



## Minutes of the Board Meeting

December 17, 2020

Meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

1. **Call to order, Determination of a Quorum, Introductions:** Vice Board Chair Nagle called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Directors Present: Jennifer Kuszmar, Dennis Murphy, Ron Roller, John Nagle, Vickie Mulas, Ariana Reguzzoni (joined on presentation of item 6A)

Associate Directors Present: Beth Bruzzone

Staff Present: Valerie Quinto, Adrienne Pettit, Shannon Drew, Kari Wester, Jacob McDaniel, Katie Robbins, Jessica Pollitz

Others Present: Chris Howington (NRCS), Taj Hittenberger (NRCS/Point Blue)

2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda** Move item 6A and 6B before the NRCS Report.
3. **Consent Calendar:** Approval of December Board meeting agenda, October Board meeting minutes, September Monthly Transactions for Board Review. Motion to approve Consent Calendar M: Roller, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kuszmar. Motion Passed, 5 ayes.

4. **Public Comment:** None.

### 5. Information Items

**NRCS Report.** Chris Howington provided an NRCS Report. NRCS has a new tribal intern with the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians. She shadows NRCS on field visits. NRCS is working on tribal partnerships and providing TA to tribes to help however they can. NRCS has a 2020 Post Fire emergency funding program which can be used for things like erosion control and hazard tree removal. This program works similarly to EQIP, but the process is more streamlined because of the emergency nature of the work. This disaster fund pool has about \$4 million statewide, and will be funding project submissions until Dec. 31. There may be an extension. There are still a lot of funds left. The contact for folks who want to apply is Drew Loganbill. There are no limitations based on acreage or land use type.

Taj Hittenberger, a recently hired Partner Biologist, introduced himself to the board. He does planning work for NRCS, and for Point Blue he does monitoring with the rangeland monitoring network. His work for Point Blue includes soil health surveys, veg monitoring, and bird surveys, and providing analyses of findings for producers to inform their management in terms of soil health, water health, and wildlife habitat.

### 6. Action Items

- A. **Presentation and acceptance of 2019-20 Audited Financial Statements.** The Executive Committee and Adrienne Pettit presented this item. Adrienne Pettit reviewed the financial

reports prepared by the auditor, explained the meaning of these three reports, and answered questions from the board. There were no findings by the auditor. Motion to accept M: Rolleri, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mulas. Motion passed, 6 ayes.

- B. Acceptance of FY20-21 Q1 Financial Report.** Adrienne Pettit presented the financial report and answered questions. Motion to accept M: Rolleri, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mulas. Motion passed, 6 ayes.
- C. Acceptance of FY20-21 Q1 Investment Report.** Adrienne Pettit presented the investment report and answered questions from the board. Motion to accept M: Kuszmar, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rolleri. Motion passed, 6 ayes.
- D. Consider appointment of Dennis Murphy as Associate Director.** The Board Development Committee presented this item. Valerie presented a Gold Resolution from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors recognizing Dennis Murphy's extensive and important contributions to his community, including at the RCD, where he has given 22 years of volunteer service on the board. Dennis will now be serving on the board as an Associate Director. Motion to appoint Dennis to Associate Director M: Rolleri, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Nagle. Motion passed, 6 ayes.
- E. Discuss Chair & Vice Chair elections to be held in January 2021, Director interest in these roles.** The board discussed the future roles of Board Chair and Vice Chair.

## 7. Update Items

### A. GSA Updates (GSA Directors & Alternates)

Sonoma Valley GSA Update: Director Mulas said the next meeting is scheduled for January. Director Mulas asked for input and advice about how to fairly represent the RCD in discussions of water rights and charges for agricultural landowners within the GSA meetings. The group discussed this subject, and it was decided that Vice Chair Nagle will also take time to discuss this issue separately with Director Mulas. Many within the board agreed that it is important to have this discussion and make sure agricultural voices are being heard and represented.

- B. Executive Committee – notes from December 14, 2020 meeting (to be emailed prior to board meeting)** The last executive committee was focused on the audited financial statements presented in this meeting.
- C. Board Development Committee – no meeting was held.**
- D. Strategic Planning Committee – notes from November 19, 2020 meeting.** The strategic planning survey is live online, and waiting to collect responses before the end of the year.
- E. Technology Committee – notes from November 17, 2020 meeting + charter.**
- F. Director Updates** Director Murphy shared that the upper Russian River Landowners group has been meeting and discussing the Potter Valley Project. Dennis suggested the RCD might apply to a grant funding source to oversee environmental studies related to the Potter Valley Project. Director Nagle gave an update about the upcoming waste discharge permits. SWRCB is imposing new regulations on winery wastewater systems surrounding nutrients and groundwater monitoring systems near places where wastewater is applied to the ground surface. He suggested that there is potential that new groundwater monitoring wells will be required to be built across the state after this regulation is put in place.

### **G. Executive Director & Other Staff Updates**

Valerie Quinto provided updates. Wendi Asuncion has been hired as a permanent Staff Accountant.

Adrienne and Valerie are seeking to hire an Office Assistant to begin in early 2021.

Monthly RCD E-News with annual report will be coming out this afternoon.

### **8. Future Agenda Items**

In January, Executive Director Quinto and the board will reevaluate Directors' memberships in various committees and ensure all committee members are participating in groups they are most interested in. Also to be discussed in January are the Board Chair and Vice Chair appointments for 2021.

### **9. Adjournment.** Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.