



Board Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2023 - 10:30am

1221 Farmers Lane, Suite F, Santa Rosa, CA 95405
and via Zoom.

1. **Call to Order, Determination of a Quorum, Introductions:** Chair John Nagle determined the quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:50am.
Directors Present: Bruce Abelli-Amen, Isaac Jenkins, Vickie Mulas, and John Nagle.
Directors Absent: Beth Bruzzzone, Ariana Reguzzoni, and Ron Rolleri.
Associate Directors Present: Fred Euphrat, Denny Murphy, Chris Peterson, and Steven Worrell.
Staff Present: Che Casul, Kari Johnson, Erin Rickard, and Anya Starovoytov.
Others Present: None.
2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code 54954.2 (B)):** None.
3. **Consent Calendar:** Approval of July Board Meeting Agenda, June Board Meeting Minutes, and May Monthly Financials. Motion to approve: Abelli-Amen, 2nd: Mulas. Motion passed, 4 ayes.
Ayes: Abelli-Amen, Jenkins, Mulas, and Nagle.
Noes: None.
4. **Public Comment:** None.
5. **Information Items**
 - A. **NRCS Report:** None.
 - B. **Year-End Staff Report for FY22-23:** Che Casul presented this item highlighting that Sonoma RCD is largely on track in pursuing organizational goals related to grant and contract-based work, as well as strategic plan work. The Board asked questions and requested a deeper dive into the Staff Report.
6. **Action Items**
 - A. **Adoption of Resolution No. 2324-001 Authorizing Entering into a Lease Agreement with the California State Lands Commission and Authorizing and Designating a Representative / Signatory:** Anya Starovoytov presented this item as she is currently overseeing Sonoma RCD's levee maintenance program. The complex processes involved were discussed by the Board and staff answered questions. Motion to adopt the resolution: Abelli-Amen, 2nd: Mulas. Motion passed, 4 ayes.
Ayes: Abelli-Amen, Jenkins, Mulas, and Nagle.
Noes: None.
 - B. **Approval of JEDI Statement:** Che Casul presented this item as a living organizational statement,

with added language regarding working lands and economy. The Board praised the revisions as making the statement more tailored to the work of Sonoma RCD. Motion to approve the revised statement: Mulas, 2nd: Abelli-Amen. Motion passed, 4 ayes.

Ayes: Abelli-Amen, Jenkins, Mulas, and Nagle.

Noes: None.

7. Update Items

A. GSA Updates: GSA representatives provided updates about recent meetings, including some resolution to challenges around rollout of fees, specifically for landowners in the Sonoma Valley basin. Santa Rosa Plain and Petaluma Valley basins awarded funding for projects, in which Sonoma RCD is poised to participate.

B. Executive Committee: *no meeting was held*

C. Director Updates: Directors provided updates from attendance of the Sonoma County Forest Conservation Conference in June, as well as continued discussion of progress by the Russian River Water Forum, including future opportunities for Sonoma RCD staff to be involved in fee-for-service projects given the capacity to do so.

D. Executive Director & Other Staff Updates: Che Casul mentioned upcoming Board training with a law firm and a scheduled meeting with a CPA. The Board was informed of title changes for Aaron Fairbrook (now Program Director) and Christine Kuehn (now Director of Communications and Engagement). Che Casul also provided update regarding the organizational class and compensation study with Koff & Associates, as having asked for a report by August 15th. Erin Rickard informed the Board of a move to George Peterson Insurance as Sonoma RCD's benefits provider and that California Class may be engaged to handle more active management of organizational investment.

8. Future Agenda Items: Region 1 Vineyard WDR progress presentation to consider submitting comments.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:06pm.