

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors Of the San Benito Resource Conservation District

Thursday February 25, 2021 at 4:00 pm

The SBRCDD typically meets the 4th Thursday of the month at the NRCS Field Office at 4:00 pm
2337 Technology Pkwy. Suite C Hollister, CA 95023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94089041590?pwd=aFp1MVpNRzhrVmhDK2pQM09QY0pFdz09>

Meeting ID: 940 8904 1590 Passcode: 865079

One tap mobile: +16699009128, 94089041590# *865079# US (San Jose)

Or Call In with conference number:

Conference Dial-In-Number: 1(302) 202-1114 Conference Code: 207951

1. Meeting Called to Order: **by (CW) at 4:04 pm**
2. **Present:** *Cameron Wright (CW) Board President, Director*
John Nolan (JN) Vice President, Director
Paul Hain (PH) Director
Tony Stork (KS) Director: absent
Veronica Stork (VS) Director
Kelli Shingai, (KS) Associate Director: absent
Camille Abreu-Woida (CAW) SBRCDD District Manager
James Booth (JB) NRCS District Conservationist
3. Public Comments (*The public may comment on any item not on the agenda. The law does not permit Board action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. If Board action is requested, the matter may be placed on a future agenda. Speakers' comments will be limited to three (3) minutes.*) None
4. Approval of Minutes: January: **Motion to approve (PH), second (JN) Motion approved 4-0**
5. Treasurer's Report/ Pay Bills (discussion & action): **Motion to approve (PH), second (VS)**
Motion approved 4-0
 - a. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Transaction Detail Summary
 - b. Invoices to be paid -
6. New Business (discussion and possible action)
 - a. Prescribed Burn Association – **Veronica Stork: (VS) shared the flyer for the upcoming Prescribed Firefighter and Basic Wildland Firefighter Training scheduled for April 3rd in Carmel, April 10th in Hollister, and April 11th in Santa Cruz. Cost is \$20.00 and**

registration is open until filled. (VS) has signed up to participate in the workshop.

More information included in the workshop section of the agenda.

7. Old Business (discussion and possible action:

- a. Strategic Planning Committee Report – **Discussion on the tentative mission and vision statements by (JN). Will continue to work on strategic planning on projects and accomplishments.**
- b. Kelli Shingai Associate Director Position – **Discussion on interest in the RCD by (KS) (CAW) will send out a text and email to find out (KS) interests. Topic tabled.**

8. Ongoing Reports

- a. NRCS District Conservationist Report for Hollister Service Center, James Booth – **Leopard Conservation Award info was sent out by (CAW) please respond if you have any nominations. Grant opportunity offered by NRCS on cover crops. Last windstorm has blown down greenhouses in the area, (JB) will have to do field visits to evaluate.**
- b. Director’s Report – **(PH) Doing flood control work in the Tres Pinos Creek, logs disappeared with the rain and storms. Watershed allocation bureau of reclamation has allotted 5% for water districts, exceptionally low allotment. (VS) received 9 inches of rain at her place in January. Despite the January rains, we are still in a drought and the seeds in the ground are dying. (JN) have had to buy hay for his cows since there is not enough rain for the grasses to grow. (CW) Usually have the irrigation hoses pulled up by now but with the drought he has had to water his fields to encourage cover crops in his walnut orchard.**

9. Incoming Correspondence (Correspondence folder is available for review at each board meeting, but is not included in the formalized agenda)

- a. Ag Alert February 2021
- b. Farm Bureau News February 2021
- c. Special District Board Member Handbook
- d. Special District Leadership Academy
- e. Getting the Job Done NACD Technical Assistance

10. Upcoming Meetings and workshops

Prescribed Firefighter and Wildland Firefighter Training

Learn the fundamentals of prescribed fire lighting and wildland firefighting during this hands on, one-day field training (choose 1 of the 3 workshop locations). This training will give you the building blocks to be a safe and effective participant in local Rx burns. By the end of the training, you will be prepared to participate in local, cooperative burns hosted by the new Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association (calpba.org). Skills acquired at the training include fire line construction, fire line communications, prescribed fire ignitions, operation of a firefighting pump, installation of a hose-lay and more. In addition, the one-day training can certify you as a Basic Wildland Firefighter 2 (NWCG FFT2), with pre-completion of online coursework plus an “Arduous pack-test” prior to attending the in-person field day

(note: online course work is not necessary if you will not be seeking a FFT2 cert). Let us know if you are interested.

