

UPPER SALINAS – LAS TABLAS RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 24, 2019

TEMPLETON, CA

- I. Call to Order. Vice Chair Mike Broadhurst called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm and determined a quorum was present. Directors present: George Kendall, Tom Mora, Chuck Pritchard, Mike Broadhurst, Mike Bonnheim, Randy Heinzen. Staff present: Devin Best (ED of US-LT RCD), Oswaldo Martinex (WSP), Haley Barnes (WSP). Members of the public present: Brent Burchette (ED of SLO County Farm Bureau), Margy Lindquist. Ozzie Martinez and Haley Barnes introduced themselves as new WSP members with the RCD. Ozzie previously attended UC Irvine, and Haley previously attended Humboldt State.
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda. Brent Burchette's presentation was moved forward.
- III. Public Comment. Mike Broadhurst brought up the recent high temperatures, and there was general discussion about weather patterns.
- IV. RCD Reports.
 - a. Board Updates. Mike Broadhurst reported recently seeing a large mountain lion at his ranch at 7:30 in the morning.
 - b. Brent Burchette introduced himself as Farm Bureau's Executive Director since February 2019. Previously he was involved with the Farm Bureau and Department of Agriculture in Kentucky. He discussed several topics pertinent to SLO county, including industrial hemp and cannabis. Issues include potential terpine drift and odor from hemp and cannabis as well as potential pesticide drift onto hemp and cannabis from other crops. He anticipates up to 500 - 1000 acres of hemp/cannabis to be grown in SLO county in 2020. Other issues discussed were state legislation regarding agricultural worker housing, recently introduced federal legislation regarding ag worker legal status, and the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.
 - c. Executive Director Report. Devin Best reviewed the ED report distributed prior to the meeting. Highlights include: 1) the Gerhardt project continues to move forward. It is an opportunity to demonstrate to the county that the RCD can do the right type of studies and designs for similar projects elsewhere; 2) Limonium treatment in Santa Barbara county has improved with Tidal Influence (a non-profit organization) having taken over the work effort. The WCB is reviewing our request for more funding in order to accomplish 95% eradication. 3) R-RAW. Justin Vineyards has asked for a scope of work for land management. 4) The WSPs are working on the Arundo project using satellite imagery to map the infestation's distribution.
 - d. Mike Broadhurst deferred discussion of the Board position nominations for chair and vice chair until Susan Cochrane is present.
 - e. Salinas River Management Plan Project Update. Devin Best described recent communications with Biodiversity First, who have funded work on a Salinas River Watershed Management Plan to be done by Creeklands using the US-LT RCD as an intermediary. Devin

- is liasing between the two organizations to help assure Biodiversity First that the funded work is indeed being done. Mike Broadhurst requested that this topic be reviewed again at the next board meeting.
- V. Consent. Mike Broadhurst asked for discussion and/or changes to the September meeting minutes and Treasurer's report. Devin Best commented that Accounts Receivable is decreasing (\$100K down to \$45K). Tom Mora moved for approval of both minutes and treasurer's report and Chuck Pritchard seconded. Unanimous approval.
- VI. Other Agency, Director and Association Reports.
- a. WRAC Update. George Kendall reported on the Stream Flow Study presentation by Creeklands at the October WRAC meeting. Focus was on the environmental requirements to support critical habitat in central coast streams. Spring and Late Summer flow rates were presented for over 50 locations in SLO county.
 - b. NRCS Report. None.
 - c. ALAB Report. The October meeting was cancelled so there was no report. There was general board discussion about hemp and cannabis. New permits to grow hemp will not be available until February 2020. There is significant hemp acreage in Imperial county.
- VII. Board Action Items.
- a. Mike Broadhurst read Resolution 2019-03 to appoint Margy Lindquist to the Board of Directors of the US-LT RCD as an active voting member effective 10/204/2019. George Kendall moved approval. Chuck Pritchard seconded. Unanimous approval. The board is now full at 9 members.
- VIII. Agenda Setting. Update on Justin property. Update on Biodiversity First re Creeklands work on the Salinas River watershed. Next meeting to be a lunch meeting December 11 at 11:30 at Paso Robles Golf and Country Club. Nominations for Board chair and vice chair positions. Update on invasive weeds. (Devin Best, Tom Mora and Mike Bonnheim will meet. Devin will then meet with Public Works and/or Ag Commissioner).
- IX. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 pm.