



## **Minutes of the Board Meeting**

**May 27, 2021**

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 10:02 AM.

Directors Present: Bruce Abelli-Amen, Ron Rolleri, Vickie Mulas, Ariana Reguzzoni, Jennifer Kuszmar (joined meeting at 10:35 am)

Associate & Emeritus Directors Present: Beth Bruzzone, Dennis Murphy

Staff Present: Valerie Quinto, Adrienne Pettit, Christine Kuehn, Jessica Pollitz, Anya Starovoytov, Katie Robbins, Kristopher Ballard

Others Present: Joe Thiel (NRCS), Sam Boland-Brien (SWRCB)

- 2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Move Action items 6A, 6B, and 6C before the NRCS Report.
- 3. Consent Calendar:** Motion to Approve May Board meeting agenda, March Regular Board Meeting and Special Board Meeting minutes, February Financial Report, and February & March Monthly Transactions for Board Review, M: Rolleri, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mulas. Motion passes, 4 ayes (Director Kuszmar was absent for this item, Directors Mulas and Rolleri abstained from voting on the March Special Board Meeting minutes).
- 4. Public Comment:** None
- 5. Information Items:**
  - A. State Water Resources Control Board Drought Updates.** SWRCB staff Sam Boland-Brien provided drought updates to the Board. Storage levels in Lake Mendocino are critically low, triggering letters sent to water right holders in the upper Russian River watershed, and the drafting of emergency regulations. Those regulations will also include the lower Russian River, though thresholds for curtailments and other actions will be based on Lake Sonoma storage levels, not Lake Mendocino. Valerie will email the Board written information from the State Board on this topic.
  - B. NRCS Report.** NRCS Forrester Joe Thiel provided an NRCS Report. The NRCS state office is looking at options for providing drought assistance and waiting for input from the national office. The next EQIP deadline for funding consideration is June 9, 2021. There is a job opening for an archaeologist position at NRCS Petaluma. The deadline to apply is June 15, 2021.
  - C. Construction Season Preview.** Sonoma RCD staff Anya Starovoytov provided updates on upcoming construction projects for riparian enhancement, culvert replacements, rural road treatments, rainwater storage, and control of vegetation with goats through grazing. Executive Director Quinto provided updates on three grant proposals recently submitted to the County by Sonoma RCD to secure PG&E settlement funds to be used for vegetation management, work that if funded would also begin this summer.

**6. Action Items:**

- A. Acceptance of FY20-21 Q3 Staff Report.** Executive Director Quinto presented this item. Motion to accept FY20-21 Q3 Staff Report, M: Rolleri, 2nd: Mulas. Motion passes, 5 ayes.
- B. Acceptance of FY20-21 Q3 Financial Report.** Adrienne Pettit presented this item and answered questions from the Board. Report highlights included updates on the organization's fund balances, operating reserves, and revenues/expenditures. Motion to accept FY20-21 Q3 Financial Report, M: Kuszmar, 2nd: Mulas. Motion passes, 5 ayes.
- C. Acceptance of FY20-21 Q3 Investment Report.** Adrienne Pettit presented this item and answered questions from the Board. An updated Investment Policy will be presented for Board approval at the June Board Meeting. The RCD's three remaining municipal bonds will likely be called in the beginning of the next fiscal year. Investment options for the funds will be reviewed and presented to the Executive Committee. Motion to accept FY20-21 Q3 Investment Report, M: Kuszmar, 2nd: Mulas. Motion passes, 5 ayes.

**7. Update Items:**

- A. GSA Updates.** Director Abelli-Amen provided GSA updates and reported that the Sonoma County Farm Bureau is interested in establishing a new subgroup of GSA Board and Advisory Committee members to meet and discuss agricultural issues. Director Mulas expressed her concern that the GSA is too focused on determining rates to charge residents and not considering ways to repay rural residents for their contributions.
- B. Executive Committee – notes from May 13, 2021 meeting.** No further updates.
- C. Board Development Committee – no meeting was held.**
- D. Strategic Planning Committee – notes from May 6, 2021 meeting.** No further updates.
- E. Technology Committee – notes from March 30, 2021 and April 20, 2021 meetings.** Executive Director Quinto reported that the committee is making progress on the draft report.
- F. Director Updates.** Associate Director Murphy reported that Sonoma RCD will likely be asked to participate in upcoming stream bank restoration projects.
- G. Executive Director & Other Staff Updates.** Executive Director Quinto provided updates from her written report to the Board and reported that local Assembly Member Cecilia M. Aguilar-Curry has submitted a budget request for five million dollars a year in RCD funding for each of the next two years.

**8. Future Agenda Items:** See Agenda Item 6C.

**9. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

*Materials related to items on this agenda, included in the agenda packet or distributed to the Board after distribution of the agenda packet, are available for public inspection at 1221 Farmers Lane, Suite F, Santa Rosa, CA, 95405, by appointment (the office is not operating with normal business hours due to COVID-19). To request board packet information, please contact Valerie Quinto at (707) 569-1448 ext. 102.*

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**RCD Board:**

**Bruce Abelli-Amen, *Chair***

**Walt Ryan, *Director***

**Vickie Mulas, *Director***

**Ariana Reguzzoni, *Director***

**Dennis Murphy, *Associate Director***

**Earle Cummings, *Emeritus Director***

**John Nagle, *Vice Chair***

**Jennifer Kuszmar, *Director***

**Ron Rolleri, *Director***

**Beth Bruzzone, *Associate Director***

**Delmar Friedrichsen, *Emeritus Director***

**RCD Staff:**

**Valerie Quinto, *Executive Director***

**Christine Kuehn, *Education & Communications Manager***

**Erica Mikesh, *Partner Engineer***

**Keith Abeles, *Soil & Water Specialist***

**Kevin Cullinen, *Project Manager***

**Katie Robbins, *Project Manager***

**Wendi Asuncion, *Staff Accountant***

**Jacob McDaniel, *GrizzlyCorps Fellow***

**Adrienne Pettit, *Director of Finance***

**Aaron Fairbrook, *Program Manager***

**Jessica Pollitz, *Engineer***

**Jason Wells, *Forester***

**Kari Wester, *Project Manager***

**Anya Starovoytov, *Project Manager***

**Shannon Drew, *Program Assistant***

**Kristopher Ballard, *Office Assistant***

