

Alameda County Resource Conservation District
... Making Conservation Happen

RCD BOARD MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AND AGENDA

Location:

District Office, 3585 Greenville Rd., Livermore, CA

Monday, July 20, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.

A light supper will be served at 6:00 pm. Guests are encouraged to RSVP by 11am on Monday if attending supper. (925) 371-0154 ext. 111

Materials provided to the Board will be available at the RCD office Monday morning.

CALL TO ORDER and PRELIMINARY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER and FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL OF THE DIRECTORS

Paul Banke, President; Directors Becky Dennis, Tim Koopmann, Rod Tripp, Brenda Vieux

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & STAFF

Terry Huff, Pete Van Hoorn, Marilyn Harvey, Leslie Koenig, Karen Sweet

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion	The Board adopts the Agenda.
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APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTH'S BOARD MEETING MINUTES. *Written Minutes*

Staff Recommendation	The Board accepts the Minutes of the June 15, 2009 Board meeting.
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PUBLIC COMMENTS

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

CONSENT CALENDAR – Items for action without discussion unless requested for separate discussion by Director or member of the Public or staff

1. Authorization to develop grants and contracts
 - a. County of Alameda. Seeking approval to proceed with County negotiations for renewed funding for Contract #856 (see project report).
 - i. Watershed Adventures - the FY 2010 program
 - ii. Alameda County Watershed Forum coordination tasks
2. Authorization to execute grants and contracts.
 - a. Extend County Contract # 1464 Task 5A subcontract with consultant Michelle LeBeau to December 31, 2009.
 - b. Extend revised contract with County of Alameda to administer Alameda County Partnership for Land Conservation and Stewardship (PLCS) until March 31, 2013.
 - c. Accept Conservation Committee's execution of SFPUC Task Order to fund PLCS

Staff Recommendation	The Board approves the recommendations contained in the Consent Calendar.
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REGULAR CALENDAR

STAFF PRESENTATION: SFPUC Rangeland Monitoring Project – Pete Van Hoorn

PARTNERSHIP OPERATIONS

3. **FINANCE COMMITTEE Report and Recommendations** - Brenda Vieux and Becky Dennis

a. June Financial Reports. *Written Reports*

The Committee recommends acceptance of the Committee Report and financial reports.

Committee Recommendation	The Board accepts the Finance Committee's meeting summary and financial reports.
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b. Presentation of FY '10 Budget for approval, continued from June 15 meeting

The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2010 Budget and Resolution 2010-7-1.

Committee Recommendation	The Board accepts the Finance Committee's recommendation to adopt Resolution 2010-7 to adopt the FY2010 Budget.
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c. Other

4. **Strategic Planning Workshop.** Set September date.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

EDUCATION and OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT - Becky Dennis and Tim Koopmann

6. Committee Report and Recommendations. *Written Report*

Committee Recommendation	The Board accepts the Education and Outreach Committee's meeting summary and recommendations.
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7. **August 20 Work Group Meeting.** Confirmation of attendance; Directors' role

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT. Brenda Vieux and Paul Banke

8. a. Committee Report and Recommendations. *Written Report*

Committee Recommendation	The Board accepts the Conservation Committee's report.
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9. NEW BUSINESS since the Committee meeting.

a. CCPI (NRCS) grant: \$500,000 (5 yrs) to apply WHIP to So. Alameda Creek Watershed (See Project Report)

Staff Recommendation	The Board authorizes execution of the Conservation Committee's report.
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SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE. Mark Swisher and Rod Tripp

10. Mark Swisher has accepted committee chairmanship.

11. ARROYO DE LA LAGUNA PROJECT(S). Terry Huff

a. Status Report.

12. SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES PROJECTS. Terry Huff

a. Status Report. Received notice to proceed for Task Order 6 for Arroyo Riparian Restoration Project ("Arroyo 2").

13. Sycamore Grove. Staff Direction requested concerning plant material

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP TEAM REPORTS. Information only; no action

14. **MONTHLY TEAM REPORT.** *Written Report.*
a. Vieux Ranch Staff Meeting. Comments

15. **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

- a. President, Paul Banke
b. NRCS District Conservationist, Terry Huff
c. Executive Officer, Karen Sweet.

16. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS, REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEM SUGGESTIONS**

CLOSED SESSION

17. SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9)(One case)
18. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Government Code Section 54957(b))
(Title: Executive Officer)

RE-OPEN MEETING AND REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 18	Next Board Meeting
July 21	Rangelands Conservation Ice Cream Social, 6:30 p.m. (Kiefer)
July 28	PLCS Advisory Board, 9:30 a.m. (Sweet)
TBD	Education and Outreach Committee (Evans, Kiefer)
TBD	Finance Committee (Harvey)
TBD	Special Committee (Huff)
August 5	Personnel Committee, 7:30 a.m., Sunol (Sweet)
August 6	Conservation Committee, 4:00 p.m. (Anima)
August 22	Local Work Group Meeting & Conservation Mixer (Kiefer)
December 13-16	Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative National Conference, Reno

ADJOURNMENT Time:

Alameda County Resource Conservation District

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RCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES - *DRAFT*

Location:

District Office, 3585 Greenville Rd., Livermore, CA

Monday, July 20, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER and PRELIMINARY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER and FLAG SALUTE. President Banke called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF THE DIRECTORS

Roll call noted Directors present: Paul Banke, President; Directors Becky Dennis, Tim Koopmann, Rod Tripp; and Director Brenda Vieux excused.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & STAFF: Terry Huff, Pete Van Hoorn, Marilyn Harvey, Andrea Weddle, Karen Sweet. There were no guests.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion	The Board adopts the Agenda by unanimous consent, as moved by Director (Dir.) Dennis and seconded by Dir. Tripp.
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APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTH'S BOARD MEETING MINUTES. *Written Minutes*

Staff Recommendation	The Board unanimously accepts the Minutes of the June 15, 2009 Board meeting, as moved by Dir. Koopmann and seconded by Dir. Dennis.
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PUBLIC COMMENTS. None

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

CONSENT CALENDAR – Items for action without discussion unless requested for separate discussion by Director or member of the Public or staff

1. Authorization to develop grants and contracts
 - a. County of Alameda. Seeking approval to proceed with County negotiations for renewed funding for Contract #856 (see project report).
 - i. Watershed Adventures - the FY 2010 program
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2. Authorization to execute grants and contracts.
 - a. Extend County Contract # 1464 Task 5A subcontract with consultant Michelle LeBeau to December 31, 2009.
 - b. Extend revised contract with County of Alameda to administer Alameda County Partnership for Land Conservation and Stewardship (PLCS) until March 31, 2013.
 - c. Accept Conservation Committee's execution of SFPUC Task Order to fund PLCS

The Board approves the recommendations contained in the Consent Calendar. On the motion moved by Dir. Dennis and seconded by Dir. Tripp, the motion passed with 3 Ayes, 0 Noes, and Dir. Koopmann abstained.
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REGULAR CALENDAR

STAFF PRESENTATION: SFPUC Rangeland Monitoring Project – Pete Van Hoorn. Pete described this project with explanations, photos and diagrams and answered questions. He gave a brief overview of the techniques used and why, how the work was done quickly before the growing season ended, and what the initial results were. Terry Huff noted the monitoring team’s excellent plant identification expertise. The Board expressed interest in providing a workshop on plant identification and RDM estimation for ranchers and land managers, particularly tenants and managers of public lands.

PARTNERSHIP OPERATIONS

3. **FINANCE COMMITTEE Report and Recommendations** - Brenda Vieux and Becky Dennis

a. June Financial Reports. *Written Reports*

Marilyn Harvey reviewed the financial reports. President Banke expressed his appreciation for the detailed information. He encouraged staff to continue reviewing the billing rate and other factors so as to increase net income and to increase retained earnings.

Committee Recommendation	The Board unanimously accepts the Finance Committee’s financial reports as moved by Dir. Koopmann and seconded by Dir. Tripp.
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b. Presentation of FY '10 Budget for approval, continued from June 15 meeting.

The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2010 Budget and Resolution 2010-7-1. The Board directs staff to provide a mid-year budget review and adjustment as needed. Other discussion included means to increase our revenue margin to 6-10% of the budget. Karen noted that since the budget was prepared in May, 2-3 more SFPUC task orders have been approved which aren’t reflected in the budget. Revenue is also dependent upon clients’ timelines and other constraints. Dir. Tripp applauded the staff’s budget preparation and its flexibility to react to change as needed during the upcoming year.

Committee Recommendation	The Board unanimously accepts the Finance Committee’s recommendation to adopt Resolution 2010-7 to adopt the FY2010 Budget, upon motion by Dir. Tripp and second by Dir. Dennis.
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4. **Strategic Planning Workshop.** The Board confirmed the workshop will be held Saturday, August 15 at 1:00 p.m.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE.** Each member received: CSDA board election – campaign material; Sierra Club Yodeler newsletter.

EDUCATION and OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT - Becky Dennis and Tim Koopmann

6. Committee Report and Recommendations. *Written Report.* The committee’s report was acknowledged and there was no action.

7. **August 20 Work Group Meeting.** Karen Sweet explained that this year’s Work Group will combine agency representatives with landowners, as allowed by Congress. The discussion will provide program direction to Partnership staff, particularly NRCS. Directors Koopmann, Dennis and Tripp confirmed their attendance. Dir. Koopmann also confirmed his donation of barbecued tri-tip, and Dir. Dennis offered to contribute help as needed.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT. Brenda Vieux and Paul Banke

8. a. Committee Report and Recommendations. *Written Report.* President Banke briefly reviewed the meeting, noting the valuable participation of committee members Castello and Fletcher. He appreciates the project updates from staff.

