



744 La Guardia Street, Building A, Salinas, CA 93905

(831) 424-1036, ext. 124

**APRIL 2012- REGULAR MEETING MINUTES—approved 5/24/2012**

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, April 19, 2012, 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Directors Present: P. Binsacca, S. Cobb, R. King, M. Duflock , B. Jefferson  
 Directors Absent: J. Devers, T. Roberts (Associate)  
 Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), L. Ferrasci  
 Recorder: P. Robins

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 CLERK OF THE BOARD  
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**Time**                  **Agenda Topics**

Presented by

10:10 A.M.

Call to Order  
  
Comments from the public

P. Binsacca

L. Ferrasci introduced herself to the Board as a potential candidate for the remaining open seat on the RCDMC Board of Directors. She is a lifelong resident of Carmel Valley, managing family lands there and near King City. She works mostly with a variety of livestock in Carmel Valley. Her father served on the Carmel Valley SCD for many years, and she feels RCD board service is an important contribution for her to make to the region.

President's and Directors' Comments P. Binsacca/ Directors

None.

Minutes for March 2012 Meeting (Review for Approval)    P. Robins/Directors

Minutes from the March 15, 2012 Meeting were presented and reviewed. S. Cobb moved to approve the March 2012 meeting minutes as submitted; M. Duflock seconded the motion; the motion was approved by 5-0 vote.

NRCS Update

R. LaFleur submitted a written report:

- Since October 2011, NRCS has approved 13 new EQIP contracts for \$610k worth of conservation cost-share/
- The new 'America's Great Outdoors' Monterey Bay Initiative has made available \$925k more for the region. Monterey County has received 26 new applications so far, and there are approximately 40 others throughout the region.
- The new 'cluster' agronomist, Karen Lowell, starts work on Monday, April 23.
- Barbara Eggers has arrived from Washington DC to serve as the interim 'Acting' ASTCFO (head of the NRCS area office covering Sonoma County south to Santa Barbara County) until Daniel Mountjoy's replacement is hired.

Budget and Finances (Review & Approval) P. Robins/Directors

Monthly Financial Statements and Bills: P. Robins presented financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending April 19, 2012. The accrual account balance on April 19 stood at \$178,544.32, with \$43,953.08 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury accounts (taking into account checks to be signed at the meeting), \$6,054.34 in liabilities, and \$140,645.59 due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. By comparison, the corrected Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$171,797.97 on March 15, 2012.

P. Robins presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid in April including bi-weekly salary through April 8, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the month of April. Approval for the April financial statements and for

April expenses from the Chase Bank account was motioned by R. King, seconded by S. Cobb and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Program Updates

P. Robins

P. Robins provided the following updates:

- He described completed work and showed images of the results of weed management work along the Big Sur River and above Elkhorn Slough.
- He provided an overview of upcoming events including the Carmel Valley Watershed workday on May 20, a potential Livestock and Land 'rainwater catchment' workshop on June 2, and another rainwater management ('Slow It Sink It Spread It') workshop on August 4 in Seaside.
- He provided an overview of three linked water quality assistance grant projects that will hit the ground in summer 2012 once contracts are finalized. Implementation of these projects will require hiring a new ag water management specialist for the RCD.

P. Binsacca requested that copies of the final report from the Santa Clara Valley Irrigation Efficiency Program and the water quality assistance grant proposal to CDFA be sent out to board members after the meeting. He also inquired if historic irrigation mobile lab documents were still accessible and if they might be useful for comparisons with the results to be observed under the new programs. P. Binsacca also asked how the RCD is interacting with the Monterey County Fire Safe Council. P. Robins replied that the RCD is currently represented at their monthly meetings through R. Shihadeh, and that new discussions are underway for cooperation on upcoming grant proposals.

New Business

P. Robins/Directors

P. Robins provided an overview of a new Conflict of Interest policy for the RCD. After a brief discussion, R. King moved to adopt the new policy as drafted, B. Jefferson seconded the motion and the motion was passed with 5-0 vote.

Board members discussed formation of ad hoc committees to assist the Executive Director with annual budget preparation and lead the ED performance review. P. Binsacca offered to lead the review. ~~M. Dufflock~~ R. King agreed to serve on a budget review committee. P. Robins agreed to contact S. Darington for assistance with the budget subcommittee and J. Devers with the annual review process.

Closing Discussion

Directors

P. Robins was directed to follow up with D. Feliz regarding the existing farmland lease agreement and well replacement costs at the Minhoto parcel owned by the Elkhorn Slough Reserve.

P. Binsacca asked to be included in the Livestock and Land project ranking meeting in May.

P. Robins was directed to follow-up with L. Ferrasci with board member application forms and with D. Turner regarding possible service as an Associate Director.

R. King announced that she's holding an open house at her ranch on May 5 from 12-5pm.

11:40 A.M.

Meeting Adjourned

P. Binsacca

The next regular RCD meeting will be held:

Date: **May 24, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**

Location: **Salinas Service Center: 744-A LaGuardia St., Salinas, CA 93905.**