

Upper Salinas – Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2022

Jada Vineyard, Templeton, CA

- I. Call to Order. Mary Bianchi called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and determined a quorum was not yet present. Directors attending: Mary Bianchi, Randy Heinzen, Mike Broadhurst, George Kendall, and Susan Cochrane (arrived at item IV d to establish quorum). Staff present: Devin Best, Amy Smart, Spencer Gordon (RCD), Hilary Phillips (NRCS), and Ben Dore (county counsel). Members of the public present: Dolores Howard.
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda. Note the agenda needed to state the consent agenda items were for April, not March.
- III. Public Comment. Spencer Gordon provided a summary of his background and experience before starting work with the RCD.
- IV. RCD Reports.
 - a. Board Updates. Brief general discussion of stream flow in the county.
 - b. Executive Director Report. Devin Best reviewed the Executive Director report in the board packet.
 - c. New employee – Spencer Gordon. Spencer provided his introduction during the earlier Public Comment.
 - d. FY 22/23 Budget. (Susan Cochrane arrived at this time to establish a quorum.) Devin Best reviewed the proposed budget as summarized in the budget spreadsheet. He pointed out the new contract numbering system and flagging of contracts with project (pass through) services. Estimated income from contracted and expected contract sources is \$2,338,969, of which \$1,534,006 is for project services. Outstanding Grant Applications total \$4,438,073 of possible future income sources that have not yet been awarded. Devin summarized anticipated expenses and mentioned that we currently have 2.6 months of reserves. There was general board discussion. Approval will be sought at the June board meeting.
- V. Consent
 - a. April Minutes. Randy Heinzen moved approval of the April board meeting minutes. Mary Bianchi seconded. Motion approved.
 - b. April Treasurer’s report. There was no April Treasurer’s report.
- VI. Other Agency, Director and Association Reports
 - a. NRCS. Hilary Phillips reported there were no significant new developments from NRCS. Kim McCue has retired.
 - b. WRAC. Dolores Howard summarized the May joint WRAC – RWM Group meeting wherein there were summaries of various funding requests in the county. Mike

Broadhurst suggested that a SGMA update be put on the agenda and that perhaps Blain Reely, SLO county water recharge coordinator, could attend in August.

- c. ALAB. No report because May meeting was cancelled. The Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Planting Ordinance is out for public comment.

VII. Board Action Items.

- a. Consider Appointment of Dolores Howard to RCD Board – Resolution 22-01. After brief board discussion, Mike Broadhurst moved to appoint Dolores Howard to the US –LT board of directors. Randy Heinzen seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. Devin Best will prepare the required formal letter to the county clerk recorder for signature at the June board meeting. Mary Bianchi requested that Devin obtain a copy of the record of appointments and terms to the RCD board of directors.
- b. Request to contract a law firm to conduct a workplace investigation. Susan Cochrane read a statement requesting that the board of directors delegate authority to the Executive Committee to execute a contract with a law firm specializing in workplace investigations and that the Executive Committee work with the office of the county counsel to define a scope of work and negotiate contract terms. Randy Heinzen suggested that the Executive Committee’s actions should be unanimous, and this was generally agreed. There was brief board discussion. Mary Bianchi is the EC’s point person in this matter. Ben Dore has helped develop a draft scope of work and expects the investigation and subsequent report to be completed relatively fast (weeks not months). Randy Heinzen moved to delegate authority to the executive committee, acting unanimously, to contract an appropriate law firm to conduct a workplace investigation based on a scope of work developed with county counsel. Mike Broadhurst seconded. The board unanimously approved the motion.

VIII. Agenda Setting. Ad Hoc finance committee report; FY 22/23 budget approval. A July board meeting may also be needed via zoom for CalTrans contract approval.

IX. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55. Several board members and staff inspected the Jada Vineyard fuel management work site.