



Minutes of the Board Meeting

December 14, 2017

1221 Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

North Wing Conference Room, Suite 400

707.569.1448

1. **Call to order, Determination of a Quorum, Introductions:** Board Chair Walt Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.
Directors Present: Walt Ryan, Dennis Murphy, Ron Rolleri, Vickie Mulas, Bruce Abelli-Amen
Directors Absent: Jennifer Kuszmar, John Nagle
Associate Directors present: Earle Cummings
Associate Directors absent: None
Staff present: Valerie Quinto, Adrienne Pettit, Kari Wester, Justin Bodell
Others present: Brittany Jensen and Sierra Cantor (Gold Ridge RCD), Bev Bartels (attorney)
2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** None.
3. **Consent Calendar:** Motion to approve consent calendar. M: Murphy, 2nd: Mulas. Motion passed, 5 ayes.
4. **Public Comment:** No public comment was made.
5. **Informational Items**
 - A. **NRCS updates:** Executive Director Quinto provided a report in absence of NRCS staff. Director Mulas provided a report on the FSA meeting.
6. **Action Items**
 - A. **Direction to staff on providing conservation services to cannabis producers.** Executive Director Quinto and Bev Bartels presented on this item. Discussion was had on the legality of offering conservation assistance to cannabis growers and on concerns and questions of Directors regarding needing more information. Executive Director Quinto will check in with other north coast RCDs to see how they are handling this issue, and Director of Finance Pettit will check in with our insurance company regarding any liability concerns they may have about working with cannabis growers. Motion to continue to conduct research to address the Directors questions and concerns, pursue a joint meeting with the Gold Ridge RCD Board and to continue to towards a policy on cannabis assistance M: Mulas, 2nd: Murphy. Motion passed, 5 ayes.
 - B. **Accept 2016-2017 Audited Financial Statements (On-hand).** Director Murphy and Director of Finance Pettit presented the item. Motion to accept the 2016-2017 Audited Financial Statements M: Abelli-Amen 2nd: Rolleri. Motion passed, 5 ayes.
 - C. **Adopt Cost Allocation Policy.** Director of Finance Pettit presented the item. Motion to accept the cost allocation policy M: Mulas 2nd: Abelli-Amen. Motion passed, 5 ayes.

- D. **Update on Agricultural Education Endowment Fund and delegation of future investment strategy recommendations to a subcommittee of the Board.** Director of Finance Pettit and Director Murphy presented the item. Motion to delegate future investment strategy recommendations to the Executive Committee. M: Murphy 2nd: Rolleri. Motion passed, 5 ayes.
- E. **Discuss and potentially change regular Board Meeting time.** Director Murphy presented on this item. Motion to change the next Board meeting start time to 10am, M: Rolleri, 2nd: Abelli-Amen. Motion passed, 5 ayes.

7. Update Items

- A. **GSA Fundraising Committee Update.** The Committee provided an update on next steps and asked if anyone had new ideas for foundational giving to let Director Murphy, Director Nagle or Executive Director Quinto know of them.
 - B. **GSA updates.** Director Abelli-Amen provided an update on the Petaluma Valley GSA, Director Mulas provided an update on the Sonoma Valley GSA and Director Ryan provided an update on the Santa Rosa Plain GSA.
 - C. **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, October Meeting-** Director Ryan presented minutes from this meeting.
 - D. **Board Development Committee –** No meeting occurred. Executive Director Quinto mentioned that she has a meeting scheduled next week with a potential associate director.
 - E. **CARCD Annual Meeting Updates.** Director Rolleri and Executive Director Quinto provided updates on this meeting.
 - F. **Director Updates:** Director Murphy brought up an upcoming water meter installation certification training by UCCE. Executive Director Quinto will follow up with Stephanie Larson at UCCE regarding any assistance being provided by our local office on this topic. Director Abelli-Amen mentioned a meeting with former Executive Director Heckert on her new job with the American Farmland Trust.
 - G. **Executive Director Updates.** Executive Director Quinto provided updates.
8. **Future Agenda Items.** Executive Director Quinto will give an update to the Board on follow up to their questions during the cannabis discussion at the January Board meeting.
9. **Adjournment** Motion to adjourn, M: Murphy, 2nd: Rolleri. Motion passed, 5 ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.