



## Board Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2023

10:45am

Hybrid Meeting; in-person at  
1221 Farmers Lane, Suite F, Santa Rosa, CA 95405  
and via Zoom.

1. **Call to Order, Determination of a Quorum, Introductions:** Board Chair John Nagle determined the quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:49am.  
Directors Present: Bruce Abelli-Amen, Beth Bruzzone, Isaac Jenkins, John Nagle, Ariana Reguzzoni, and Ron Rolleri.  
Director Absent: Vickie Mulas.  
Associate & Emeritus Directors Present: Earle Cummings, Fred Euphrat, John Gorman, Denny Murphy, and Chris Peterson.  
Staff Present: Che Casul, Aaron Fairbrook, Kari Johnson, Christine Kuehn, and Erin Rickard.  
Others Present: Chase Garcia (NRCS).
2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code 54954.2 (B)):** None.
3. **Consent Calendar:** Approval of May Board Meeting Agenda and March Board Meeting Minutes.  
Motion to approve: Abelli-Amen, 2nd: Rolleri. Motion passed, 6 ayes.  
**Ayes:** Abelli-Amen, Bruzzone, Jenkins, Nagle, Reguzzoni, and Rolleri.  
**Noes:** None.
4. **Public Comment:** None.
5. **Information Items**
  - A. **NRCS Report:** Chase Garcia presented this item, pointing out EQIP and CSP first batching as mostly forestry work. Conservation activity plans and development related to equipment efficiency and transitions to organic practices funded through the EQIP program were also discussed. There was a question about where we are in Farm Bill negotiations and Chase indicated that the current Farm Bill may be extended.
  - B. **Draft FY23-24 Budget:** Erin Rickard and Che Casul presented projected numbers for the remainder of the current fiscal year as well as a proposed draft budget for FY23-24. The Board discussed where variances may exist, and staff answered questions.
  - C. **Updates to the Sonoma County Local Coastal Plan:** The Board discussed how the RCD is poised to weigh in on policy recommendations contained in the Local Coastal Plan - specifically, agricultural uses. It was suggested that Gold Ridge RCD also be engaged to exhibit a joint voice, while NRCS may serve to provide supporting technical information.

## 6. Action Items

**A. Acceptance of FY22-23 Q3 Financial Report:** Erin Rickard presented this item. The Board reviewed and discussed points of interest in financial reporting related to audit, specific funds, and investments. Motion to accept: Bruzzone, 2nd: Abelli-Amen. Motion passed, 6 ayes.

**Ayes:** Abelli-Amen, Bruzzone, Jenkins, Nagle, Reguzzoni, and Rolleri.

**Noes:** None.

## 7. Update Items

**A. GSA Updates:** GSA representatives provided updates about recent grant awards for both Santa Rosa Plain and Petaluma Valley GSA projects.

**B. Executive Committee:** *no meeting was held*

**C. Director Updates:** Ron Rolleri provided updates about Gualala River Watershed Council efforts to gather input on information about tributaries up to the north Sonoma County line and beyond, to make future recommendations. Fred Euphrat reminded folks about the 2023 Living with Fire: Sonoma County Forest Conservation Conference on June 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. John Nagle and Denny Murphy provided updates about a meeting of the Russian River Water Forum and the status of a proposed Alexander Valley Irrigation District within the LAFCO process.

**D. Executive Director & Other Staff Updates:** Che Casul noted that areas for increased organizational efficiencies and internal control policies have been identified and will be brought back to the Board for review. Che Casul requests that Sonoma RCD Directors reach out to coordinate one-on-one introductory meetings with him. A Board and staff gathering is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Future Agenda Items:** A presentation about the proposed Alexander Valley Irrigation District. A presentation about roles and responsibilities of Sonoma RCD Board and staff. A request was made to have forthcoming information about the Potter Valley Project disseminated with ample time for Board review. A vote confirming a new regular start time for Sonoma RCD monthly Board meetings.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm.