

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

Thursday January 28, 2021 at 4:00 pm

The SBRCDC 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

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

Conference Code: 207951

1. Meeting Called to Order **by (CW) at 4:14 pm**
2. **Present:** *Cameron Wright Board President, Director*
John Nolan (JN) Vice President, Director: absent
Paul Hain (PH): absent
Tony Stork (KS) Director
Veronica Stork (VS) Director
Kelli Shingai, (KS) Associate Director: absent
Camille Abreu-Woida (CAW) SBRCDC District Manager
James Booth (JB) NRCS
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: December – **Motion to approve (TS), second (VS), Motion approved 3-0**
5. Treasurer’s Report/ Pay Bills (discussion & action) - **Motion to approve (TS), second (VS), Motion approved 3-0**
 - a. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Transaction Detail Summary
 - b. Invoices to be paid - None
6. New Business (discussion and possible action)
 - a. Current and future Directors/Associate Directors – **(CAW) discussed outreach for associate director open positions, having the board and staff on the lookout for interested candidates. (VS) stated that we would probably have more interest once we build capacity and accomplish more goals. (CAW) also mentioned the interest of**

(KS) and will reach out to her to see if she is still interested in continuing on the board as an associate director.

7. Old Business (discussion and possible action)

- a. Strategic Planning Committee Report – **(CAW) reported that the committee met on Jan 19th and started on rewriting the strategic plan. (JN) will work on the mission statement, (CAW) will put together a report on past projects, and (VS) will work on a tagline. Next committee meetings will be held on Feb. 2nd and 16th at 1:00 pm.**
- b. Suggestions on Director’s interest and proposed plans for the future of the RCD – **(CAW) asked the board for ideas and interested in the type of grants and projects they are interested in seeing done in our community. Some topic ideas: water conservation, pollinators, hedgerows, erosion, prescribed burns, soil conservation, education, gardens, disadvantaged farmers, grants for seeds and pond restoration.**

8. Ongoing Reports

- a. NRCS District Conservationist Report for Hollister Service Center, James Booth – **(JB) stated that the NRCS has applications approved for the first round with current funds and has set aside 20% of those funds for summer applications. He also stated that the USDA has hired Alex Moreno as the new supervisor, and they are now able to offer translation services. They are in the 2nd round of interviews for the Monarch Butterfly open position. (JB) is still acting DC in Salinas NRCS office. Working on Kitchen Table in Monterey Co. targeting underserved farmers. Looking to expand service to San Benito Co. New Soil Conservationist in Hollister office started 6 months ago.**
- b. Director’s Report – **(CW) was grateful for the rain we have been having. (VS) contacted Jonathan Pangburn and he is willing to speak at a board meeting about conflict of interest. She also discussed prescribed burns and how important it is to burn at the correct times of the year. (TS) has been working on his living quarters, weather permitting.**

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

- a. Ag Alert January 2021
- b. Farm Bureau News January 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

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.](#)

Water Solutions Network

The Water Solutions Network is accepting applications for its next program based in the San Joaquin River and/or Tulare Lake watersheds. Successful applicants will have travel, lodging and meals are covered. The deadline to apply is noon on Tuesday, February 16. Paul Robins of Monterey County RCD is an alumni and has described it as an excellent network development and professional development opportunity. He has offered to answer questions to prospective applicants and can be reached at paul.robins@rcdmonterey.org. [Click here for the application.](#)

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.

11. Adjournment- **by (CW) at 4:59 pm**

Next scheduled meeting **February 25, 2021**