



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

R.C. Brody
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Steve Rosentsweig
Vice President

Nancy Helsley
Treasurer

Beth Burnam
Director

Mary Ellen Strote
Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Clark Stevens

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOURTH MEETING

Monday April 24, 2017—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 6:01 p.m. A quorum was established with Directors Beth Burnam, Nancy Helsley and Steve Rosentsweig in attendance. Also in attendance were Executive Officer Clark Stevens and Operations Manager John Hendra.
2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Wilma Tichelaar, NRCS Soil Conservationist.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** there were no public comments.
4. **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for meeting of March 27, 2017. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 4-0.**
5. **MONTHLY CLAIMS AND FINANCIALS:** Approval of claims for March 2017 and review of financial reports through March 31, 2017. Mr. Brody asked about the Capital Planning Fund previously approved, but it hasn't been funded so it is not on the balance sheet at this time. The Board also requested that Mr. Hendra discuss showing restricted funds on the balance sheet. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Burnam; approved 4-0.**
6. **REGULAR CALENDAR**
 - A. Approval of agreement with the North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council to provide fiscal sponsorship: the Board discussed the work to be done and how the RCD is involved with the grant, then voted to approve the sponsorship. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Helsley/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 3-0 with Ms. Burnam abstaining.**
 - B. Review of RCD Associate Director Policy: the Directors made some edits to the new policy and reviewed the application form, then approved the policy as amended. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 4-0.**



- C. Update on Department of Conservation RCD Financial Assistance Program funding: Mr. Hendra updated the Board on the amount of funding to be received from the DOC and the timeline for finalizing the contract.
- D. Discussion of Simi Hills Conservation Planning efforts: Mr. Stevens updated the Board on the progress of the planning effort. The property owners have recorded an easement on the 2400 acre property with an out-of-state land conservancy. The RCD is not involved in the easement but may play a roll in monitoring the easement. They have also set up a 501(c)(3) to oversee the easement.
- E. Discussion of Board recruitment strategies: the Board discussed how to recruit and support Associate Directors in order to provide succession for the Board. The Board requested that this agenda item remain on the agenda until further notice.

7. USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT:

Ms. Tichelaar reported that District Conservationist Dawn Afiman is in Arkansas leading civil rights training. The Oxnard office is working on fully approving EQIP projects, which must be encumbered in May. They are hoping to have 5 or 6 more projects in the May batching period. They are also working on one Emergency Watershed Protection project in Ojai. Finally, they received approval for more funding to continue the Irrigation Management Specialist position through the RCD for another three year.

8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

A. Staff Reports for March:

- i. Clark Stevens, Executive Officer: the Board asked about the wildlife overpass project and the potential impasse on the design. Mr. Stevens updated them on the negotiations with the City of Agoura Hills.
- ii. John Hendra, Operations Manager
- iii. Stephen Vodantis, Education Supervisor
- iv. Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Brody asked where the staff retention process stood. Mr. Stevens updated the Board on the research staff changes, what employee benefits have been considered and how to pay for them. This topic will continue to be discussed through the organizational assessment process to be funded by the DOC and CARCD grants, as well as in the environmental services assessment and hiring also funded by the DOC grant.
- Mr. Rosentsweig asked where the Rindge Dam removal project stood. Mr. Stevens reported that the EIR has been completed and comments received, but they haven't moved forward with a final plan for removal.



- Ms. Burnam went to the Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation meeting with LA County regarding the North Area Plan. The plan is 15 years old, so the County wants to revisit and revise the plan to incorporate areas that aren't presently included plus update some of the provisions.

10. **ADJOURNMENT: Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Burnam; approved 4-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Submitted by: _____


John Hendra, Operations Manager

Date: _____

8/28/17

Approved by: _____


R. C. Brody, President
Board of Directors

Date: _____

8/28/17