SONOMA
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2026 - 10:30 am

1221 Farmers Lane, Suite F
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89546736157
(669) 900-9128
Meeting ID: 89546736157

1. **Call to Order, Determination of a Quorum, Introductions:** Chair Bruce Abelli-Amen called the meeting to order at 10:31 am. A quorum was determined.
   Directors Present: Bruce Abelli-Amen, Steve Worrell, Isaac Jenkins, John Gorman, Ariana Reguzzoni (arrived at 11:11 am),
   Directors Absent: John Nagle, Fred Euphrat
   Associate Directors Present: Dennis Murphy, Brynn O'Donnell
   Associate Directors Absent: Chris Peterson, Allyson Souza, Rob Lawson
   Staff Present: Christine Kuehn, Jen Franco, Patti Aaron, Ari DeMarco, Anya Nejedlo, Jessica Pollitz, Amy Tang, Genevieve Tarino, Jason Wells.
   Others Present: Jack James, Katherine Korsak, Sebastian Tsocanos, Michael Miller, Marc Tran.

2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code 54954.2 (B)):** None

3. **Consent Calendar:** Approval of May Board Meeting Agenda, March Board Meeting Minutes.

   Motion to approve: Isaac Jenkins, **2nd**: Steve Worrell. Motion passed, 4 ayes.

   Ayes: Abelli-Amen, Worrell, Jenkins, Gorman.

   Nayes: None.

4. **Public Comment:** None.

5. **Public Hearing Concerning Vacant Budgeting Positions (Gov. Code Section 3502.3)**

   Public Hearing was called to order by Executive Director, Christine Kuehn, at 10:35 am. No public comment. There are currently 17 budgeted full-time positions at Sonoma RCD. Sonoma RCD has budgeted for 20 full-time positions in Fiscal Year 2026—2027 and anticipates hiring a Forestry Technician, Grants Compliance Specialist and Staff Accountant. Christine Kuehn closed the Public Hearing at 10:40 am.

6. **Information Items:**

   A. **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:** Sebastian Tsocanos, Rangeland Management Specialist, provided funding and status updates on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). He also announced that the Marin-Sonoma Local Working Group meeting will take place no later than September.

B. **Community Forestry Presentation:** Jason Wells, Director of Forestry, and Genevieve Tarino, Forestry Project Manager, presented this item. They provided an overview of community forestry, recent fires and their relationship to communities, key challenges and education and planning efforts. The presentation highlighted key players and community groups and potential project plans. The Board asked questions and discussed.

7. **Action Items:**

A. **Approval of Salary Schedule:** Christine Kuehn presented this item. The last Salary Schedule was approved by the Board in 2016. She provided an overview of the background and methodology used to develop the new salary schedule and explained the addition of new classifications. The Board asked questions and discussed. Recommendations for the future include conducting an annual evaluation of the Salary Schedule, engaging with a third-party to conduct a full classification and compensation study every five years, and assessing the Salary Schedule as part of the annual budget development process with scenario modeling to assess long term financial sustainability.

Motion to approve: Steve Worrell, **2nd**: Isaac Jenkins. Motion passed, 5 ayes.

Ayes: Abelli-Amen, Worrell, Jenkins, Gorman, Reguzzoni.

Nayes: None.

B. **Approval of Live Scan Fingerprint-Based Background Check Policy:** Jen Franco, Operations & Human Resources Manager, presented this item. Employees who work with minors through the RCD's Education programs are required to pass a Live Scan Fingerprint Background check. The California Department of Justice requires an internal policy to keep criminal offender record information and personally identifiable information secure.

Motion to Approve: Isaac Jenkins, **2nd**: John Gorman. Motion Passed, 5 ayes.

Ayes: Abelli-Amen, Worrell, Jenkins, Gorman, Reguzzoni.

Nayes: None.

C. **Approval of Resolution 2526-008 for Application for Grant Funds from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Cannabis Restoration Grant Program for Phase II: Calabazas and Trinity Salmonid Access and Habitat Enhancement Project:** Colin Nicol, Water Resources Project Manager, gave an overview of the project. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife requires a resolution from the Board to authorize the project scope of work and money. The Board asked questions and discussed.

Motion to Approve: Isaac Jenkins, **2nd**: Steve Worrell. Motion Passed, 5 ayes.

Ayes: Abelli-Amen, Worrell, Jenkins, Gorman, Reguzzoni.

Nayes: None.

D. **Consideration of Board Meeting Time Change and Agenda Format Discussion** Board Chair Bruce Abelli-Amen and Christine Kuehn presented this item. Bruce and Christine discussed revisiting the meeting schedule and potentially adjusting the meeting time to better accommodate the schedules of employed Board Directors and RCD staff while ensuring equity and accessibility for all Board members. The Board discussed reducing the meeting length from three hours to two hours and changing the meeting time to 9:00 am – 11:00 am, while continuing to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month. To support a shorter meeting format, the Board suggested expanding the consent calendar to include items that don't typically require discussion, providing Directors' updates in the Board packet and streamlining agenda items to support Board dialogue, addressing action items and conducting business. These changes will occur in the new fiscal year.

Motion to Approve: John Gorman, **2nd**: Isaac Jenkins. Motion Passed, 5 ayes.

E. **Ayes:** Abelli-Amen, Worrell, Jenkins, Gorman, Reguzzoni.

F. **Nayes:** None.

8. **Update Items:**

A. **Executive Committee:** May 21, 2026, Executive Committee meeting notes were provided in the May 2026 Board packet.

B. **Strategic Plan Impact Committee:** No meeting was held.

C. **Board Development Committee:** No meeting was held.

D. **Groundwater Sustainability Agency Reports:** No None.

E. **Director's Reports:**

- Associate Director Dennis Murphy gave an update on the Alexander Valley Water District.

F. **Executive Director Report:** Christine Kuehn provided updates on staffing and recently awarded contracts and shared a debrief of the North Coast RCD Gathering.

G. **Other Staff Reports:** None.

9. **Future Agenda Items:** None.

10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.