



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 SIXTY-SECOND MEETING

Monday January 25, 2016—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 6:06 p.m. A quorum was established with Directors Nancy Helsley, Steve Rosentsweig and Mary Ellen Strote in attendance. Director Beth Burnam was absent. Also in attendance were Associate Director Dennis Washburn, Executive Officer Clark Stevens and Operations Manager John Hendra.
2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** NRCS District Conservationist Dawn Afman
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** there were no public comments.
4. **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for meeting of December 21, 2015.
Moved/Seconded: Ms. Helsley/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 3-0 with Ms. Strote abstaining due to absence from the meeting.
5. **MONTHLY CLAIMS AND FINANCIALS:** Approval of financial reports and claims for December 2015. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Helsley; approved 4-0.**
6. **REGULAR CALENDAR**
 - A. **Election of Board officers:** President: RC Brody was nominated by Ms. Helsley, seconded by Ms. Strote; Vice President: Steve Rosentsweig was nominated by Mr. Brody, seconded by Ms. Strote; Treasurer: Ms. Helsley was nominated by Mr. Brody, seconded by Ms. Strote; **all officers were approved 4-0.**
 - B. **Approval of mid year budget revision:** the Directors reviewed various line item changes in the budget, then voted to approve the revisions as presented.
Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Strote; approved 4-0.
 - C. **Approval of Resolution #2016-01-01: Creation and duties of the Board Development Committee of the Board of Directors: Moved/Seconded: Ms. Helsley/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 4-0.** Ms. Strote expressed interest in serving on this committee.



- D. Approval of Resolution #2016-01-02: Creation and duties of the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee: Moved/Seconded: Ms. Strote/Ms. Helsley; approved 4-0. Ms. Helsley expressed interest in serving on this committee.
 - E. Approval of candidate for Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission Special District Representative: the Board discussed the candidates and decided to cast a vote for Donald Dear of the West Basin Municipal Water District. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Mr. Brody; approved 4-0.**
 - F. Approval of design for front-of-the-building renovations and signage: Mr. Brody discussed the rain barrels and plant palette, expressing concerns about keeping water from the creek. To a Director's question about the main RCDSMM sign, Mr. Stevens reviewed the options and wording. Mr. Rosentsweig suggested including "Watershed Center" on the sign, perhaps hanging underneath the main sign. The Board approved the design with the caveats that the main sign is a priority and needs to be reviewed by the Board along with the other messaging as well. Staff will circulate the main and explanatory signage before it is finalized. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Helsley; approved 4-0.**
 - G. In-lieu fee program setup report from Executive Officer and Operations Manager: after Mr. Hendra and Mr. Stevens reported on their findings, the Board discussed whether the RCD should pursue an ILF program. This will be considered in the Strategic Planning process and Mr. Brody will make a call to the Army Corps of Engineers to check on the need for ILF programs in our area.
7. **USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT:**
Ms. Afman reported that she saw Director Beth Burnam at a fire safe meeting in Ventura. She also passed out a handout titled Working Lands for Wildlife. NRCS was able to stop the listing of the Sage Grouse, which freed up money for flycatcher preservation. The Santa Monica Mountains were mentioned as prime habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher. Ms. Afman also took a tour with the CA Conservation Corps and found out that prison crews are available at inexpensive rates for conservation work.
8. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:**
- A. Staff Reports for December:
 - i. Clark Stevens, Executive Officer: Mr. Stevens reported that there is now a core group of individuals/organizations that are working with him to make sure the bridge design for Liberty Canyon moves forward through CalTrans without changes to the agreed-upon designs.
 - ii. John Hendra, Operations Manager
 - iii. Stephen Vodantis, Education Supervisor
 - iv. Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist
 - v. Jen Mongolo, Conservation Biologist



- B. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area Steering Committee: draft minutes of Nov. 24, 2015 meeting and agenda for Tuesday Jan. 26, 2016 meeting: Mr. Washburn suggested we reach out to Glenn Bailey, the RCD's representative to the committee, for a report at the next RCD Board meeting on the agenda items for the Jan. 26 Steering Committee meeting, including a music festival and potential use of the area for the 2024 Olympic Games.

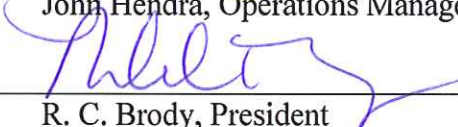
9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Helsley reported that Envirothon is set for Saturday April 23 at College of the Canyons. It will be a 1-day event again this year. Teacher Steve Engelmann of Palisades High School will lead a team again and has interested other teachers as well, so we might have more teams to sponsor this year.

10. ADJOURNMENT: **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Strote/Mr. Brody; approved 4-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by: 
John Hendra, Operations Manager

Date: 5/23/16

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

Date: 5/25/16

