



Board Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2024 - 10:30am

1221 Farmers Lane, Suite F

Santa Rosa, CA 95405

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82991941484?pwd=TDRFS3pRM21jQVM3VG5aYUJETC9ndz09>

(669) 900-9128

Meeting ID: 837 7665 9899

- 1. Call to Order, Determination of a Quorum, Introductions:** Chair Bruce Abelli-Amen determined the quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:33 am.
Directors Present: Bruce Abelli-Amen, John Nagle, Ron Rolleri, Ariana Reguzzoni, Beth Bruzzone, and Isaac Jenkins.
Directors Absent: None.
Associate Directors Present: Denny Murphy, Steve Worrell, Chris Peterson, and John Gorman.
Staff Present: Aaron Fairbrook, Anya Starovoytov, Christine Kuehn, Erin Rickard, Jessica Pollitz, Keith Abeles, and Karen Saler.
Others Present: None.
- 2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code 54954.2 (B)):** Item 6B: Approval of Finance Committee Recommendations – Finance Committee met; action has been deferred and will be revisited at next month’s meeting.
- 3. Consent Calendar:** Approval of February Board Meeting Agenda, and January Board Meeting Minutes. Request to amend consent calendar item 6d to include Jenkins’ requests for committee reports and billable hours to be shared with all board members. Request to amend adding Ron Rolleri to ayes of previous meeting motions. Motion to approve: John Nagle, 2nd: Ron Rolleri. Motion passed, 6 ayes.
Ayes: Abelli-Amen, Nagle, Rolleri, Reguzzoni, Bruzzone, Jenkins.
Noes: None.
- 4. Public Comment:** None.
- 5. Information Items**
 - A. NRCS Report:** None.
 - B. Sonoma County Compost Project:** Keith Abeles presented on the carbon sequestration through compost project in partnership with Gold Ridge RCD. The presentation included background information, metrics, and future visions for this project. This was followed by a session of questions by the Board.
- 6. Action Items**
 - A. Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report:** Presented by Erin Rickard. Motion to approve report: John Nagle, 2nd: Beth Bruzzone. Motion passed, 6 ayes.

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

Noes: None.

- B. Approval of Financial Committee Recommendations:** Agenda item moved for review to next month's Board meeting.
- C. Approval of North Coast Soil Health Hub Memorandum of Agreement and authorize interim Executive Director or designee to enter into the agreement:** Aaron Fairbrook presented the Board with details regarding the North Coast Soil Health Hub and the beneficial purpose of entering this MOA at no cost to the RCD. Motion to approve: John Nagle, 2nd: Ariana Reguzzoni. Motion passed, 6 ayes.

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

Noes: None.

- D. Approval of New Director; make recommendations to County Board of Supervisors to fill Vickie Mulas' position:** Board Chair, Bruce Abelli-Amen, recommended Steve Worrell, Associate Director, to the Board to fill the vacant Director position. Steve Worrell provided a brief background of qualifications for the position and the board was open to ask questions. Motion to approve new Director position: John Nagle, 2nd: Beth Bruzzone. Motion Passed, 6 ayes.

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

Noes: None.

Action items: Get Steve Worrell's name for consent calendar to Board of Supervisors to approve and be sworn into position next month. In addition, suggesting past board member, Vickie Mulas, to Emeritus Status and providing a bowl of gratitude.

7. Update Items

- A. Executive Committee:** Anya Starovoytov provided the Board with a contract--SMACCC. Exec. Committee reviewed and discussed the \$1,993,367.10 grant that will support climate beneficial agricultural practices. The contract was approved.
- B. Director Updates:** Director Ron Rolleri provided update on Forest Conservation Working Ground meeting focusing on Measure H and what that would entail for Sonoma RCD financials. Rolleri also attended the Gualala River Watershed Council meeting and provided an update on current ongoing projects, including a new regional watershed plan.
- C. Executive Director Updates:** Aaron Fairbrook informed the board that Kari Johnson has moved on from the RCD and a work anniversary for Tom Hammond.
- 7. Closed Session: Public Employment, Executive Director:** Board held a closed session to interview two candidates for the Executive Director position; Aaron Fairbrook and Christine Kuehn. Closed session went from 11:55 am to 2:16 pm.

9. Return to open session, announce results of closed session: The board announced Christine Kuehn as the new Executive Director with a 4:2 vote. The votes were as follows, Christine: Bruce Abelli-Amen, Ariana Reguzzoni, Ron Rolleri, John Nagle. Votes for Aaron were Isaac Jenkins and Beth Bruzzone. This position will not be effective immediately until a background check is completed.

10. Future Agenda Items: Include item 6d in next month's agenda for discussion and approval of financial committee's recommendations.

11. Adjournment: Meeting closed at 2:18 pm. Motion to close: Beth Bruzzone, 2nd: Ariana Reguzzoni.