

CCRCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2023

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** was held Tuesday, February 21, 2023 by teleconference.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Renee Fernandez-Lipp, Lorena Castillo, Bethallyn Black, Walter Pease & Igor Skaredoff,

ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bob Peoples

RCD STAFF PRESENT: Chris Lim, Patty Pell, Victoria Woolfolk & Ben Weise (10:15)

NRCS STAFF PRESENT: Evelyn Denzin, District Conservationist, Napa

DIRECTORS EXCUSED: All present

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIR, Walter Pease at 8:31 A.M.

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

No public in attendance

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: BROWN ACT, SECTION (54954.2(B) (2))

DETERMINATION THAT A NEED IMMEDIATE ACTION EXISTS:

No items added.

NRCS REPORT: In Brenda Phrankonekham absence, Evelyn Denzin, District Conservationist from Napa is helping the Concord Office. Evelyn Denzin started her report with a staff update and mentioned that the District Conservationist position has been advertised. Evelyn Denzin updated the Board on new NRCS' programs through the Inflation Reduction Act and the deadline for those programs. Evelyn Denzin ended her report by mentioning that she will present the Board a checklist for Federal partners for their review at the next meeting.

PRESENTATION: Victoria Woolfolk, Watershed Conservation Coordinator, CCRCD. Victoria Woolfolk started by giving an update on CCRCD's role assisting with the development of a Marsh Creek Watershed Council, the current status of the council and CCRCD's future role. Victoria Woolfolk finished by stating the council's developing mission, vision, values, and goals and presented the council's website.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Item 7.1- January 17, 2023 Board Minutes

Item 7.2- January 2023 Financials

Following a few suggested edits to the minutes, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve Items #1 & 2 of the consent calendar with revisions. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion passes 5:0.

DETERMINATION ITEMS:

8.1 Consider Approving Policy #4240. Patty Pell explained the purpose for this policy is to explain the recently enacted amendments to the Brown Act regarding the Board's ability to attend Board meetings remotely. Patty Pell explained the three options and the rules and circumstances under each option. Following a time for

questions, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve Policy #4240 Board Teleconferencing Rules. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion passes 5:0

8.2 Consider Approving Resolution 2023-04 changing the location of future Board meetings to Industrious 2001 Clayton Road, Ste. 200, Concord. Patty Pell explained that with the lifting of the State of Emergency, the Board is required to meet in-person. CCRCDD decided to go with the “hybrid” model allowing the public to join by teleconferencing or attend in person. In order to accommodate the “hybrid” model, the meeting location will change to the new office. Following this discussion, Renee Fernandez-Lipp made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-04. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 5:0

8.3 Consider Approving Resolution 2023-05 ratifying the Board authorization to approve Executive Director’s compensation packet. Walter Pease described the purpose of this Resolution to authorize and state the process for the Board approving the Executive Director’s compensation packages. Following this explanation, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-05. Renee Fernandez-Lipp seconded the motion. Motion passes 5:0

8.4 Consider Approving grant agreement with the Delta Conservancy for Little Franks Track Invasive Weed Removal and Restoration Project. After concerns were mentioned regarding the use of pesticides spraying and a lengthy discussion pursued, the Board decided more research was necessary. Therefore, Bethallyn Black made a motion to postpone approving the grant agreement with the Delta Conservancy. Renee Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion passes 5:0 agreement postponed.

8.5 Consider Approving contract with Jerah Frye and Frye Restoration Inc. Following the discussion mentioned above, the same concerns were voiced. Ben Weise aided in the discussion giving details of the herbicide application and timing as well as noting that at this time, no pesticide spraying is scheduled. Following the discussion, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve the contract with Jerah Frye with revisions to the scope of work, Renee Fernandez-Lipp seconded the motion. Motion passes 5:0

8.6 Consider Authorizing Executive Director to sign Letter of Support for Contra Costa County Application to the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program. Chris Lim described the project and presented a map of the proposed project. Following a few questions, Lorena Castillo made a motion to approve the Executive Director signing the Letter of Support for CCC application to Caltrans Sustainable Planning Grant. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0 with Igor Skaredoff temporarily absent.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

9.1 Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion: Chris Lim noted that the JEDI report is at the final step of being approved by the CARCD Board.

