



Minutes of the Board Meeting

July 22, 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 10:36 AM.
 Directors Present: John Nagle, Ron Rolleri, Bruce Abelli-Amen, Jennifer Kuszmar
 Associate & Emeritus Directors Present: Earle Cummings, Beth Bruzzone, Dennis Murphy
 Staff Present: Valerie Quinto, Adrienne Pettit, Kristopher Ballard
 Others Present: Chris Howington (NRCS)
2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** None.
3. **Consent Calendar:** Approval of July Board meeting agenda, June Board Meeting minutes, May Financial Report, and May Monthly Transactions for Board Review (*Valerie Quinto, Adrienne Pettit*)
 Motion to approve consent calendar M: Nagle, 2nd: Kuszmar. Motion passes, 4 ayes.
4. **Public Comment:** None.
5. **Information Items:**
 - A. **NRCS Report.** NRCS soil conservationist Chris Howington provided the report. The Petaluma office will be hiring an archeologist to assist in streamlining cultural resource processes for applicants in the counties of Marin, Napa, and Sonoma. There will also be a desk available in the Petaluma office for use by RCD staff. NRCS is currently working to meet numerous requests for drought assistance in the form of water resources for livestock. This includes installation of water systems to better utilize pasture spaces. Valerie Quinto shared that the NRCS state office has expressed interest in cooperating on the cleaning of ponds to increase water supplies and enhance wildlife habitats. Mr. Howington answered questions from the Board regarding the use of plastic liners and compacted clay in ponds to irrigate crops and support wildlife.
6. **Action Items:**
 - A. **Acceptance of Year-end Staff Report for Fiscal Year 2020-21.** Executive Director Quinto presented this item. Highlights from the year included the completion of the Mill Creek Stream Flow Study, completion of the RCD's first fuel reduction project, development of the RCD Annex as an add-on to the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan, the launching of the North Bay Forest Improvement Program, and several others. Disruptions to SRCD projects were also discussed, such as the challenges posed by recent wildfires and the slowing of permitting processes due to new requirements, and what steps the RCD is taking to work through these challenges. Motion to accept, M: Kuszmar, 2nd: Nagle. Motion passed, 4 ayes.
 - B. **Approval of updates to Personnel Manual.** Adrienne Pettit presented this item. Changes have been made to staff procedures for recording their time and seeking reimbursement for travel expenses. In addition, the threshold for staff to receive vision and dental benefits has been reduced from 30 to 20 hours a week, and staff will also receive access to a new supplementary

Telehealth benefit. In addition, the RCD has chosen to recognize Juneteenth as a holiday. Motion to accept, M: Rolleri, 2nd: Nagle. Motion passed, 4 ayes.

- C. **Adoption of Resolution No. 2122-001 Approving the Section 125 Premium Only Plan for the Plan Year Ending July 31, 2022.** Adrienne Pettit presented this item. This benefit enables employee insurance premium contributions to sponsored medical, dental, and vision plans and employee contributions to individual health savings accounts to be made on a pre-tax basis through a payroll deduction. Motion to accept, M: Rolleri, 2nd: Kuszmar. Motion passed, 4 ayes.
- D. **Adoption of Resolution No. 2122-002 Approving the Investment Of Endowment Trust Funds With the Sonoma County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector; and Designating Signatories Who May Act On Behalf Of The Sonoma Resource Conservation District In Connection With Funds Held By The ACTTC.** Adrienne Pettit presented this item. She reported that, compared to the RCD's investments with Stifel Financial Corporation, the advantages of investing with the county include smaller investment fees and the county's depth of experience in managing government portfolios, while the main disadvantage of investing with the county is that disbursement requests take longer to process. The board asked questions and discussed. Motion to accept M: Nagle, 2nd: Rolleri. Motion passed, 4 ayes.

7. Update Items:

- A. **GSA Updates.** Vice Chairman Nagle provided GSA updates. He shared that the advisory group is concerned because they don't always understand what agency staff are working on in development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
- B. **Executive Committee – no meeting was held**
- C. **Board Development Committee – no meeting was held**
- D. **Technology Committee – no meeting was held**
- E. **Director Updates.** Director Rolleri and Vice Chairman Nagle provided updates. Director Rolleri shared that he attended a board meeting of the Gualala River Watershed Council, and learned of a survey effort by the Conservation Fund to determine what land they should purchase as part of their preservation efforts.
- F. **Executive Director & Other Staff Updates.** None.

8. Future Agenda Items:

The RCD needs to appoint a new Director to fill a vacancy due to Director Ryan's recent departure and a new alternate to attend Santa Rosa Plain GSA meetings.

Due to schedule conflicts, the Board needs to discuss moving the scheduled Board Meeting start time to ensure that Board Members can regularly attend.

Associate Director Murphy requested an update on year-over-year findings regarding groundwater levels in Sonoma County over the past three years.

9. Closed Session - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, Title: Executive Director

The Board went into closed session at 11:51 AM. No reportable actions were taken during this session.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 PM.

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.

Public Notice: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in a Board meeting, please contact Valerie Quinto at (707) 569-1448 ext. 102. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting.

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 Mikesch, *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*

Any Starovoytov, *Project Manager*

Shannon Drew, *Program Assistant*

Kristopher Ballard, *Office Assistant*