

**MINUTES**  
**San Benito Resource Conservation District**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Thursday July 28, 2022, at 4:00 pm**  
**2337 Technology Pkwy. Suite C, Hollister, CA 95023**

Board members present: Cameron Wright (President), Veronica Stork, Paul Hain

Board members absent: none

Staff present: Karminder Brown

Guests present: James Booth

1. Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm by Cameron Wright.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes: June Meeting.

MOTION by Veronica, seconded by Cameron. Passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Transaction Detail Summary.

The Board likes the monthly ledger with sub-ledger detail. But would like to eventually have a P&L and Balance Sheet instead. There was discussion about setting up a separate bank account and/or getting a credit card for the RCD. KB has gathered some information from RCDMC and will investigate further. KB will meet with County staff again to find out whether they can generate a P&L report, if we track expenses to different categories on the claim forms.

MOTION to approve the County General Ledger Monthly Report by Cameron, Seconded by Veronica. Passed unanimously.

- b. Invoices to be paid

- i. CARCD dues \$260 due 8/31/22.

MOTION to approve paying CARCD annual membership dues in the amount of \$260.00. Motion by Cameron. Seconded by Veronica. Passed unanimously.

- ii. Karminder Brown invoices (June 23- July 22).

MOTION to approve the invoices for June and July dated 7/28/22, submitted by Karminder. Motion by Cameron. Seconded by Veronica. Passed unanimously.

5. New Business

- a. CARCD-WCB Pollinator Block Grant (submitted 7/12/22)

Karminder shared a summary sheet about the block grant, which included 42 RCDs and was submitted by CARCD to the Wildlife Conservation Board. If it goes before the WCB at their November Board meeting, the funds could be awarded in early

2022. If funded, the SBRCDD would contract with CARCD. The total budget amount for SBRCDD is \$153,000 to fund wildlife and pollinator plantings, and pasture seeding for pollinators and carbon sequestration on public and private lands.

MOTION: to approve submittal of the SBRCDD portion of the CARCD habitat restoration block grant. Motion by Veronica. Seconded by Cameron. Passed unanimously.

- b. Letter of Support – Point Blue Conservation Science WCB Grant (7/15/22)  
Karminder shared the letter with the Board for information. The Point Blue grant will fund riparian restoration projects throughout CA, including our region, where Point Blue has strong relationships with the San Benito Working Landscapes Group, Pajaro Compass Network, and other local partners. If funded, Karminder believes there will be ample opportunity for the RCD to partner with Point Blue on projects.
- c. Coastal Conservancy (CC) Block Grant opportunity: [Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program \(RFFCP\)](#) – Dept of Conservation Block grant. Karminder has attended two meetings with the CC and other local stakeholders, and will meet with them again in August to further explore this opportunity. James says that there is a need for brush management and fuels reduction work in south SBC. Veronica says fire is one of the most important things.
- d. Community Foundation for San Benito County Grant Opportunity  
Due date 8/15. Karminder is on vacation first week of August. It is for max \$10K and must be for a specific program, not capacity-building. All agreed that it is too short notice to apply, better to wait for the next round.
- e. CalRecycle Farm & Ranch Clean-up Grant Opportunity. Karminder says this is a great program to fund cleanup of illegally dumped trash on agricultural lands. Cameron has experience with it through his business. Veronica knows landowners on Panoche Road who may be interested, she will talk to them about it. Karminder will send Veronica links to more information. Veronica and Paul asked how it works if the tires are in the stream. Permits are required if the streambed would be disturbed during trash removal, so may be difficult without a permit coordination program in place.
- f. Director vacancies  
Tony Stork resigned last month, so now there are two vacancies on the Board. KB met with Paul Robins, RCDMC and learned about the RCD Director on-boarding process. Terms are four years, usually end November 30th. Do current Directors know where they are in their terms? A letter of resignation may be needed from Tony in addition to the email, so that the remainder of his term can be filled by someone else.

Karminder would like to get the current Directors' terms and associated paperwork in order. She will meet with the County Clerk's office to find out what the County has

on file for the current Board. Filling the two vacancies is an opportunity to have the RCD better represent the geography and resource concerns in the District. Karminder would like to see an active rancher and someone active in irrigated agriculture on the Board, since those are two important land uses. She has lots of ideas for potential Directors.

James reminded the RCD to keep in mind its diversity goals. He would like to see Amah Mutsun representation on the RCD Board to get a different perspective on land use. Paul suggested finding out if the requirements for Associate Directors are the same as for Directors (eg. do they have to own land in the District, or be agents of landowners, and be registered to vote in the District). Cameron likes the idea of waiting to bring on Directors that Karminder may know and is excited about.

- g. CARCD updates – Karen Buhr leaving ED position; Karminder attended the monthly District Managers Zoom call about inflation affecting project implementation, and learned about the benefits and challenges of hiring Grizzly Corps fellows for project implementation.

6. Old Business -- None

7. Ongoing Reports

- a. NRCS District Conservationist Report for Hollister Service Center, James Booth  
The on-boarding process for Karminder as an Affiliate has gone faster than is typical for new employees. He provided Karminder with a key to the USDA Service Center.

NRCS is finalizing contracts for this fiscal year, and looking forward to next FY contracting.

They are still working on the remodel plans. James showed a map of the remodel. The RCD ED will have an office and there will be two work stations for seasonal RCD employees. There will be a bigger conference room and the current conference room will be for storage. He thinks the work will realistically start in early 2023.

James had a good meeting with Xerces last week, with Maddy's boss visiting from Portland, OR. Maddy Kangas, the Xerces Pollinator Biologist, works the entire Central Coast from Petaluma to Santa Barbara. James reminded the Board that she is available to work with the RCD on projects, especially related to monarch habitat.

James shared maps showing opportunities for wildlife habitat connectivity in San Benito County and they are everywhere! These opportunities relate to places where culverts or increased vegetative cover can help wildlife move through the landscape.

Another big area of opportunity for RCD work is urban agriculture = any ag that doesn't qualify for NRCS funding. Example: rooftop and backyard gardening, hydroponics, community gardens.

b. Directors' Report

Veronica: There was a juvenile red-tailed hawk on her property that was dehydrated and emaciated. She has been thinking about ground squirrels. There is nothing to eat out there, for raptors, or deer -- the grass is so dry, it crumbles. Neighbors are shooting everything. She is thinking about putting out food (alfalfa) in addition to water stations, to support wildlife.

Paul: He is a Director at the SBC Historical Park and is working with Anita Kane on propagating pollinator plants.

Walking tour of downtown as part of Hollister 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary will take place this Saturday, with food and refreshments. Sunday at Joe and Julie Morris' house the Ag Leadership Program will be bringing 15 staff from Washington DC for a gathering, he will help with the cooking.

Cameron: Just working at the walnut orchard, putting in a new sprinkler system.

8. Incoming Correspondence. No discussion.
9. Upcoming Meetings and workshops. None.
10. Motion to adjourn by Paul at 5:55 pm. Seconded by Veronica.

Next scheduled meeting August 25, 2022 at 4 pm.