



MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Location: Finley Community Center, 2060 W. College Ave., Santa Rosa, CA, Manzanita Room
Date: Monday, January 14th, 2013 at 12:00 p.m.

- I. **Call to Order:** Director Friedrichsen called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.
- II. **Introductions:** Directors present: Delmar Friedrichsen, Tom Scott, Tish Ward, Garry Mahrt and Vickie Mulas (via telephone). RCD staff: Kara Heckert, Becky Tillman, Alicia Moss, Jason Sweeney. Other attendees: Board Directors from Sotoyome RCD: Earle Cummings, Walt Ryan (left at 1:25), Ron Rolleri, Dennis Murphy, Steve Thomas; Sotoyome RCD staff: Valerie Minton, Andy Casarez, Francesca Innocenti, Playalina Nelson, Kevin Cullinen and Kari Wester.
- III. **Public Comment:** No public comment.
- IV. **Discussion/Action Items:**
 - A. **Presentation of background of the Sotoyome and Southern Sonoma County RCDs:**

Kara Heckert gave a brief presentation on the history, land area, and programs of each district.
 - B. **Discussion of staff perspectives** (originally Item C, moved up at the consent of all directors present):

Staff of both Southern Sonoma County and Sotoyome RCDs voiced perspectives on how a merge would improve service to landowners, ability to secure funding for RCD projects and programs, and answered directors' questions regarding these and administrative issues.
 - C. **Discussion of Director perspectives on merging the two districts:**

Directors of both Sotoyome and Southern Sonoma County RCDs voiced perspectives on increasing district strength, retaining each RCD's core philosophies and programs, continuing and expanding landowner services, increasing efficiency and avoiding duplication of staff, strengthening ability to secure grant funding, challenges of expanding Director expertise to cover a wider area, administrative requirements of a merge. Directors discussed the feasibility of continued partnership vs. merging, and expressed interest in collecting landowner feedback before moving forward with a merge.
 - D. **Discussion of next steps:**

Director Mahrt motioned to continue to investigate and pursue a merge of the two districts; Director Ward seconded. Approved, 5 ayes.

Directors of both Sotoyome and Southern Sonoma County RCDs agreed by consent that each Board would independently compile a list of further information needed from the other RCD and would deliver those lists within 30 days. They also agreed that the Executive Committees of each Board could communicate between Board meetings to facilitate continued progress.
- V. **Adjournment: 1:50 pm**