There was a brief discussion about various conservation easements and conservation planning issues. He presented copies of a well-written 2003 report, *Compensating*

Landowners for Conserving Agricultural Land, edited by A. Sokolow, and recommended each person read it for its insights. Dir. Banke also restated his encouragement for more one-on-one easement consultation and for outreach to absentee landowners. He asked that another draft document, *An Agriculture-Compatible Conservation Easement* shared by Agricultural – Natural Resources Trust of Contra Costa County be entered into the record and that it be reviewed at a future time.

Dir. Tripp inquired about NRCS' role in the future of the Partnership's permit coordination program. Terry Huff briefly commented that the NRCS is working on a regional Biological Opinion, but that it is a complex issue that remains unresolved.

Committee Recommendation	The Board unanimously accepts the Conservation Committee's report, as moved by Dir. Tripp and seconded by Dir. Dennis.
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9. NEW BUSINESS since the Committee meeting.

- a. CCPI (NRCS) grant: \$500,000 (5 yrs) to apply WHIP to So. Alameda Creek Watershed (See Project Report). Karen Sweet, Pete Van Hoorn and Terry Huff explained the relationship of this grant to provide Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program cost-share funding for private landowners in the Southern Alameda Creek Watershed with the landowner outreach contract with SFPUC. The SFPUC task order is the grant's match and provides the RCD staff funding to provide outreach to landowners that will result in CCPI contracts. This year's allocation is \$132,000 and must be bound in contracts by mid-August, which is the reason for this quick contract turn-around. Andrea Weddle recommended that staff work to formally secure the SFPUC's commitment to providing enough match for the term of the CCPI grant.

Staff Recommendation	The Board unanimously authorizes execution of the NRCS Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative cooperative agreement, subject to review of counsel and contingent on match. The motion was moved by Dir. Dennis and seconded by Dir. Tripp.
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SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE. Rod Tripp

- 10. Mark Swisher has accepted committee chairmanship and expects to attend the Board meetings. The first meeting will be in August.
- 11. ARROYO DE LA LAGUNA PROJECT(S). Terry Huff
 - a. Status Report on restoration projects
 - i. Congressional (Earmark 1). Staff has met with agencies and the NRCS national architect. NRCS will be able to contract RCD to perform various assignments.
 - ii. Earmark 2. This earmark is contained in the current appropriations bill, which should soon be approved.
 - iii. SFPUC mitigation. Staff has met with agencies and toured them in the Arroyo, resulting in approval for pre-project permitting. This allows the partners to better plan the full stream reach with consideration for the other Arroyo project opportunities.
- 12. SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES PROJECTS. Terry Huff
 - a. Status Report. Staff received notice to proceed for Task Order 6 for Arroyo Riparian Restoration Project ("Arroyo 2").
- 13. Sycamore Grove. There is surplus plant material remaining from the project.

Committee Recommendation	The Board unanimously authorized staff to negotiate transfer of surplus plant material as priced, as moved by Dir. Tripp and seconded by Dir. Dennis.
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CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP TEAM REPORTS. Information only; no action

- 14. **MONTHLY TEAM REPORT.** *Written Report.*
 - a. Vieux Ranch Staff Meeting. Participants expressed their very positive comments about these off-site staff meetings hosted and attended by board member(s). Dir. Tripp will plan a late September one at EBMUD.

- 15. **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**
 - a. President, Paul Banke. None
 - b. NRCS District Conservationist. Terry Huff noted that his staff is fully booked with Farm Bill contract work.
 - c. Executive Officer, Karen Sweet. None

- 16. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS, REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEM SUGGESTIONS**
None

CLOSED SESSION

- 17. SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9)(One case)

- 18. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Government Code Section 54957(b))
(Title: Executive Officer)

RE-OPEN MEETING AND REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

President Banke reported there was no report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 17	Next Board Meeting
July 21	Rangelands Conservation Ice Cream Social, 6:30 p.m. (Kiefer)
July 28	PLCS Advisory Board, 9:30 a.m. (Sweet)
TBD	Education and Outreach Committee (Evans, Kiefer)
TBD	Finance Committee (Harvey)
TBD	Special Committee (Huff)
August 5	Personnel Committee, 7:30 a.m., Sunol (Sweet)
August 6	Conservation Committee, 4:00 p.m. (Anima)
August 22	Local Work Group Meeting & Conservation Mixer (Kiefer)
December 13-16	Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative National Conference, Reno

ADJOURNMENT Time: 10:20 p.m.

Approval verification: _____