

CCRCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** was held Tuesday, August 17, 2021 by teleconferencing

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Igor Skaredoff, Walter Pease, Bethallyn Black and Lorena Castillo

ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bob Simmons, Bob Peoples & Angela Vincent

RCD STAFF PRESENT: Chris Lim, Elissa Robinson, & Ben Weise

DIRECTORS EXCUSED: Renee Fernandez-Lipp

NRCS STAFF PRESENT: None

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIR, Igor Skaredoff at 8:34 A.M.

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Kanyon Sayers-Roods, Kanyon Consulting.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: BROWN ACT, SECTION (54954.2(B) (2))

DETERMINATION THAT A NEED IMMEDIATE ACTION EXISTS:

Chris Lim suggested the addition of Item 2.2 Approval of BIMID Contract. Bethallyn Black made the motion to include item 2.2. Seconded by Lorena Castillo. Motion passes 4-0.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Bob Peoples recommended that item 3, July Financials be removed from the consent calendar, and included as a discussion item. for discussion. Motion made by Walter Pease to approve consent calendar items 1 and 2. Seconded by Loreana Castillo. Motion passes 4-0. Following Discussion 2.3, Walter Pease moves approval of Item 3- July 2021 financials. Seconded by Bethallyn Black. Motion passes 4-0.

PRESENTATION: Josh Bradt, San Francisco Estuary Partnership presented their Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program. Josh Bradt explained the goals and objectives of program briefly describing the trust, water testing and Estuary plans for partners in the program.

Kanyon Sayers-Roods, Kanyon Consulting, gave a presentation on tribal engagement, and how a Memorandum or Recognition (MOR) for an agency. An MOR serves as a guiding document for engagement, recognition, and relationship building with local indigenous tribes.

DETERMINATION ITEMS:

2.1 Consider approval of subcontract with Hyphae Design Lab for Disadvantaged Communities Water Needs Assessment program. Lorena Castillo makes the motion to approve the contract. Seconded by Walter Pease. Motion passes 4-0.

2.2 Consider Approval of BIMID Contract. Contract with Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District to restore areas for fish friendly habitat. There are 3 sites along the levee road that the EcoStewards performed erosion control measures for. This contract reimburses CCRCD for work done. There will be additional pre-monitoring work included in this agreement for future projects. Bethallyn Black moves to accept the proposal. Seconded by Walter Pease. Motion passes 4-0.

2.3 Discussion item: July, 2021 financials. CCRCD is right on the edge with its financial resources. It runs a deficit, and has been. The July bank balance shows a balance of \$163,000 and we spent \$120,000. There isn't much of a cushion and we need to maintain a cushion. We do the work, and then we get paid. We need to have the resources to fund that work until we get reimbursed.

Staff noticed that there was going to be a problem, so changes have been made to the contract that was causing budgeting problem. We can now bill before the work, and be reimbursed prior to issuing checks to our contractors. That should alleviate some of the issues. Staff tracks accounts receivable, and usually receives payments in 60 days. Looking at the cashflow and understanding when we'll be low, helps account for that. One thing to explore is a rotating line of credit. It is a way to smooth out some of the dips when we don't have the cashflow. More transparency with the board would be useful so they are aware of the crunches, and the plan for dealing with it. It would be better to avoid using a line of credit as much as possible, unless it is an emergency. CCRCDD participates in an annual audit. Does it include looking at the future, trends and cashflow? Would it be worthwhile to have an independent look ahead. The fundraising piece needs to be built up, and it would help with this issue.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

3.1 Elissa Robinson gave an update on the CARCD JEDI Committee since it formed in May, 2021. The Board was supportive of the work that the JEDI Committee has done so far. Elissa offered to work with Igor Skaredoff and other interested board members to draft a letter to CARCD in support of the actions the committee is taking to address Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion throughout the RCD network. Contra Costa RCD needs to move ahead ourselves, rather than waiting for CARCD to develop a plan.

REPORTS:

4.1 NRCS Report— VLP projects should be coming online soon. EQUIP CIC was wrapping up last month.

4.2 President Reports— Igor Skaredoff reading an Accident of Geography by Richard Blum. An anti-poverty movement to bring together financial, engineering, human relations to try to address poverty issues around the world. He talks about the things you need to make progress, a vision, passion, knowledge, and capital. That resonated, and we do that at the RCD. We find the money to get things done.

Friends of Pinole Creek are having their 20th anniversary this year. It has been around and has staying power.

4.3 Directors' Reports –

- Bethallyn Black - the California Natives class is being offered on Saturdays, and it is in danger of being cancelled because it needs more students. If you are interested, or know anyone that is please let them know to sign up
- Lorena Castillo – Groundwork Richmond will be hiring a program manager to run the urban forestry program and youth program. The job description will be posted in the next week or so.
- Bob Simmons - The notice of preparation of 7 Hills Ranch. The meeting was yesterday, and the written comments are do a week later. This is dealing with the scope of the NOP. The election for the Board of Supervisors' is in June, and we will see a change in the district where the project is.

4.4 Staff Reports—The Board had no questions on staff reports.

4.5 Executive Director Reports – Chris Lim ended the meeting with updates on the staff visioning meeting, office updates, and outstanding grants opportunities. There are two new staff members are joining the EcoStewards next week.

Igor Skaredoff Adjourned the Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Elissa Robinson, CCRCDD