



Minutes of the Board Meeting

May 28, 2020

Meeting was held remotely via Zoom

1. **Call to order, Determination of a Quorum, Introductions:** Board Chair Abelli-Amen called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.
Directors Present: John Nagle, Ron Rolleri, Dennis Murphy, Vickie Mulas, Bruce Abelli-Amen and Jennifer Kuszmar
Directors Absent: Walt Ryan
Emeritus Directors present: None
Associate Directors present: Ariana Reguzzoni
Staff present: Valerie Quinto, Adrienne Pettit, Erica Mikesh, Kevin Cullinen, Shannon Drew
Others present: Nick Goodman (NRCS), Oona Heacock (Conservation Works), Makayla Freed (Conservation Works), Beth Bruzzone (public), Roberta MacIntyre (FireSafe Sonoma)
2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** None.
3. **Consent Calendar:** Motion to approve consent calendar. M: Kuszmar, 2nd: Mulas. Motion passed, 6 ayes.
4. **Public Comment:** None.
5. **Information Items**
 - A. **NRCS Report:** Nick Goodman provided a report. 5 new employees are starting at NRCS this summer. Conservation Stewardship Program is accepting applications from landowners. The strategic plan outlining future goals for NRCS is finished. The board asked questions and discussed with Nick.
 - B. **Conservation Works Update:** Oona Heacock gave an update on the current projects being undertaken by Conservation Works. Youth Corps Intern Conservationist Makayla Freed provided a presentation of results of her research on engagement of youth and underserved communities in sustainable agriculture.
6. **Action Items**
 - A. **Acceptance of Quarterly Financial Report.** Adrienne Pettit presented this item. Some main themes of the presentation were cash flow and the inability of the organization to grow reserves due to unforeseen and costly events. The board asked questions and discussed. Motion to accept M: Murphy 2nd: Mulas. Motion passed, 6 ayes.
 - B. **Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report** Adrienne Pettit presented on this item. The board asked questions and discussed. Motion to accept M: Mulas. 2nd: Kuszmar. Motion passed, 6 ayes.
7. **Update Items**

- A. **GSA Updates.** Executive Director Quinto provided updates on the staff level. The GSAs are working to hire consultants to help engage rural residents. The board discussed.
- B. **Executive Committee.** No meeting was held, but committee members mentioned that correspondence has occurred over email to conduct vital functions of the committee.
- C. **Board Development Committee.** No meeting was held.
- D. **Director Updates.** Director Nagle shared about a research project he has been following on vineyard water balance as it relates to groundwater. Director Murphy reported on a North Coast Water Users meeting regarding the Potter Valley Project. The group discussed the recent North Coast Area Meeting.
- E. **Executive Director & Other Staff Updates.** Executive Director Quinto provided updates, mentioning that she is in the process of writing a procedure for an eventual return of staff to the RCD office during/following shelter-in-place due to COVID-19. Directors commented and suggested considerations for developing this approach. Executive Director Quinto is also planning to advocate for RCDs to qualify for COVID-19 financial relief. Lastly, the CARCD annual conference will be remote/virtual this year.

8. Future Agenda Items.

- RCD involvement in Potter Valley Project
- Request for a staff update about what action the RCD is pursuing together with the statewide monarch butterfly habitat project.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 AM.