

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2024

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** was held Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at Diablo Valley College and via teleconferencing.

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

ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bob Peoples

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

NRCS STAFF PRESENT: Luis Rivera-Cruz

DIRECTORS EXCUSED: Walter Pease

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY: Bethallyn Black at 8:35 A.M.

INTRODUCTION: New staff member, Justin Emery, introduced himself to the Board and briefly described his background and experience. Following Justin Emery introduction, the Board members introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Anushka Drescher, CCRCD Watershed Coordinator applicant

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 introduced himself briefly and explained how the two agencies coordinate. Luis Rivera-Cruz finished by updating the Board on new staff members, the number of EQUIP applications, and batching deadlines.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

7.1 December 19, 2023 Board Minutes

7.2 December 2023 Financials

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

DETERMINATION ITEMS:

8.1 Consider approval of Board President signing Docusign amendment increasing the billable rate for 2024 on the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District contract. Following an explanation that this rate increase is specified in the original contract, Renee Fernandez-Lipp made a motion authorizing the Board President to sign the contract amendment with CCC Flood Control. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.

DISCUSSION: It was noted that to accommodate scheduled vacations, two changes to the regular schedule were necessary: 1. Date change for the March meeting and 2. Location change for May's meeting. Following a discussion on Board members' availability, it was decided that the March meeting would be rescheduled to March 5th at DVC and the May meeting location would be changed to Industrious. A resolution for both changes will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Following these decisions, a discussion followed on the desire to implement a process where the Executive Director could fully disconnect while on vacation.

REPORTS:

10.1 President Reports— Excused

10.2 Directors' Reports – Bethallyn Black noted that on 2/11/23 DVC was hosting CA rare fruit growers workshop for anyone interested in master grafting.

Renee Fernandez-Lipp mentioned that the County's Climate Action Plan is soliciting input and the public review draft is available at [EnvisionContraCosta 2040.org](https://www.contracosta.gov/2040)

Lorena Castillo thanked the staff for their work in Richmond for MLK day and noted she enjoyed meeting the Interns. Lorena Castillo ended by mentioning that she likes the new look of the newsletters.

Igor Skaredoff reminded Board members of the upcoming Martinez Mural dedication on 1/27/24. Igor Skaredoff mentioned that the planning process for the John Muir Ridge area is underway by the City of Martinez, Friends of Alhambra Creek hosted a presentation by Dick Hernon on Arundo removal and ended by mentioning he was interviewed by the Martinez Historical Society and the interview could be viewed online.

10.3 Staff Reports— No questions

10.4 Executive Director Reports –

Chris Lim started by updating the Board on staffing, open positions, and recruitment. Chris Lim mentioned that one of the opened positions would focus on water audits by providing a mobile irrigation lab and noted that these audits would require an additional truck. A brief discussion followed on the benefits/disadvantages of the various fuel types and the specific vehicle requirements to perform these water audits.

Chris Lim then ended with the following funding opportunities:

Applied:

- USDA Farm to School aquaponics program to go along with the school education programs
- CA Fire to fund workshops for prescribed burns to help mitigate fire.

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

Respectfully submitted, Patty Pell, Board Clerk, CCRCD