigation workshop. Another suggested workshop was a holistic resource management workshop.

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Director Items

- g.** Outlet Creek update – officials are being elected this evening. Dennis Slota did a monitoring workshop with the group. There are 7-8 core members. Larry feels that the group continues to move forward.

10. Adjourn – 12:18 pm.

Craig Blencowe
Board Chair