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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-NINTH MEETING

Monday November 28, 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 6:03 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 Directors Glenn Bailey and Dennis Washburn, Executive Officer Clark Stevens and Operations Manager John Hendra.
2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** NRCS District Conservationist Dawn Afman, David Troy III and Theresa Brady.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
 - Mr. Troy has had problems with vegetation clearance on his property by the Los Angeles County Agriculture Department and asked if the RCD could assist him in contacting them. Mr. Stevens told Mr. Troy that he could follow up with him later.
4. **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for meeting of October 3, 2016. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Strote; approved 5-0**
5. **MONTHLY CLAIMS AND FINANCIALS:** Approval of claims for September and October 2016 and review of financial reports through October 31, 2016 **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Ms. Burnam; approved 5-0.**
6. **REGULAR CALENDAR**
 - A. Discussion of RCD Tier 1 accreditation by the Department of Conservation (DOC): process, timeline and steps needed: Mr. Hendra described the rule-making process the DOC is currently following and what it means for the RCD. He also reviewed the proposed Tier 1 checklist with regard to RCD needs. The process should be completed in early January. The Board supported staff working to get the RCD to Tier 1 accreditation.
 - B. Discussion of DOC capacity building funding: program process, requirements and amounts available: Mr.Hendra reviewed the proposed program and the funding



levels available to the RCD. Funding availability will be determined by Tier 1 accreditation, with higher levels of funding available to Tier 1 accredited RCDs. The funding proposals will be due in February 2017.

- C. CARCD Annual Conference review from attendees: Ms. Helsley reported that CARCD approved a new 3-year strategic plan at the Saturday business meeting. They also approved three resolutions: the strategic plan, the formation of a staff group to replace CODE, and the suggestion to NRCS to include groundwater recharge on their checklist when evaluating a project. She also completed her leadership academy project and presented at the poster session. Mr. Rosentsweig enjoyed the conference but topics were often not applicable to our RCD. Mr. Hendra reviewed the various sessions he attended, including on the Public Records Act, drone use by RCDs, shared employees between RCDs, Local Area Formation Commissions, and on seeking county and private foundation funding.
- D. Discussion of wildlife conditions at Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area: Mr. Bailey reviewed the history of wildlife and fishing problems at Sepulveda Basin and Lake Balboa dating back to the early 2000s. Ranger presence has been minimal and violations by fishermen and homeless people are common. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has funding for the first time for a ranger, but the territory is large so Mr. Bailey doesn't expect much coverage. The Board asked Mr. Bailey to draft some talking points that staff can craft into a comment letter to the appropriate LA City officials to enforce laws and rules in the wildlife refuge.

7. USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT:

Ms. Afman reported that she was acting District Conservationist in Lancaster. She has been working on a gold spotted oak borer (GSOB) infestation in the Green Valley area and other parts of this region. She heard from J. Lopez that Idyllwild has had success combating GSOB, so Clark was going reach out to him for information.

8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

E. Staff Reports for September and October:

- i. Clark Stevens, Executive Officer: Mr. Stevens reported that he and Rosi Dagit met with Supervisor Shiela Kuehl to request \$40,000 funding for the tree mortality study and discuss her other priorities. He also notified the Board that one of the RCD biologists is leaving and another will be taking maternity leave in spring 2017, so the RCD will be hiring a new biologist as well as a Stream Team member to assist with field work.
- ii. John Hendra, Operations Manager
- iii. Stephen Vodantis, Education Supervisor
- iv. Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist
- v. Jen Mongolo, Conservation Biologist

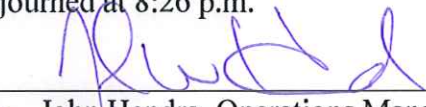


- F. Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee: Ms. Helsley and Ms. Burnam met to discuss the process for strategic planning and will meet again in the coming weeks to draft a plan.
- G. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area Steering Committee: See Item 6D above.

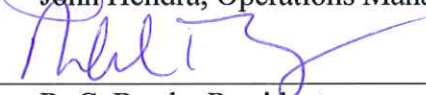
9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Bailey reported that the Chatsworth Nature Preserve Open House will be on Sunday April 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The format will be changed from prior years.

10. ADJOURNMENT: **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Ms. Strote; approved 5-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Submitted by: 
John Hendra, Operations Manager

Date: 2/1/17

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

Date: 2/1/17