



## MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 13, 2010

**Directors Present:** Larry Desmond; Geri Hulse-Stephens; Craig Blencowe; Tyler Nelson

**Directors Absent:** Jerome Dix

**Associate Directors Present:** Peter Braudrick

**Associate Directors Absent:** None

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

**NRCS Staff Present:** Carol Mandel

**Other:** Jerry Zhang

### 1. Call to Order – 9:06 am.

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

### 3. Administration

- a. Resolutions to approve entering into grant agreements with DFG. Geri motioned to approve the Forsythe Creek Sediment Reduction Project, Upper Russian River Exotic Invasives Removal Project, and Camp Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project resolutions, Larry seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.
- b. Resolution to approve entering into agreement with SWRCB for the Garcia Headwaters TMDL Implementation Project. The project includes the Mailliard, Barr and Stephens' properties and includes funding to update the roads handbook. Tyler motioned to approve the resolution, Larry seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.
- c. Approval of Mitigation Acquisition Policy. A section was deleted per board discussion on the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Caltrans requested that the RCD develop this policy. The use of the word "program" instead of policy was questioned. Tyler motioned to approve the policy, Larry seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.
- d. Review of annual audit by Randolph-Scott Co. with Jerry Zhang. Introductions were made. The audit consists of two parts – internal control test which found no fraud or serious error and financial examination shows the trial balance fairly states the RCD position. Report review - Page 4 Analysis is a snapshot and comparison to the prior year. The results of the comparison reflect the US and CA economic situations of the time. Page 6 is a detailed view of 08/09 year. Revenues increased as well as expenses. The RCD incurred its first loss in 3 years. Page 8 shows expenditure detail. Pages 11-15 is a required government report. Pages 27-31 shows detail for each project. Board suggested adding notes to show that some projects are not finalized and add more content to the report for multi year projects. Pages 18-25 are the report footnotes. The unqualified opinion is good. Jerry suggested that the RCD needs an

official cost allocation plan. He also looks to see the RCD has cash available to fund a minimum of 45 days and recommends two months.

e. Update on Caltrans project.

- Update on Caltrans meeting of 4/16/10. Caltrans assured that the RCD will have a coop agreement within a month. Caltrans will be doing the design and contracting for the mitigation work. Caltrans has asked the RCD to do the short term monitoring, approximately three years. At the success of the project, the RCD will be doing the long term monitoring and maintenance. Patty feels that the RCD should have more input because we are going to be responsible for monitoring and maintaining their design, their implementation, and their management plan. Geri feels that the RCD reputation is on the line and she would like to have NRCS review the management plan. Peter feels that the RCD needs to be at the table. Craig feels that as the landowner the RCD needs to have more control in the process. Jan suggested that Geri speak with Craig Martz about her concerns. Caltrans will always be responsible for the success of this mitigation. Caltrans doesn't want DFG to hold the endowment; they would like a local entity to hold it. Tyler would like the staff to approach the county and try to leverage it. Geri reports that the RCD has gained respect with the Willits conservation community.
- A motion was never passed declining to hold easements. Currently the RCD has nothing on the record. Geri motions that the RCD will decline to hold conservation easements on the properties for the Willits bypass project, Larry seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.
- The RCD needs to have a designee to take ownership of the properties in case the RCD dissolves. Patty and Geri feel that the City of Willits should be considered because they are a primary stakeholder in the project. Peter feels that the county would be an appropriate choice. The board directed Jan to contact both and report back.
- Tyler motioned to approve the conflict of interest policy, Larry seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.
- Geri expressed concern regarding a conflict of interest. She has entered into a contract with Jones & Stokes and feels that she should step down to an associate board member position. Patty feels that once the RCD's role is more defined she may feel more comfortable staying a voting member. Nicole states that she could always recuse herself from votes. Craig feels that she needs to make a decision that is best for her and suggested she speak further with County Counsel.

#### **4. Project and partner reports**

- a.** NRCS – Carol Mandel - Mendocino county had the most applications for the Organic Initiative in the state requesting funds of \$360,000. 40% of all organic grapes grown in CA are in Mendocino County. AWEF is the next round of funding and NRCS staff is expected to be fully engaged in the program. Carol is continuing to work with the RCD in developing a regional CCPI proposal. The proposal is forestry related. The RFP speaks a lot about carbon sequestration as a national priority.
- b.** Watershed programs update – Patty – The DFG proposal written for Soper Co. on Dunn Creek for coho fish passage was complete. Prop 50 is winding up. 319(h) Camp Creek project has not been started. Elias Steinbuck will monitor the project. The River Center has moved its location next door to the Boonville post office. A workshop is being organized with the remaining Prop 50 funds.

#### **5. Public Comment - None.**

#### **6. Director Items**

- a.** Update on North Coast RC&D – The groups work seems to be focused in Mendocino County. Supervisor Carrie Brown has been attending their meetings. There will be an Earth Day celebration at the Noyo High School food forest and will include a bicycle powered smoothie maker.
  - Update on 5-C's project – the RCD and the 5-C's are working on an MOU.
- b.** Update on Outlet Creek Watershed Group – On April 16<sup>th</sup> the group will meet with Dennis Slota to discuss monitoring. On April 21<sup>st</sup> Caltrans will be speaking on environmental concerns with the Willits Bypass Project.

#### **7. Adjourn – 2:30 pm.**

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