

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2023

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** was held Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at Industrious and teleconferencing.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Lorena Castillo, Igor Skaredoff & Walter Pease

ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bob Peoples & John Cain

RCD STAFF PRESENT: Chris Lim, Patty Pell, Victoria Woolfolk & Ben Weise

NRCS STAFF PRESENT: Evelyn Denzin, District Conservationist, Napa

DIRECTORS EXCUSED: Bethallyn Black & Renee Fernandez-Lipp

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIR, Walter Pease at 8:30 A.M. and called into Closed session for personnel review.

CLOSED SESSION:

Closed session to discuss executive review and compensation.

PUBLIC MEETING RESUMED at 9:08 a.m.

Following the Closed Session, it was reported that the Executive compensation was evaluated and the corresponding pay increase would be consider in Item 8.1.

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None

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

DETERMINATION THAT A NEED IMMEDIATE ACTION EXISTS:

No items added.

NRCS REPORT: Evelyn Denzin, District Conservationist, Napa. Evelyn Denzin reported the joint assessments have been taking place between NRCS & CCRCD staff members and landowners affected by land erosion due to the recent storms. Evelyn Denzin introduced new programs to help landowner replace equipment for better air quality and another program, Emergency Watershed Conservation Program to working with other agencies offering assistance for damage on cropland due to the recent storms.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Item 7.1- March 21, 2023 Board Minutes

Item 7.2- March 2023 Financials

Item 7.3-Consider approving Policy #2120 Staff Expense Reimbursement Policy

Item 7.4 Consider approving Policy #2130 Staff Travel & Transportation Reimbursement Policy

Item 7.5 Consider approving Policy #4125 Board Training, Travel & Expense Reimbursement Policy

Item 7.5 was pulled from the consent calendar for revisions.

Following a couple of suggested edits on item 7.1, Lorena Castillo made a motion to approve Items #7.1 (with edits) and Items 7.2– 7.4 as presented. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion passes 3:0.

Walter Pease recommended revisions to Item 7.5 including deleting section 4125.5.4. Following these recommendations, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve Item 7.5 with revisions. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 3:0.

DETERMINATION ITEMS:

8.1 Consider approving Resolution 2023-10 Approving Executive Director Merit Pay Increase. Walter Pease reported the Board reviewed the Executive Director's accomplishments and goals and reported that it had been several years since the Executive Director received a merit pay increase. The Board finished by stating how pleased they are with the Executive Director's performance and the growth of the District. Following this discussion, Lorena Castillo made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-10 authorizing a 10% pay increase for the Executive Director. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion passes 3:0

8.2 Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign the fiscal agent MOU for the Martinez Educational Mural Featuring Native Flora and Fauna Project. Victoria Woolfolk described the project, showing examples of other murals by Jeff Sherwin and pictures of the proposed area. Victoria Woolfolk explained that the RCD would be acting as the fiscal agent for this project only and clarified that the RCD would not be responsible for maintenance. Following this discussion Lorena Castillo made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU for the Martinez Educational Mural. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion passes 3:0

8.3 Consider supporting bill AB552 - provide technical assistance and grants to support regional farm equipment sharing and enhance cooperative benefits for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Ben Weise explained the purpose of the program to create an equipment rental loan program to help local farmers/ranchers obtain equipment to implement the conservation measures promoted by the RCD. Following a few questions, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve the RCD supporting AB552. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 3:0.

8.4 Consider approval of contract with Restoration Design Group (RDG) for services at Marsh Creek State Park. Ben Weise described the project and the planned property extension and explained the purpose of the contract with Restoration Design Group. Following this discussion, Lorena Castillo made a motion to approve the contract with Restoration Design Group for services at Marsh Creek State Park. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion passes 3:0.

8.5 Consider approving Resolution 2023-11 changing meeting time/days of Board meetings. Chris Lim explained that the large downstairs conference room would no longer be available on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. Following a discussion on possible meeting options, it was decided to change room at Industrious in order to maintain the current meeting day, time and location. Motion postponed.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

9.1 Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion: Chris Lim noted that the official JEDI report was approved by the CARCD. Chris Lim thanked the RCD staff involved in helping to prepare the document and stated that the document will be presented to the RCD for adoption.

REPORTS:

10.1 President Reports— Walter Pease noted how nice it is to once again see people in person.

10.2 Directors' Reports –Igor Skaredoff made a reminder of Earth day birthday celebration this coming Saturday. Igor Skaredoff also shared that UC Davis has a program designed to promote plants that adapt to climate change.

10.3 Staff Reports—The Board expressed their appreciation for staff reports, but had no questions.

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

- Busy schedule with Earth Week, Symposium, and Festival
- Possible grants: Environmental Educator for approx. 3-5 years with Mt. View Sanitary District at Moorhen Marsh.
- The RCD will be hosting field trips and in class session for Trout in the Classroom program.
- Possibility for a DOC-capacity building grant to shape strategy for growth in the RCD agriculture program with climate smart land management.

Walter Pease Adjourned the Meeting at 10:06 a.m.

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