



**MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**March 9, 2010**

**Directors Present:** Larry Desmond; Geri Hulse-Stephens; Craig Blencowe departs at 12:05 pm.; Jerome Dix arrives at 10:10 am.

**Directors Absent:** Tyler Nelson

**Associate Directors Present:** None

**Associate Directors Absent:** Peter Braudrick

**Staff Present:** Jan Olave; Nicole Porter; Ursula Butler; Patty Madigan

**NRCS Staff Present:** Carol Mandel; Emma Chow

**Others:** Ann Cole; Members of the Willits Outlet Creek Watershed Group

**1. Call to Order – 9:06 am.**

**2. Consent Calendar –** An addition to the district bills list for State Water Resources Control Board Discharge permit in the amount of \$1,226.00. Geri motioned to approve the bills list with the addition, Larry seconded 3 ayes, 0 nays.

**3. Administration**

- a. Review of PTO policy – The policy as presented to the board is the written version of changes previously approved by the board. Any further changes would require convening the sub committee which would then make recommendations to the board. Larry motions to approve the policy as written, Geri seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays.
- b. Discuss and possible action on CCPI proposal – moved to NRCS report.
- c. Discuss and possible approval of Soper-Wheeler DFG proposal - Bill Morrison contacted the RCD after a DFG preharvest inspection identified fish passage barriers on the property. The proposal will include upgrading three culverts to bridges on Dunn Creek and restoring rearing habitat. The RCD was asked to sponsor and write the proposal. This will be a fee for service. Geri motioned to sponsor the grant proposal on Dunn Creek, Larry seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays.
- d. Review and comment on Board of Supervisor presentation – Jan will make the presentation. The RCD will have fifteen minutes on the Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup>. All of the RCD board members liked the presentation.
- e. Review and comment on Mititgation Acquisition Policy – Caltrans advised that it will be completing the HMMP and overseeing the implementation, thus minimizing the RCD's involvement in the project until such time as MCRCD agrees to take fee title to the

properties. Jan requested the board approve terminating the existing agreement and develop a new coop agreement when needed. Caltrans will be completing the mitigation using their own staff. The RCD may not accept properties until the agencies have signed off on them. Jan wants all billing in and accepted by Caltrans prior to contract termination. Geri motioned to terminate the Caltrans agreement once final invoicing is accepted contingent upon a clause allowing termination, Larry seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays.

Ann reviewed changes to the Mitigation Acquisition Policy which addresses the RCD mission statement and safe harbor issues. Language was also added about different mitigation types and conservation easements. Further review of the policy was tabled until the end of the meeting.

#### **4. New Business**

Semi-annual ethics training conducted by Jeanine Nadel, County Counsel.

#### **6. Public Comment**

Willits Outlet Creek Watershed Group represented by Rosmund Crowder presented a letter to the RCD board and staff outlining some of the groups future plans and concerns regarding the Willits Bypass construction project and mitigation. The group would like to put together a comprehensive watershed plan beyond and including what Caltrans is planning to implement. The group feels that with Caltrans' decision to implement all of the mitigation that the baseline data should be important to the RCD's future acceptance of the mitigation properties. Craig commented that the RCD and the watershed group have the same vision for Little Lake Valley. The group expressed its concern over the completion of the HMMP and Jan advised the group that the plan needs to be thirty percent complete in the design in order for the permits to be issued. Introductions of all present were made.

#### **7. Project and Partner Reports**

NRCS – Carol introduced Emma Chow. EQIP contracts are being finalized. CCPI requires a partner organization. Carol recommends that Trinity County RC&D, the North Coast RC&D and the RCD should partner for a regional effort CCPI. This money would be federal match for future grant opportunities. The board stated that they would like the RCD to continue to pursue this program. Carol attended the Frost Control Program meeting and presented information on NRCS programs that may offer assistance.

#### **8. Administration continued**

Review and comment on Mitigation Acquisition Policy  
The updated policy would apply to all mitigation projects including those the RCD will not acquire fee title on the property.

Ann will add a footnote that states the RCD does not want to hold easements. Section I-O will be removed entirely.

**10. Adjourn – 12:16 pm.**

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**Craig Blencowe**  
**Board Chair**