

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

October 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** was held Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at Diablo Valley College and via teleconferencing.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Walter Pease, Igor Skaredoff, Renee Fernandez-Lipp, Bethallyn Black & Lorena Castillo (Arrived @ 9:38 a.m.)

**ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Bob Peoples

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

**NRCS STAFF PRESENT:** Absent

**DIRECTORS EXCUSED:** All present

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIR, Walter Pease at 8:42 A.M.**

**INTRODUCTION:** Emma Koeze introduced herself to the Board, described her background and mentioned her current projects with RCD.

**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:** No one present

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- 7.1 September 19, 2023, Board Minutes
- 7.2 September 2023 Financials

Renee Fernandez-Lipp made a motion to approved Item 7.1- September 19, 2023 Board Minutes and Item 7.2- September Financials as presented. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0

**DETERMINATION ITEMS:**

- 8.1** Consider Approving Policy #3122 Hours of Work and Overtime. Following a discussion on Holiday overtime with a recommendation for future revisions, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approved Policy #3122 as presented. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0. Renee Fernandez-Lipp abstained.
- 8.2** Consider approving Policy #3420 Education Assistance. Following Chris Lim explaining the revisions made to the original policy were to include tuition reimbursement for training and conference opportunities that do not include letter grades, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve Policy #3420 as presented. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0
- 8.3** Consider approving Travel Authorization Expense for a Board member to attend the CARCD Conference. Following a brief discussion on fees not included in the ask, Walter Pease suggested

approving expenses up to \$1,000. Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve up to \$1,000 for attendance at the CARCD Conference. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0 with Renee Fernandez-Lipp abstaining.

- 8.4** Consider approval of contract with Jerah Frye and Frye Restoration Inc. for subcontracted vegetation management work under the Department of Water Resources contract. Ben Weise reviewed the project and the contract amendments and concluded with an updated status report. Following a brief discussion on the use of herbicides, certified staff and subcontractors' rates, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve the contract with Jerah Frye and Frye Restoration Inc. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:1. Renee Fernandez-Lipp opposed.
- 8.5** Consider approval of grant from the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy for funding to monitor restored livestock ponds with eDNA Monitoring. Ben Weise began by introducing the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy and its mission. Ben Weise continued with a description of the project, the location, timing and clarifying eDNA technology. Following a few additional questions on eDNA, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve the grant with East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy. Renee Fernandez-Lipp seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.
- 8.6** Consider approval of contract amendment with California Association of Resource Conservation Districts via CALFIRE's grant "Increasing Pace and Scale. Following Chris Lim describing the amendments to the contract along with the funding reallocations, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve the amendments with CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts' CALFIRE grant. Renee Fernandez-Lipp seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0 (Lorena Castillo arrived during discussion).
- 8.7** Consider approval of subcontract with UC Davis for project "Resilient and Equitable Stream Corridors" of cleanups in Contra Costa County. Chris Lim described the partners involved with the project, their roles, and the RCD's responsibilities. Following a discussion on concerns for the project and possible ways to share the data obtained, Renee Fernandez-Lipp made a motion to approve the subcontract with UC Davis. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.
- 8.8** Consider approval of Memorandum of Understanding with New Leaf Collaborative to partner on environmental education programming at Carquinez Middle School. Chris Lim described the RCD's previous projects with Carquinez Middle School and how the partnership has developed. Following a discussion on potential projects with New Leaf, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with New Leaf. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.
- 8.9** Consider approval of Letter of Support for CARCD's application to California Department of Food and Agriculture Urban Agriculture Grant Program, "Supporting California Urban Agriculture through Resource Conservation Districts". Ben Weise summarized the grant program, partners and finished by describing the RCD's portion of the overall grant and other possible funding opportunities. Following this discussion, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve the letter of support for CARCD's application to CA Dept. of Food & Agriculture. Renee Fernandez-Lipp seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.
- 8.10** Consider approval of grant agreement with California Department of Food and Agriculture under the Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant Program. Ben Weise described the purpose of the grant, potential funding of additional staff and the RCD's responsibilities. Ben Weise finished by mentioning that the grant will fund the Cimis station. Following this discussion, Renee Fernandez-Lipp made a motion to approve the grant agreement with CA Dept. of Food & Agriculture. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0

**DISCUSSION:** Following Chris Lim describing the necessity to schedule a Special Board meeting, it was decided that Tuesday, October 31 at 9:30 at Industrious was the most convenient for most Board members.

## **REPORTS:**

**10.1** President Reports— Walter Pease—no report.

**10.2** Directors' Reports – No reports

**10.3** Staff Reports— Igor Skaredoff expressed his enjoyment reading the staff reports and was intrigued with variety of projects. Igor Skaredoff followed with clarifying questions on a few projects.

**10.4** Executive Director Reports –

Chris Lim started his presentation with updates from the Coastal Cleanup and the county's funding of our current cleanups. Chris Lim then followed with a staffing update, the upcoming Symposium and the Martinez mural fundraising campaign and noted that a community painting day is planned for January.

Chris Lim ended with the following funding opportunities:

Applied:

- California State University, East Bay received a EPA grant for water quality to develop infrastructure at their site. Chris Lim described the RCD's portion of the funding and responsibility to hold community meetings and schedule workdays.

Received:

- Two Healthy Soils grants

Betahllyn Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Walter Pease Adjourned the Meeting at 10:40 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted, Patty Pell, Board Clerk, CCRC**