Register at: <https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=33128> For questions contact Jared Childress (childress.ember@gmail.com) or Devii Rao (drorao@ucanr.edu).

April 3: Santa Lucia Conservancy, Carmel, Monterey Co

April 10: Paicines Ranch, San Benito Co

April 11: Davenport, Santa Cruz Co

Time: 900 am – 500 pm Cost: \$20 (Scholarships available upon request, no one turned away)

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC)

Draft Guidelines Now Available for Public Comment

Online Public Workshops March 3rd and March 9th

The California Strategic Growth Council and the Department of Conservation (DOC) are pleased to announce the release of the 2020/2021 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) Draft Guidelines. DOC is hosting a series of online workshops to share program information and to solicit public input.

About the Program: The SALC Program supports agricultural conservation, economic growth and sustainable development by providing grants for two types of projects:

Planning grants that support the development of local and regional land use policies and economic development strategies to protect critical agricultural land.

Agricultural Conservation Acquisition grants that are used to permanently protect croplands and rangelands that are at-risk of conversion to sprawl development.

To learn more, please join us for one of the following online workshops:

Workshop 1- Wednesday March 3, 2021

1 PM – 2 PM (Acquisition Grants) [Register here](#)

Workshop 2- Tuesday March 9, 2021

11 AM – Noon (Acquisition Grants) [Register here](#)

Workshop 3- Tuesday March 9, 2021

1 PM – 2 PM (Planning Grants) [Register here](#)

What will be discussed?

Overview of the SALC Program

Guideline overview and updates

Important dates and timelines

How can I comment?

Online during the workshop

Email: SALCP@conservation.ca.gov

California Envirothon Is Going Virtual

The Envirothon is an environmental problem-solving, team building, and leadership experience for high school students. This year, the competition will be taking place online on March 13 and 20. Student teams are tested on five topics: soils, aquatic, wildlife, forestry, and a "current issue," which for 2021 is groundwater. This is a great opportunity for young people to have positive experiences with environmental sciences; please spread the word with your local schools. RCDs can also volunteer as judges, breakout room monitors, and graders. Please reach out to RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains Board Member [Nancy Helsley](#) with any questions. [Click here for the website.](#)

Capitol Ag Day 2021 Workshop March 23, 2021 9: 00 – 11:45

Grassroots advocacy has been at the very core of Farm Bureau since its beginning, so it is appropriate that our annual springtime leaders meeting has been renamed the Capitol AG Conference. AG stands for "advocacy" and "grassroots," and that is just what Farm Bureau leaders from throughout California will bring to the state Capitol.

Farm Bureau is privileged to have skilled professional advocates to represent our members in the Legislature, Congress, the courts, and the media. But they will tell you that no one speaks on behalf of California agriculture better than the state's family farmers and ranchers themselves.

This year we will meet virtually with elected representatives to [stress](#) the role state legislation can play in securing California's role as the nation's No. 1 agricultural state—or in undermining that role.

Legislators need to hear directly from farmers and ranchers about the challenges they face—but also about positive actions state government can take to make California more business-friendly.

To register and for more info:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/5ba63cc3-5b19-4576-975b-b405f233e0a1/summary>

More Xerces Pollinator Kits in Spring!

[Xerces Pollinator Kits](#) will be available again this spring. The invitation to apply will not be shared broadly since Xerces wants to target RCDs and working lands and public/natural lands managers only. If your RCD is interested in applying, please [email Nancy Wahl-Scheurich](#) and let her know. She will provide your contact information to Xerces and they will send you the link for the application when it becomes available.

Pajaro Compass Land-Use Planning Presentations Available

Did you miss the [Pajaro Compass Network](#) Fall Stakeholder Meeting in October with the theme ***Regional Land-Use Planning: Shaping Growth and Community Character in the Upper Pajaro Watershed?*** The slides from presentations by representatives of the City of Hollister, the City of San Juan Bautista, and the San Benito Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) are posted on the Pajaro Compass [website here](#).

UC Rangelands Curriculum and Videos

UC Rangelands has released the Ranch Water Quality Planning [Instructor's Guide and Lesson Plan](#). The guide provides the resources and tools to plan workshops for grazing livestock producers and other stakeholders interested in grazing management and water quality. The resources include [a series of instructional videos](#). UC Rangelands has also released videos of the webinars from this past summer's series, "[Working Rangelands Wednesdays](#)." The second season of the webinars is expected to begin early next year.

10. Adjournment- Next scheduled meeting **March 25, 2021**