

Upper Salinas = Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2019

- I. Call to Order. Mike Broadhurst called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm and determined a quorum was present. Directors present: Chuck Pritchard, Mike Bonnheim, Mike Broadhurst, Randy Heinzen, George Kendall. Susan Cochrane and Tom Mora arrived at 4:10. Mary Bianchi arrived at ED report. Staff present: Executive Director Devin Best. Royce Larson arrived at ED report. Members of the public present: none.
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda. Eric Kaltenbach provided March and April Treasurer's reports to Devin Best for presentation during Consent.
- III. Public Comment. None
- IV. RCD Reports
 - a. Board Updates. Mike Broadhurst asked if the wet spring weather was unusual. Mike Bonnheim commented on previous wet May weather, and Susan Cochrane noted the San Juan River is still flowing.
 - b. Executive Director Report. Devin Best reviewed the Executive Director report distributed prior to the meeting. Considerable time was spent discussing the situation with Subcontractor Channel Islands' failure to fulfill their contractual obligations to remove invasive plants in 11 acres of Carpinteria salt marsh. The RCD is in contact with the Wildlife Conservation Board and has discussed legal options, including withholding of further funds, terminating the contract, hiring a new subcontractor and seeking additional funding. The Santa Rosa Creek Streamflow Project (Gerhardt) will require an archaeological survey and several permits before work can begin as planned in September 2020. The block grant from the Coastal Conservancy for the Forest Health Program may be reduced from \$1.2 MM to \$300 K. This would affect funding to the 4 participating RCDs (San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey and Upper Salinas – Las Tablas) and would affect the amount of work done. The new RCD website should be up and running in June. Mike Broadhurst asked about Grass-C, and Devin Best explained the program of best management practices and 3rd party verification for cannabis growers.
 - c. Board Oaths of Office. Devin Best handed out oaths for Mary Bianchi, Mike Broadhurst, Mike Bonnheim, Randy Heinzen and Susan Cochrane to sign. Secretary George Kendall administered the oath to those 5 directors.
 - d. FY 2019/2020 Budget Review. Devin Best reviewed the proposed FY 2019/2020 budget, which had been largely compiled by Erin White, Eric Kaltenbach and Susan Cochrane. The RCD's share of various grants, programs and projects were shown and discussed along with the different expense categories and amounts. Mike Broadhurst requested that Operator Costs be shown for each year and that the table on Page 2 clarify

payments to both RCD and contractors. Devin agreed to provide clarifications for the June board meeting.

- e. Land Acquisition. The Land Acquisition Subcommittee (Mary Bianchi, Mike Bonnheim, Eric Kaltenbach and Chuck Pritchard plus Devin Best) have met and discussed possible base line positions for the RCD to take regarding the Justin property. The subcommittee thinks that Justin regards the US-LT RCD as the best option for receiving the property donation. The US-LT RCD would also require a significant endowment from Justin to support operations on the property. Several issues were discussed including utility pole repair/replacement, road maintenance, and access easement. It was suggested that a closed session would be needed if the board discusses negotiating terms, a sales agreement, an escape clause, etc.
- f. Conservationist of the Year. Devin Best announced that the US-LT RCD is awarding the RCD's Conservationist of the Year Award to Mike Bonnheim. He read a citation summarizing Mike's conservation back ground and activities. Devin will arrange to present the award/citation at a future SLO County Board of Supervisors meeting.
- V. Consent Agenda. The March board of directors meeting minutes were considered without comment. Devin Best summarized the Treasurer's March and April reports. Accounts Receivable are still relatively high. There is a monthly review of accounts between staff and the Treasurer. Chuck Pritchard motioned approval. Mary Bianchi seconded. Approved.
- VI. WRAC Update. Tom Mora summarized the WRAC's discussion of the Lake Nacimiento to Lake San Antonio tunnel project, including residents' concerns about future low recreational water levels. Future WRAC topics will include instream flow requirements for ecosystems, flood management, well permits for groundwater management, desalination opportunities, and potential groundwater pumping restrictions in key basins. There was a general discussion about the direction of water regulation in the county.
- VII. Board Action Items
 - a. Advocacy Policy. Devin Best reviewed the proposed Legislative Advocacy Policy included in the meeting handout and based on the CSDA template. Devin stated the priorities would be to promote RCD revenue/finance and governance/accountability issues. The board discussion recognized the value of an advocacy policy but expressed concern about how much independence to allow staff on different matters and how to set constraints. Randy Heinzen motioned that the policy be approved as written with the stipulation that priorities be discussed at the June board meeting. Mike Bonnheim seconded. Motion passed on voice vote.
- VIII. Agenda Setting. June Agenda will include FY 2019/2020 Budget Approval and Advocacy Policy priorities discussion. Next Board Meeting will be June 27 at 4:00 pm.
- IX. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.