

**Contra Costa Resource Conservation District**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

June 27, 2023

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** originally scheduled for June 20, 2023 was postponed until Tuesday, June 27, 2023 held both at Industrious and via teleconferencing.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Lorena Castillo, Igor Skaredoff, Bethallyn Black & Walter Pease

**ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Bob Peoples

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

**NRCS STAFF PRESENT:** Excused

**DIRECTORS EXCUSED:** Renee Fernandez-Lipp

**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:** Luis Rivera-Cruz, District Conservationist, Concord. Luis Rivera-Cruz had a conflict with this rescheduled meeting, so he was unable to attend.

Chris Lim took the opportunity to introduce two new EcoStewards: Noah Brast-McKie and Jules Mackey.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- 7.1 May 16, 2023, Board Minutes
- 7.2 May 2023 Financials
- 7.3 Policy #2415-Social Media Use
- 7.4 Policy #3415-Compensation Policy
- 7.5 Policy #4200-Board Actions and Decisions
- 7.6 Policy #4205-Board Meeting Agenda
- 7.7 Policy #4220-Minutes of Board Meetings

Items 7.3-7.7 were removed for comments and revisions.

Bethallyn Black made a motion to approved Items 7.1 & 7.2 as presented. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

A discussion and suggested revisions followed for each Item #7.3-7.7 as follows:

Items 7.3 Policy #2415-Social Media Use. Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve Policy #2415 with revisions. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

Item 7.4 Policy #3415 Compensation. Following a brief discussion, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve Policy #3415 as presented. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

Item 7.5 Policy #4200 Board Actions and Decision. Following a brief discussion, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve Policy #4200 as presented. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0

Item 7.6 Policy #4205 Board Meeting Agenda. Following a discussion on point B.4., Bethallyn Black made a motion to leave policy unchanged and approve Policy #4205 as presented. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

Item 7.7 Policy #4220 Minutes of Board Meetings. Following the recommendation to remove item 4(h) as a requirement, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve Policy #4220 with amendment. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

### **DETERMINATION ITEMS:**

**8.1** Consider approval of Voluntary Local Program Cooperative Agreements #28, 29, 30 & 31 for livestock pond restorations and livestock water system installations for Fall 2023. Ben Weise described the projects and listed the funders. A discussion followed on potential projects, completed projects and the possibility of promoting past jobs. Following this discussion, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve VLP #28,29, 30 & 31. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

**8.2** Consider support of Request to Save the Vital Wildfire Prevention & Ecological Services Provided by Goat Herders. Walter Pease described his experience, stated the benefits of using goats and recommended the use of goats when possible. Following this discussion, Bethallyn Black approve the letter of support requesting revisions to AB 156. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

**8.3** Consider approval of contract with Aspen Environmental Group for cultural resources pedestrian survey of proposed pond restorations. Ben Weise described the project and the Cultural Resources compliance process. Ben Weise finished by describing the next steps and the anticipated timing. Following this discussion, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve the contract with Aspen Environmental Group. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

**8.4** Consider approval of contract with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for Arundo removal in support of Friends of San Ramon Creek (FSRC). Chris Lim described the project's goals and where contractors will be utilized. Following this discussion, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve the contract with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

**8.5** Consider approval of Letter of Support for California State University East Bay - Concord campus (CSUEB) ecocultural garden for CSUEB proposal to EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund grant program. Chris Lim mentioned that CSUEB was approached with this grant and is currently going through the application process. Chris Lim mentioned the RCD's involvement in the project if the University is awarded this grant. Following this discussion, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve the RCD signing the Letter of Support for CSUEB. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

**8.6** Consider approval of Resolution 2023-13 changing location of Board meetings to Diablo Valley College (DVC), Pleasant Hill, CA. Chris Lim mentioned he visited the location and noted that the technology is sufficient to continue teleconferencing the meetings. Following a discussion on the benefits of meeting at DVC, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-13 moving Board meetings to DVC. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

**8.7** Consider approval of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. Chris Lim illustrated how all programs were populated and used to create the proposed budget. Chris Lim then described his personnel projections for the upcoming fiscal year used to calculate the proposed budget. This led Chris Lim to a discussion on current staff

updates leading to exploring ways to encourage staff retention. Chris Lim finished by summarizing new expenses included in the proposed budget. Following this discussion, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve FY 2023-2024 as presented. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

8.8 Consider approval of Resolution 2023-14 Recognizing Bob Case for all his contributions. The Board expressed their appreciation for the Resolution. It was noted that Lisa Damerel contributed a lot to the Resolution and her contribution was greatly appreciated. Following this acknowledgement, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-14. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

8.9 Board selection for CSDA Board of Directors, Seat C-Bay Area Network. Following the Board noting candidates they previously worked with, Bethallyn Black made the motion to recommend Antonio Martinez for the CSDA Board of Directors, Seat C. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 4:0.

8.10 Board selection for LAFCo run-off election. Following a brief discussion on the Board's recommendation, Walter Pease noted he would vote for the RCD.

### **DISCUSSION ITEM:**

9.1 CCRCDD nomination to Sustainable Contra Costa's Sustainability Award. After not hearing any recommendations to nominate, the Board decided no nomination would be recommended.

### **REPORTS:**

10.1 President Reports—Walter Pease thanked the Board for their help with adapting the new policies and asked that they review the proposed updated Personnel Manual to be presented at a future Board meeting. Walter Pease followed up with a reminder of annual compliance requirements.

10.2 Directors' Reports –No reports given.

10.3 Staff Reports—Walter Pease had a couple of questions on staff reports for clarification and to obtain more details on a specific project.

10.4 Executive Director Reports –Chris Lim gave much of the staff update during the presentation of the new budget, but added the following updates:

- Possible grants: In partnership with Cal State East Bay - Concord, an EPA grant that would provide the site needed infrastructure and the RCD would facilitate public input meetings and workdays.
- The Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management funding with the Ambrose Community Center was confirmed at our full ask of \$1.6 million. The planning process should start Jan 1.

**Walter Pease Adjourned the Meeting at 10:30 a.m.**

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