

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 21, 2023

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** was held Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at Diablo Valley College and via teleconferencing.

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

ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bob Peoples

RCD STAFF PRESENT: Chris Lim, Patty Pell, Ben Weise, Alejandro Anasal, Victoria Woolfolk & Emma Koeze

NRCS STAFF PRESENT: Luis Rivera-Cruz

DIRECTORS EXCUSED: Lorena Castillo

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIR, Walter Pease at 9:00 A.M.

INTRODUCTION: No introductions

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: Following a brief mentioned that the application deadline for this batching cycle expired on Nov. 3rd, Luis Rivera-Cruz noted that the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provided an increase in funding over five years for existing conservation programs, including both the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQUIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) agriculture programs. Luis Rivera-Cruz ended with a staffing update.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 7.1 October 17, 2023 Board Minutes
- 7.2 October 31, 2023 Board Minutes from Special Board Meeting
- 7.3 October 2023 Financials

Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approved Item 7.1- October 17, 2023 Board Minutes, Item 7.2- October 31, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes and 7.3 October 2023 Financials as presented. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0

DETERMINATION ITEMS:

8.1 Consider approval of Resolution 2023-15 nominating Renee Fernandez-Lipp voting delegate for the CARCD Annual Conference Business Meeting. Following a brief discussion on how to obtain a copy of the voting items, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approved Resolution 2023-15 approving Renee Fernandez-Lipp as the voting delegate for the CARCD Annual Conference Business Meeting. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0. Renee Fernandez-Lipp abstaining.

- 8.2** Consider approval of Agreement #23-0680-000-SG with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to provide technical assistance for the next solicitation of the Healthy Soils Incentives Program. Ben Weise explained the purpose of this grant allowing the RCD to assist farmers and ranchers in applying for funding to implement climate smart agriculture management practices. Following this description, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve Agreement with the CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture as presented. Renee Fernandez-Lipp seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0
- 8.3** Consider approval of the implementation contract with the CARCD to allow the CCRCD to commence implementation tasks for monarch/pollinator habitat projects throughout the County under the CARCD/Wildlife Conservation Board block grant. Following a discussion on implementation, deliverables and describing how the location were selected and staff requirements, Renee Fernandez-Lipp made a motion to approve contract with to CARCD to implement monarch/pollinator habitats. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.
- 8.4** Consider approval of the Independent Contractor Agreement with Earth Team for support in the implementation of the Pinole Library Native Plant Garden Project. Victoria Woolfolk reviewed the background of this mitigation project with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and the RCD's role. Following this discussion, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement with Earth Team. Renee Fernandez-Lipp seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.
- 8.5** Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign letter of support for Civicorps for their Climate-Ready Workforce proposal. Following an introduction on how he was originally connected with the Civicorp's Program Manager, Chris Lim explained the goals of the proposal along with the long-range vision. Following this discussion, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve the Executive Director signing the letter of support. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.

DISCUSSION:

REPORTS:

10.1 President Reports— Walter Pease reported that he attended a presentation by East Bay Regional Parks District on measures for climate control concentrating on removal of dead trees.

10.2 Directors' Reports – Igor Skaredoff expressed his appreciation for the RCD's help with the Martinez Mural project and reported that the mural is now fully funded and thanked the RCD for being the fiscal sponsors. Igor Skaredoff finished by mentioning that a high school teacher with 60 students is exploring possibilities with the RCD.

Bob Peoples attended the Bay Delta RCD and reported that other agencies mentioned they were impressed by the diversity of programs within CCRCD.

10.3 Staff Reports—The Board once again stated their appreciation for the staff reports and stated how much they enjoy reading about the number and variety of programs.

10.4 Executive Director Reports –

Chris Lim started his presentation by introducing the newly implemented project management software to help manage workforce tasks, Monday.com. Chris Lim continued with staffing updated including open positions, interviews, and job offerings.

Chris Lim ended with the following funding opportunities:

Applied:

- Partnership with CREEC to lead fieldtrips.
- Watershed Project with Ryan Hernandez and the county on Bethel Island

- Mitigation money from bridge over highway 4 and 680
- Partnership with Ann Riely and FCD to make assessments and recommend contractors to landowners.

Renee Fernandez-Lipp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion.
Walter Pease Adjourned the Meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Pell, Board Clerk, CCRCD