

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

March 24, 2016 at 5:00pm

The SBRCDC typically meets the 4th Thursday of the month at the NRCS Field Office at 2337 Technology Parkway, Suite C in Hollister, CA at 5pm.

1. Meeting Called to Order by **Ted Thoeny at 5:08 pm**.
Present in alphabetical order: **Camille Abreu-Woida (CAW), Erika Boyland (EB), Jeff Dye (JD), Paul Hain (PH), Rob Hillebrecht (RH), Derek Jara (DJ), Drew Mather (DM), Kelli Shingai, (KS) Ted Thoeny (TT), Cameron Wright (CW).**
2. Public Comments: **Rob Hillebrecht, engineer for Sunnyslope Co. Water District. Attended Cal Poly, grew up on an Avocado farm in San Diego, CA. Interested in conservation. Kelly Shingai, grew up in Hollister, CA Been interested in conservation since childhood.**
3. Approval of Minutes: January 2016, No Feb. Meeting: **Motion to approve (PH), Second by (CW).**
4. Treasurer's Report/ Pay Bills (discussion & action)
 - a. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Transaction Detail Summary: **Motion to approve (PH), Second (CW).**
 - b. Invoices to be Paid. **Invoices Paid**
5. New Business (discussion and action)
 - a. Irrigation System Evaluation Short Course: Sponsored by the California Dept. of Water Resources. Online portion starts in spring 2016, hands-on class June 13-15, 2016, located at Cal Poly and June 15-17 at Harris Ranch in Coalinga. Cost for online and hands-on field work: \$250, plus \$115 for required textbook. **Discussion on how valuable attending this week long course will be for the RCD. (EB) explained that this course is directly related to the Mobile Lab that the RCD will be setting up. (CW) inquired with (JD) and (DJ) if they were available to attend the week long course. (TT) agreed that both (DJ) and (JD) should attend the class. Motion to approve (PH), second (CW).**
 - b. Summer Internship: **(CAW) was contacted by a student at Christopher High School who would like to do some internship work with the RCD. (CAW) stated that she could work on the mobile lab and help with IWM and NM. (TT) stated that we should take advantage of any volunteer help. Motion to approve (CW), second (PH).**
6. Old Business (discussion and possible action)
 - a. Strategic Plan **Discussion to be tabled for a later date. (PH) suggested we get together on a Saturday and discuss the Strategic Plan. He also suggested that (CAW) send out a doodle pool to get feedback from everyone on available Saturday's.**
7. Ongoing Reports

a. NRCS Report: **(DM) shared a short you tube video on “What Did We Learn from the Dust Bowl.” (DM) also spoke about attending Farm Day with (JD). (DM) dressed as a Bee and they set up a bee pollinator habitat talking to and answering the many questions the children asked. They had approximately 250-300 kids attend Farm Day. Report from (EB): Please see attached for (EB) report.**

b. Director’s Report: Paul spoke about the Tour of Planning Projects planned for April 14th. **The tour will highlight restoration plantings and other wildlife habitat improvement projects made possible through private-public partnerships. The plantings we will view were designed to provide multiple benefits to the ranch owners, including bank stabilization (flood protection), filtration of runoff, drought resilience, and improved habitat for wildlife, pollinators, and other beneficial insects.**

c. RCD Report: **(DJ) spoke about the IWM workshop that was held March 16th. It was attended by approximately 50 people. The workshop was successful as it addressed important concerns on IWM for the producers in attendance. (DJ) gave an overview presentation on the importance of IWM. We also had Dan Johnson, State Water Management Engineer, NRCS; USDA spoke on the process and advantages of IWM. In attendance were seven IWM vendors; please see attached agenda for list of vendors and IWM flyer.**

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

- a. LAFCO Commissioner Handbook
- b. Land and Water 2016 guide
- c. 2016 Professional development catalog
- d. San Benito County Water District Final Annual Groundwater Report for Water year 2015 (DVD)

9. Outgoing Correspondence

10. Upcoming Meetings and workshops

- a. April 14th Tour of Planting Projects on San Benito Ranches: Hain Ranch Organics in Tres Pinos: a walnut and poultry farm. Kathy and Joe Spencer: a grass-fed beef ranch in south San Benito County. All day tour of two riparian planting projects on San Benito Working ranches, made possible through private-public partnerships.
- b. Plant Sale and Garden Expo, April 16, 2016. Downtown Hollister.
- c. AWQA Meeting on Nitrate Removal through Structural BMP’s April 20th, Monterey County field tour. The topic of this meeting is nitrate reduction through small scale on farm structural practices.
- d. Rancher’s Economics Central Coast Rangeland Coalition April 21, 9:00am. – 4:15 pm. in Sunol, CA. Learn about the economics of ranching in the central coast of CA.

11. Adjournment- **Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm**

12. Next meeting **April 28, 2016. 5pm**