

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

February 20, 2024

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** was held Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at Diablo Valley College and via teleconferencing.

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

**ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Bob Peoples

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

**NRCS STAFF PRESENT:** Absent

**DIRECTORS EXCUSED:** All present

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY: Walter Pease at 8:30 A.M.**

**INTRODUCTION:** New staff member, Ishai Cohen, introduced himself, described his education and background as well as previous projects he worked in collaboration with the RCD.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:** Michael McGill, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

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

**DETERMINATION THAT A NEED IMMEDIATE ACTION EXISTS:**

In order to accommodate Michael McGill's schedule, the decision was made to move discussion item 9.1 to the beginning of the meeting.

**DETERMINATION ITEM:**

**9.1** Michael McGill introduced himself to the Board, explaining his background, his many civic activities and his desire to seek re-appointment for the LAFCO board seat. Following questions and answers along with a recommendation from Igor Skaredoff, Walter Pease made a motion to prepare Resolution 2024-03 nominating Michael McGill for the open seat on the LAFCO Board. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.

**NRCS REPORT:** No representative present.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

7.1 January 16, 2024 Board Minutes

7.2 January 2024 Financials

Bethallyn Black made a motion to approved Item 7.1—January 16, 2024 Board Minutes and Item 7.2-- January 2024 Financials as presented. Renee Fernandez-Lipp seconded the motion. Item 7.1 carried 4:0 with Walter Pease abstaining due to his absence from the previous Board meeting. Item 7.2 carried 5:0.

## **DETERMINATION ITEMS:**

- 8.1** Consider approval of Resolution 2024-01 Change of location for the May 21st, 2024 Board Meeting from DVC to Industrious. Following a reminder that the changes were discussed at the last meeting, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-01 moving the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting from DVC to Industrious. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.
- 8.2** Consider approval Resolution 2024-02 changing the March 19th, 2024 Board Meeting to March 5th, 2024. Following the previous discussion, Lorena Castillo made a motion approving Resolution 2024-02 changing March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.
- 8.3** Consider approval of Memorandum of Agreement with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) for Technical Assistance 2023 Grant. Ben Weise described the purpose of the grant, the RCD's match and staff involvement with the project. After Ben Weise answered a few questions and noted that these TA grants lag behind about one year before getting approved, Bethallyn Black made a motion approving the MOA with NACD for Technical Assistance 2023 Grant. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.
- 8.4** Consider approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Bay Area Youth Agency Consortium for placement of AmeriCorps member at CCRCD. Chris Lim introduced the new AmeriCorps' staff member, her role with the RCD and the two main areas of focus for her experience. Following Chris Lim's explanation and the stated desire to build a partnership with this consortium for future AmeriCorps members, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve the MOU with Bay Area Youth Agency for an AmeriCorps placement at the RCD. Renee Fernandez-Lipp seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.
- 8.5** Consider Executive Director signing Letter of Support for Contra Costa County's project "Bay Point Enhanced Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements Study" to US Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program. Following an explanation of why this letter of support was presented to the Board a second time, Lorena Castillo made a motion authorizing the Executive Director signing the Letter of Support for Contra Costa County's "Bay Point Enhanced Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements Study. Renee Fernandez-Lipp seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.
- 8.6** Consider Executive Director signing Letter of Support for East Bay Regional Parks District's application to the Department of Conservation Climate Smart Land Management Grant Program to fund an East Bay Stewardship Network (EBSN) Coordinator position. Chris Lim described the intent of the Stewardship Network and listed partners that would be included. Following this discussion, Renee Fernandez-Lipp made a motion authorizing the Executive Director signing the Letter of Support for East Bay Regional Parks District application. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.
- 8.7** Consider Executive Director signing Letter of Support for Department of Water Resources for the Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project to the Bureau of Reclamation's Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program. Chris Lim briefly reminded the Board of the restoration project underway at Dutch Slough and stated that this grant would enable the continuation of that project. Renee Fernandez-Lipp voiced her concerns about using herbicide for weed management. Following a discussion on alternate methods of weed management, Bethallyn Black made a motion authorizing the Executive Director signing the Letter of Support for DWR in the Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0 with Renee Fernandez-Lipp abstaining.
- 8.8** Consider Executive Director signing Letter of Support for Pittsburg Unified School District's Edible Garden program for Kids Gardening grant program. Following Chris Lim describing the project,

clarifying the location and stating his desire for additional projects, Renee Fernandez-Lipp made a motion to approve the Executive Director signing the Letter of Support for Pittsburg Unified District's Edible Garden program. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.

**8.9** Consider Executive Director signing Letter of Support for Earth Team's project proposal to fund water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, and community engagement in the Marsh Creek Watershed to the Rose Foundation's CA Watershed Protection grant. Chris Lim described the grant's purpose and listed the partners involved. Renee Fernandez-Lipp reiterated her concern with weed management techniques. Following Ben Weise's reassurance that due to timing and the use of students, no herbicides will be used in this project, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve the Executive Director signing the Letter of Support for Earth Team's water quality project. Renee Fernandez-Lipp seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.

**8.10** Approve Policy #2135--Procurement for Construction Projects. Chris Lim described the need for updating this policy due to an upcoming project requiring bid solicitation. Patty Pell explained the related required government codes. Following a brief discussion on modifying this policy to include preferential weed management techniques and environmentally preferential purchases, a recommendation was made to include language specifying these requirements in this policy. Following this discussion, Igor Skaredoff made a motion to approve Policy #2135 Procurement for Construction Projects as written with a revised edition to be presented at the next Board meeting. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.

### **DISCUSSION:**

**9.1** Moved to beginning of meeting.

**9.2** Discussion of interested members being nominating to the CSDA Board. Renee Fernandez-Lipp expressed her interest in the position. It was decided that Patty Pell would send Renee Fernandez-Lipp the information on the open position, the schedule of the nominating process and the nomination form to submit. Patty Pell will work with Renee Fernandez-Lipp on a Resolution nominating her to the CSDA board and bring it for approval at the next Board meeting.

### **REPORTS:**

**10.1** President Reports— Walter Pease reminded the Board of the various compliance requirements.

**10.2** Directors' Reports – Igor Skaredoff reported on the research he had done with the county regarding the RCD's interest in purchasing an electric truck. Igor Skaredoff ended by noting he attended the Martinez Mural dedication and complimented Victoria Woolfolk, RCD Watershed Coordinator, on her presentation.

Bethallyn Black mentioned that the first plant sale at DVC is this weekend, from 3:00-6:00 Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 9:00-1:00 Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**10.3** Staff Reports— Although, there were no questions, the Board expressed their continual support for the reports.

**10.4** Executive Director Reports –Chris Lim updated the Board on staff, starting dates for the new employees and mentioned that Juls Mackey was promoted. Chris Lim finished by mentioning that he applied for two Climate Action members through Americorp.

Walter Pease adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

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