

CCRCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2021

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** was held Tuesday, May 18, 2021 by teleconferencing

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Igor Skaredoff, Walter Pease, Renee Fernandez-Lipp
Bethallyn Black and Lorena Castillo

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

RCD STAFF PRESENT: Chris Lim, Patty Pell, Elissa Robinson, Eric Akeson & Ben Weise

DIRECTORS EXCUSED: All Present

NRCS STAFF PRESENT: None present

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

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

No public in attendance

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

DETERMINATION THAT A NEED IMMEDIATE ACTION EXISTS:

None added

CONSENT CALENDAR: After removing Item #2 from the consent package, Walter Pease made a motion to approve Item #1, April 20, 2021 Minutes as presented. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. April 20, 2021 minutes approved 5:0.

Following a short discussion on the April Financials, Item #2, Walter Pease made a motion to approve the financials as presented, Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 5:0.

PRESENTATION:

1.1 Eric Akeson, Digital Communications Manager, CCRCD. Eric Akeson presented the Board with a slide presentation introducing himself and illustrating his background and experience. Eric Akeson ended his presentation showing the his current work with the CCRCD including the updated website.

DETERMINATION ITEMS:

2.1 Consider Approving Agreements VLP #19-#24. Ben Weise, briefly described each VLP location and explained the purpose of each proposal . Following the discussion, Walter Pease made a motion to approve the VLPs #19-#24 agreement as presented. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion passes 5:0.

2.2 Consider Approving the Memorandum of Agreement with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) for developing an urban garden, “Oye” garden at CSU East Bay—Concord. Chris Lim, Executive Director, described the project along with the partners involved. Following the discussion, Bethallyn Black made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 5:0.

2.3 Consider post approval of Letter of Participation to UC Berkeley-Berkeley Forests. Chris Lim, Executive Director, described the grant connection and CCRCD’s EcoStewards’ responsibilities. Following the

discussion, Walter Pease made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion passes 5:0.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

3.1 Due to Governor Newsom’s announced proposal of \$5.1 Billion for water infrastructure and drought response, the Board discussed grant opportunities aligning with the CCRCDC. The possibility of hiring a grant writer to partake in the many opportunities was introduced.

3.2 Following a brief discussion during the last Board meeting of increasing the size of the Board from 5 to 7, the topic was introduced again for further discussion. After further consideration, the Board decided to postpone the matter indefinitely.

3.3 Elissa Robinson informed the Board on the status of Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work. Elissa Robinson introduced the idea of Land Acknowledgement and agreed to seek more information on the topic.

REPORTS:

4.1 NRCS Report—Ben Weise updated the Board on current NRCS’ EQIP and Soils Health programs.

4.2 President Reports— Igor Skaredoff reported how pleased he was with the Fire Safe Mitigation workshop, and highly recommended the book, Firescaping authored by the presenter, Douglas Kent. Igor Skaredoff ended his presented with updates on the various agencies he participates in.

4.3 Directors’ Reports – Bob Peoples also commented on Chris Lim’s & Hannah Lopez’s presentation on Wildfire Mitigation.

4.4 Staff Reports—The Board indicated they would like to see the actual DAC reports. A Board Fieldtrip was suggested for a couple of the projects.

4.5 Executive Director Reports – Chris Lim updated the Board on the many outstanding grant opportunities as well as mentioning upcoming projects/events.

Igor Skaredoff Adjourned the Meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Pell, Clerk of the Board, CCRCDC