

Upper Salinas – Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2019

- I. Call to Order. Susan Cochrane called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm and determined that a quorum was not present. Directors present: Susan Cochrane, Mike Bonnheim, Tom Mora, and George Kendall. Staff present: Devin Best (RCD) and Hilary Phillips (NRCS).
- II. Additions/Changes to the agenda: None.
- III. Public Comment: None.
- IV. RC D Reports
 - a. Board Updates. George Kendall described his neighbor's retention basin in the Santa Rosa Creek drainage. The basin retained and infiltrated several acre feet over the past winter. Mike Bonnheim discussed the June 26 Range Improvement Association Meeting. CalFire is working to modify prescriptive burn BMPs to facilitate more burns. There was general discussion about vegetation management practices to improve stream flow.
 - b. Executive Director Report. Devin Best reviewed the Executive Director Report included in the meeting packet. Notable were that a proposal has been submitted to the Coastal Conservancy for forest health funding; the Gerhardt project paperwork is progressing and PG&E may provide additional funding; a second Healthy Soils Demo grant was awarded to the RCD to evaluate the efficacy of vermicompost on vineyards; and the RCD was awarded a grant through the CDFG Noxious Weeds program to survey the Arundo infestation in the Upper Salinas watershed. Sal Zaragoza has taken a job with SLO County so we are looking at hiring a replacement.
 - c. R-RAW Phase I Presentation. Executive Director Devin Best reviewed the Restoration and Regenerative Agriculture Workspace Phase I Implementation as contained in the meeting packet. He briefly covered the main project elements, including a possible budget for the property. The most significant item is the endowment required to help fund the operation of the property. There have been some local management changes at Justin. Maria Kelly is still our principal contact at Justin. There was general discussion about management requirements for the property.
- V. Consent. Since there was no quorum, no actions were taken. The May Treasurer's report was reviewed. Devin Best announced that Treasurer Eric Kaltenbach had resigned from the RCD Board of Directors effective June 14. He has discussed the Treasurer's position with Director Mary Bianchi.
- VI. Other Agency Reports.
 - a. WRAC Update. Tom Mora summarized the June WRAC meeting. Proposition 1 funds will be awarded to several CSDs and SLO county agencies for a number of largely infrastructure-related projects. The WRAC would like the RCD to provide a brief (5

minute) summary of the RCD's organization and activities at the September 4 WRAC meeting.

- b. NRCS. Hillary Philips discussed a recent Grassland Conservation Initiative that would pay \$18.00 per acre for certain historical farmland that has been idle or fallow during the period January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2017. There was discussion of this and other conservation programs. The FSA is expected to clarify terms and deadlines in further correspondence in the near future.
- VII. Board Action Items. No actions were taken due to lack of a quorum.
- VIII. Agenda Setting. It was generally decided to convene an emergency board of directors meeting on Monday July 8 at 9am to address the FY 2019/2020 Budget, select a Treasurer, and R-RAW Phase I Implementation. The next regular meeting will be Thursday August 22 at 4 pm.
- IX. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 pm.