



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

R.C. Brody  
President

Steve Rosentsweig  
Vice President

Nancy Helsley  
Treasurer

Beth Burnam  
Director

Mary Ellen Strote  
Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Clark Stevens

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-SIXTH MEETING

**Monday August 25, 2014—6:00 P.M.**

**Resource Conservation District Office**

**NPS Peter Strauss Ranch: 30000 Mulholland Hwy., Agoura Hills, CA 91301**

**MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** the meeting was called to order by President R.C. Brody at 6:04 p.m. A quorum was established with Directors Beth Burnam, Nancy Helsley, Steve Rosentsweig and Mary Ellen Strote in attendance. Also in attendance were Associate Director Dennis Washburn, RCD Executive Officer Clark Stevens and Senior Conservation Biologist Rosi Dagit.

**CLOSED SESSION:** the Board adjourned the open session meeting at this time to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel (Government Code Section 54957): Executive Officer annual performance evaluation.

At 6:31 pm, the Board of Directors adjourned the Closed Session and reopened the general meeting. The Board reported that they discussed Mr. Stevens' responses to the pre-evaluation questions and issues/goals they want to make sure to address at the evaluation with Mr. Stevens.

2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Maryam Hosseini, Natural Resources Conservation Service.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** there were no public comments.
4. **CONSENT CALENDAR: Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 5-0**
  - **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for meeting of July 15, 2014
  - **MONTHLY CLAIMS AND FINANCIALS:** Approval of financial report and claims for July 2014
5. **REGULAR CALENDAR**

**Note:** an emergency item was added to the agenda at this point. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote on the Local Coastal Plan (LCP) tomorrow (August 26) and today it came to the attention of Mr. Stevens and Ms.



Dagit that there might be a public perception that the RCDSMM is in favor of viticulture in the Santa Monica Mountains. In order to clarify the RCDSMM position, Mr. Stevens and Ms. Dagit drafted a letter to Los Angeles County for Board approval stating that, while the RCDSMM is in favor of sustainable agriculture, the District is not in favor of conversion of native habitat for agricultural uses in the Santa Monica Mountains and supports the LCP's limitations on agriculture. After reviewing the letter, the Board made positive comments and directed staff to send the letter. No vote was taken.

- A. Approval of Resolution #2014-08-01: Requesting appointment of three Directors by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to a four-year term beginning the last Friday of November, 2014: Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Ms. Burnam; approved 5-0
  - B. Approval of contract with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Association (MRCA) for \$10,000 to provide preliminary landscape and architectural concept designs for Highway 101 wildlife overpass: Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Ms. Helsley; approved 5-0
  - C. Approval of Los Angeles County Social Program Agreement Contract No. SPF 03-25 for \$118,710 to design, permit and manage construction of a demonstration structure/model and landscape project: Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Ms. Strote; approved 5-0
  - D. Approval of Los Angeles County Social Program Agreement Contract No. SPF 03-26 for \$26,000 to support the Watershed Steward Program to continue programs initiated by the Topanga Source ID study: Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Ms. Burnam; approved 5-0
  - E. Approval of contract with the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society for the RCDSMM to provide 30 environmental education programs at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area, plus four trainings and a teacher workshop, for payment of \$11,536: Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Helsley; approved 5-0
  - F. Approval of contract with SYRCL and payment of \$750 to host the Wild & Scenic Film Festival: Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Ms. Helsley; approved 5-0
  - G. Approval of delegate and alternate delegate to represent the RCDSMM at the CARCD Annual Conference: the Board nominated Ms. Strote as delegate and Ms. Helsley as alternate. Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 5-0
6. **USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT:**  
Ms. Hosseini reported that the funding for her position has been approved by the State office and Dawn Afman, NRCS District Conservationist, will get a contract to the RCDSMM in the next week or two. Maryam will be officially hired by the RCDSMM with Dawn as her supervisor.



## 7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

### A. Staff Reports for July:

- i. Clark Stevens, Executive Officer (oral): the RCDSMM submitted 6 one-page proposals to the NRCS RCPP program but did not get asked to submit full proposals. Mr. Stevens and Ms. Afman will try to determine how the RCDSMM can be more competitive next round.
  - ii. John Hendra, Operations Manager (written)
  - iii. Stephen Vodantis, Education Supervisor (written)
  - iv. Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist (written)
- B. California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD): annual conference November 12-14, 2014
- C. CARCD Central Coast Area: Fall meeting
- D. Education Committee: the Committee met with Stephen Vodantis, Education Program Supervisor. Mr. Vodantis is having difficulty with the constant staff turnover at partner agencies since he has to build a relationship and process each time a new employee takes over. The Havasi Foundation has donated to the RCDSMM education programs again this year and wants to celebrate the five year anniversary of their partnership with the RCDSMM. The FARMS program will also continue again next year.

## 8. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Ms. Helsley is finding that most districts are not spending money to send education staff to CARCD programs. Most Directors do not have an education background and may not see the importance.
- Ms. Helsley went by an RCD office in Oregon to say hello and got an office tour. She noticed that they are thriving partly because of their affiliation with Oregon State University and wondered if we have an opportunity to affiliate with a local school.
- Mr. Washburn announced that the Santa Monica Mountains Fund will host a fundraiser on Sept. 30 at Calamigos Ranch to promote mountain lion research.
- The Rapid Watershed Assessment done by NRCS for the Santa Monica Mountains is in its final draft form and available digitally.

## 9. CLOSED SESSION: Personnel (Government Code Section 54957)—Executive Officer annual performance evaluation: Please see above.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT: **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 5-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.



Submitted by: [Signature]  
John Hendra, Operations Manager

Date: 8/18/15

Approved by: [Signature]  
R. C. Brody, President  
Board of Directors

Date: 8/24/15