

UPPER SALINAS - LAS TABLAS RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 19, 2019

TEMPLETON, CA

- I. Call to Order. Vice Chair Mike Broadhurst called the meeting to order at 9:04 am and determined a quorum was present. Directors present: Mike Broadhurst, Chuck Pritchard, Randy Heinzen, Mary Bianchi, Susan Cochrane, George Kendall. Staff present: Executive Director Devin Best, Andrew Johnson, Erin White.
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda. None.
- III. Public Comment. None.
- IV. RCD Reports.
 - a. Board Updates. Chuck Pritchard commented on the need for conservation of agricultural land due to its limited extent. George Kendall commented on recent hemp ordinance discussions at ALAB regarding cultivation setback distances and pesticide residue limits. Mary Bianchi suggested considering “temporal set backs” or time requirements between hemp harvest and pesticide spraying on adjacent land.
 - b. Executive Director’s Report. Devin Best summarized the ED report handed out at the meeting. After meeting with the RCD and Creeklands, Biodiversity First now appears satisfied with the progress Creeklands is making on the Salinas River Watershed management project. All Gerhardt project permit applications have been submitted and are under review. In Devin Best’s opinion current and projected projects have put the RCD at essentially full capacity. Mike Broadhurst suggested discussing RCD staffing level at the next board meeting.
 - c. Board Position Nominations. After general discussion Mike Broadhurst nominated Chuck Pritchard to be Vice Chair. Randy Heinzen seconded. Before taking a vote it was decided to present and vote on the candidates for all positions at the next meeting.
 - d. Healthy Soils Demonstration Project Recap. Andrew Johnson summarized the status of the Healthy Soils effort. The US-LT RCD is the 3rd highest recipient of CDFA grant funding for healthy soils projects, both demo projects (larger scale and involving Cal Poly or the RCD) and incentive projects (smaller projects where the RCD writes a proposal for a landowner but is not otherwise involved). So far the RCD has helped obtain 9 incentive grants for different growers. Andrew described a specific demonstration project evaluating the effect of cover crops on vineyard soils. It involved 4 sites and included 2 workshops (with 115 attendees). Four practices are being evaluated: cover crop with full till, cover crop with no till, mowing and chemical weed control, and alternate row cover crop and mowing. Soil biological activity will be evaluated this Fall with PLFA (phospholipid fatty acid) analysis. There was general discussion about the RCD’s objective of not doing research but rather providing information and good practice examples to growers. General discussion included the need for practices to be low cost

in order to be sustainable; application of sugar water and/or low amounts of compost (1/4 ") to rangeland; methods of spreading compost; and Cal Poly's interest in healthy soils.

- V. Consent Agenda. Susan Cochrane asked for discussion of the October Treasurer's Report. Devin Best explained the occasional temporary borrowing from the money market fund to manage cash flow as well as the flow through funds that do not appear in the budget. These funds essentially move from the funding source (such as CDFA) directly to a service provider (such as a soil testing laboratory). This is the first budget year that flow through funding is being tracked. Chuck Pritchard moved for approval. Randy Heinzen seconded. Approved unanimously. Susan Cochrane then asked for consideration of the October meeting minutes. Chuck Pritchard moved for approval. Randy Heinzen seconded. Approved with Mary Bianchi abstaining.
- VI. Other Agency Reports. None.
- VII. Board Action Items. None.
- VIII. Agenda Setting. Future topics: Santa Rosa Creek Streamflow Update (summer 2020); Budget discussion; Vote on board officers; Justin property update; RCD staffing requirements.
- IX. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am. Next meeting is January 23, 2020 at 4:00 pm.