

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

Thursday March 25, 2021 at 4:00 pm

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

**Topic: San Benito RCD**

**Time: Mar 25, 2021 04:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/91507007681?pwd=MXhkazdGMWppRDYydTlvaDErRHB5Zz09>

**Meeting ID: 915 0700 7681**

**Passcode: 407650**

**Dial by your location**

**+1 669 900 9128 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 4:03 pm
2. **Present:** *Cameron Wright (CW) Board President, Director  
John Nolan (JN) Vice President, Director  
Paul Hain (PH) Director: 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 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: February: **Motion to approve (TS) second (JN). Motion approved 4-0**
5. Treasurer's Report/ Pay Bills (discussion & action): **Motion to approve (VS), second (TS).  
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. MOU Memorandum of Understanding San Benito County Weed Management Area – (see attachment): **Discussion on MOU with SBC Weed Management, MOU to collaborate on weed management in SBC. Motion to approve (JN), second (TS). Motion approved 4-0**
  - b. Local Working Group LWG – (see attachments): **Collaborating with NRCS on a workshop for SBC addressing the needs of the County. (CAW) suggested a committee to work on topics for this workshop. (CW) and (TS) volunteered for committee and (CAW) will set up and send out notices for meetings.**
7. Old Business (discussion and possible action)
  - a. Strategic Planning Committee Report: **(CAW), (JN) and (VS) have met in the past month to discuss strategic planning. A tentative mission and vision statement have been developed and the committee will next address the format for strategic plan.**
8. Ongoing Reports
  - a. NRCS District Conservationist Report for Hollister Service Center, James Booth: **(JB) has been acting DC in Salinas office, NRCS has hired Ari from the Santa Maria office to take over as DC in Salinas. Hollister office has hired an engineer, candidate to start soon. Due to Coronavirus visitors are still not allowed in the office and staff is at 50%. NRCS is currently approving contracts at 20% success rate. NRCS is currently working with Monterey RCD on Kitchen Table Association, helping Spanish speaking producers; started with 2 producers now working with 8.**
  - b. Director's Report: **(TS) working on cleaning up winter debris and spring cleaning. (VS) working on spring flowers and concerned about the lack of rain and its effects on our soils. (CW) also working on spring cleaning and cover crops for 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 March 2021
  - b. Farm Bureau News March 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](http://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](mailto:childress.ember@gmail.com)) or Devii Rao ([drorao@ucanr.edu](mailto: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)

## 2021 CFDN Meeting Series - The Nitty Gritty On California Soils

The [California Farm Demonstration Network](#) is hosting a four-part series on California soils, providing credit on CCA and PCA units. This series will feature four speakers, each with extensive knowledge of California soils through the lens of farming and agriculture. Speakers will be covering various topics, including *composting, orchard recycling, soil sampling, testing for microbial dynamics, and more.*

**When:** March 24, April 21, May 19, June 16

**Bring your lunch!** Each session will be 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

[Click here to learn more and register for each session.](#)

### April 15<sup>th</sup> -- Cattle Grazing Behavior & Monitoring Techniques & the Impact on Rangeland Resources

@4:00 -5:30 PM, hosted by the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition. Megan Banwarth, Cal Poly, will discuss various methods of altering grazing behavior and movement through applied practices. Technologies such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and accelerometers provide insightful data to better manage cattle and natural resources. Zoom [registration here.](#)

## Climate Adaptation Resources Survey for California Agriculture Professionals

The USDA California Climate Hub is developing an Adaption Workbook for California Agriculture with the goal of providing relevant and science-based information to the Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) community. A survey has been created for technical assistance providers to assess their view of the main climate-related stressors for California agriculture, and the informational needs the TAP community may have to help producers adapt to climate change. **Survey to be completed by April 4, 2021.** CARCD is in partnership with the Climate Hub and encourages RCD participation! [Click here to fill out the survey.](#)

## March 31<sup>st</sup> -- Davis Ranches Beneficial Birds Virtual Field Day

@10:00 am - 12:30 pm, hosted by [Wild Farm Alliance](#). Davis Ranches has designed and installed several miles of hedgerows as corridors to allow safe passage and refuge for birds and other wildlife. These corridors support pest control by birds, by placing habitat close to the crops. Find more information and [registration here](#).

## Upcoming Spring Regional Meetings

- **Central Sierra Regional Meeting:** RCDs in the Central Sierra Region are invited to join the bi-annual [regional meeting](#) on **Tuesday, March 30, from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Regional Chair, [Harold Singer](#), of Tahoe RCD. Agenda and virtual meeting link to follow.
- **Sacramento Valley Regional Meeting:** RCDs in the Sacramento Valley Region are invited to join the Spring [regional meeting](#) on **Wednesday, April 28, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Kandi Manhart](#) of Glenn County RCD. Agenda and virtual meeting link to follow.

**Sponsored by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research** and in alignment with the Governor's proposed budget incorporating the efforts of the Forest Management Task Force, there will be a series of four work-group seminars to enhance workforce development efforts toward gainful employment opportunities in the forest sector and related industries. Sessions will take place on **March 25, April 22, May 27, and June 24 from 12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m.** [Click here to learn more and register](#).

## Building Effective Partnerships With Indigenous Communities Webinar

**On April 1, 2021**, the Conservation Biology Institute is hosting *a talk by James Rattling Leaf, Sr. on best practices for building partnerships with indigenous communities*. The webinar will outline recommendations for working with Indigenous communities based on the knowledge that long term relationship building with these communities is the foundation upon which educational programs, research collaborations, and other initiatives must be co-created. [Learn more and register here](#).

## 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- Adjournment of meeting by (CW) at 4:38 pm**

Next scheduled meeting **April 22, 2021**