9.2 COVID Update: Chris Lim reminded the Board that in-person meetings will resume next month, March 21, 2023 at Industrious, Concord, CA.

9.3 Renee Fernandez-Lipp, Chris Lim, Walter Pease and Patty Pell all agreed to be on the Personnel committee to suggest updates to both the current personnel manual and the Travel Reimbursement Policies.

9.4 Item 8.1: Memo from the county was presented that summarized the changes to the Brown Act allowing Board Members to attend meetings via teleconferencing as discussed during Item 8.1. No further questions were asked.

9.5 A review of last year’s Cost of Living increase was mentioned as well as suggested sources of COI information and timing of the reports.

REPORTS:

10.1 President Reports— Walter Pease expressed his appreciation for receiving information on partners' activities and his desire to attend as often as possible.

10.2 Directors' Reports –Igor Skaredoff mentioned that John-Muir Birthday-Earth Day Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 10:00-4:00 p.m., and he inquired if the CCRCDD would like to sponsor a booth at the gathering.

Renee Fernandez-Lipp mentioned that the sustainability committee main focus will be on reducing single waste products and removing organic compostable material from wasteland garbage.

10.3 Staff Reports—The Board repeated their appreciation for the staff reports and enjoy reading them. The Board had no questions.

10.4 Executive Director Reports –Chris Lim gave the following updates:

Personnel:

Rachael, an EcoSteward, left

Alejandro will start next week as the Wildfire Conservation Coordinator

Fundraising:

NACD Urban and Community Conservation - CSUEB

Calfire - education, workshops, etc

USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production - working with underserved producers, urban farmers

Events:

CARCD virtual conference: March 6 - March 30

CCSDA 30th Anniversary: April 27

Walter Pease Adjourned the Meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Pell, Clerk of the Board, CCRCDD

08:38:46 From Victoria Woolfolk, Contra Costa RCD to Everyone:
<https://www.ccrcd.org/marsh-creek-watershed>

08:40:49 From Victoria Woolfolk, Contra Costa RCD to Everyone:
Mission Statement: The Marsh Creek Watershed Council connects and inspires people and communities to collaborate, organize, and facilitate stewardship of a healthy, thriving watershed.

08:41:12 From Victoria Woolfolk, Contra Costa RCD to Everyone:
Vision Statement: We envision a revitalized and resilient Marsh Creek Watershed with shaded creek corridors from Mt. Diablo into the Delta that provides clean, cool water, supports biodiversity, builds community and inspires stewardship.

08:42:09 From Victoria Woolfolk, Contra Costa RCD to Everyone:
vwoolfolk@ccrcd.org

08:42:36 From Victoria Woolfolk, Contra Costa RCD to Everyone:
<https://www.watershednetwork.org/>

08:43:14 From Renee Fernandez-Lipp to Everyone:
Victoria, the website looks great so far!

08:43:32 From Victoria Woolfolk, Contra Costa RCD to Everyone:
Thanks!

08:43:51 From Renee Fernandez-Lipp to Everyone:
Congratulations on your appointment, Bob!

09:44:58 From Renee Fernandez-Lipp to Everyone:
Great conversation!

09:57:18 From Evelyn.Denzin to Everyone:
Sorry I have to sign off early. I look forward to meeting everyone next month!

10:56:18 From Ben Weise, Contra Costa RCD to Everyone:
Got to run to another meeting! Ping me if you need me!

10:59:40 From Victoria Woolfolk, Contra Costa RCD to Everyone:
I'm logging off of the meeting, it was nice seeing you all and hearing these conversations, have a good week everyone!