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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Monday July 27, 2015—6:00 P.M.
Resource Conservation District Office
540 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd, Topanga, CA 90290

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** the meeting was called to order by President R.C. Brody at 6:02 p.m. A quorum was established with Directors Beth Burnam, Nancy Helsley (arrived 6:15 pm), Steve Rosentsweig and Mary Ellen Strote in attendance. Also in attendance were Associate Directors Glenn Bailey and Dennis Washburn, and Operations Manager John Hendra.
2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** NRCS Soil Scientist Emmanuel Gonzalez; NRCS Irrigation Specialist Mayra Navarro; Gerry Greenberg; Tony Morris
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** there were no public comments.
4. **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for meeting of June 22, 2015. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 4-0.**
5. **MONTHLY CLAIMS AND FINANCIALS:** Approval of financial reports and claims for June 2015. Mr. Hendra reviewed the Claims report and discussed the prior year budget and actual numbers. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Strote; approved 5-0.**
6. **REGULAR CALENDAR**
 - A. Approval of proposal to audit RCDSMM accounts for fiscal year 2014-15: after discussion of the various proposals, the Board voted to approve Rogers, Anderson, Malody and Scott, LLP as the new RCD auditor. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Helsley; approved 5-0.**
 - B. Visioning: discussion of RCD projects and programs of the future: Director ideas included educating other public agencies on environmental issues; expanding education programs for adults; diversifying our research and restoration capabilities beyond what we do now to include mammals and other species; teaching urban residents how to care for natural habitat; looking to areas of our district we aren't currently working in (e.g. Chatsworth Reservoir); and



cultivating potential funders such as LA Department of Water & Power or Bureau of Sanitation.

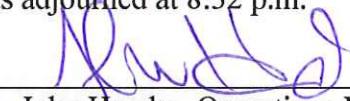
- C. CARCD Vision & Standards: assess RCDSMM's current strengths and future direction: the Board discussed the standards but tabled this item pending Executive Officer Clark Stevens' presence and a report from Mr. Hendra on which standards the RCD is currently meeting.
 - D. Five Year Strategic Plan: create and approve process and timeline for completing 2015-2020 strategic plan: the Board discussed the planning process but decided it was premature to set a process until they have a better idea what the result should be. They directed staff to provide a written report reviewing how the RCD is doing on each item of the previous strategic plan.
 - E. EMERGENCY ITEM: today (July 27), the RCD Board and staff became aware of a Los Angeles County Planning Commission hearing on Tuesday July 28 to extend the current moratorium on new and expanded vineyards. The Board supports the extension of the moratorium in order to better study and plan for the effects that increased vineyard acreage will have on the habitat and resources of the Santa Monica Mountains. The Board voted to add this to the agenda on an emergency basis since it came to their attention after the agenda was posted and comment was required before the next meeting. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Strote/Ms. Helsley; approved 5-0.** The Board voted to have Ms. Strote contact 3rd District Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office in the morning to express support for the moratorium extension. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Strote/Ms. Helsley; approved 5-0.**
7. **USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT:**
Mr. Gonzalez gave an overview of the NRCS operations and their efforts to help farmers reduce water use. Soil health will be a new focus for NRCS and will be used as a way to decide funding priorities for the various assistance programs.
8. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:**
- A. Staff Reports for June (written):
 - i. John Hendra, Operations Manager
 - ii. Stephen Vodantis, Education Supervisor
 - iii. Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist
 - B. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area Steering Committee: next meeting Tuesday July 28, 2015: Mr. Bailey reported that the environmental deputy of Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz will be at the SBWASC meeting tomorrow (7/28). He is proposing enhanced enforcement of the wildlife area code, which has not been applied to Sepulveda Basin. Also, the Army Corps of Engineers has



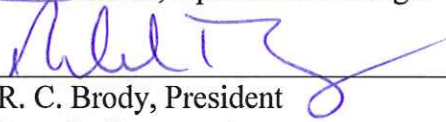
completed some of the non-native tree removal, but are waiting on the riparian trees so a plan can be made to restore the habitat.

9. **DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** there were no Director's comments.

10. **ADJOURNMENT: Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Ms. Strote; approved 5-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Submitted by: 
John Hendra, Operations Manager

Date: 9/28/15

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

Date: 9/28/15

