

**Coastal San Luis RCD Regular Board Meeting
Minutes for February 17, 2006**

U.C. Cooperative Extension, Auditorium
2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo, CA

I. Call to Order: President Linda Chipping called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

A. Directors Present: Linda Chipping, Neil Havlik, Cheryl Lenhardt, and Jean-Pierre Wolff
Directors Absent: Chip Appel, Ella Honeycutt and Kathie Matsuyama

Staff and Associates Present: Staff Members Deborah Barker, Kathy Evans, Julie Thomas, and Carolyn Margon;
and NRCS Representatives Margy Lindquist, Cheryl Zelus, and Mark Barnett.

B. Guests: Tim Duff, State Coastal Conservancy.

II. Approval of Minutes: January 20, 2006

There was a general discussion regarding corrections to minutes but no changes were proposed. Cheryl L. moved, and Jean-Pierre seconded, to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2006 Board meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment: Linda presented Chip Appel's letter of resignation from the Board and suggested that Board members begin considering his replacement. She also noted that at March's meeting, new Board officers would be elected. There was a discussion of the recent editorial in the Tribune praising the RCD's work on Zone 1/1A.

IV. Financial Report

A. Warrant Orders to Be Approved for January/February 2006 Expenses: After review and discussion, Cheryl L. moved to approve the warrant order list for January/February 2006 expenses as submitted. Jean-Pierre seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. 1/31/06 Financial Statements & Board Secretary/Finance Manager Report: Kathy noted that cash flow "has been tight" leaving about \$20,000 in payables that the RCD is unable to pay this month. This is because the RCD has been so active over the past several months, that the rate of paying contractors has outpaced the receipt of payments from funders for reimbursement of those expenses. This increased activity is reflected in the Previous Year Comparison Report which indicates that this fiscal year to day expenses are double those for the same period last year.

V. Discussion and/or Board Action Items

A. Future Board Meeting Dates: The Board confirmed that March 17, 2006 and April 21, 2006 were the dates of the next two regular meetings of the Board. March's meeting will be at the Cooperative Extension and April's will be at the City/County Library.

B. Tim Duff, State Coastal Conservancy – Current and Future projects: Tim reviewed future projects including the Regional Board's Permit Streamlining Project and mentioned site visits he had made recently with Deborah and Julie on current projects. Linda thanked Tim for his and his agency's involvement with the RCD.

C. Arroyo Grande Watershed

1) Zone 1/1A, Prop 218 Assessment: Linda reported that the County had several meetings with Cannon & Associates to determine the draft assessments for property owners in Zone 1/1A. Homeowners will pay \$368/year which is almost half of the assessments proposed by the State. There were also substantial reductions for larger nonresidential payers and agriculturists. Linda stated that she was asked by Supervisor Katcho Achadjian for a letter from the RCD Board outlining what administrative services the RCD could provide Zone 1/1A. Linda's impression is that the County was especially interested in assistance with permitting for vegetative management in the creek channel based on the RCD's good relationship with related agencies. Following discussion, and at Jean-Pierre's suggestion, it was decided that the Board would first review a need assessment list of services that Zone 1/1A will require and then choose from that list those services the RCD would offer to contract to perform. Linda asked Julie to prepare such a list.

2) Landowner Cost Share Amount for Projects on SCC/319h Project grant: Julie stated that when the RCD applied for the Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Enhancement Project grants from the State Coastal Conservancy and the State Water Resources Control Board, the landowner cost share was set at 25%. She said that some landowners are finding this percent to be too large to allow them to participate. She asked if the Board would consider lowering that rate to 10% as it is in the Morro Bay Watershed's Project Clearwater grants. There was considerable discussion of the pros and cons of reducing that percent. Regarding two specific large projects which would result in significant public benefit, Neil moved that the staff look at funding packages that reduce the landowner cost share from 25% to not less than 10%. Cheryl L. seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

D. For Final Approval: Policy & Procedures for Director Expenses Reimbursement (AB1234): Cheryl L. moved to approve the Policy & Procedures for Director Expenses Reimbursement and Jean-Pierre seconded. The motion passed unanimously. It was decided that staff would create the expense form required in this policy.

- E. Strategic Planning & Annual Plan – Process Update: Cheryl L., chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, reported that the Committee composed of Linda, Kathie Jean-Pierre and herself, had met twice over the past month. She estimates that their work is 70% complete. The Committee would like three things in order to help with their work. First, Cheryl L. asked Mark for a map of the District showing clearly its boundaries, where easements are held, land owned, and the location of current projects. Next, she asked Deborah for her Power Point overview presentation of what the RCD does. Finally, she asked Julie and Deborah for any brochures they distribute to the public describing the work of the RCD.

VI. CLOSED SESSION – Personnel Issues: Following a fifteen minute closed session, Personnel Chair Cheryl L. reported that the Board had authorized raises as proposed to three employees who are overdue for pay increases. Those employees are Deborah, Kathy and Julie and their raises would be retroactive to one year from the date of their last raise.

VI. Report Items

- A. Edna Valley/Pismo Creek Watershed Group: Jean-Pierre stated that Central Coast Salmon Enhancement was awarded a \$140,000 grant from the Dept. of Fish & Game to develop a watershed management plan for the watershed. He also reported on a water re-cycling proposal made by the oil company that is drilling in the watershed.
- B. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report: Margie reported that her office was working hard to meet the EQIP application due date of March 1. She also mentioned that the new head of the NRCS in California, Ed Burton, will be visiting the area in a few weeks.
- C. Project Clearwater Report: Cheryl distributed and briefly reviewed her Project Clearwater Status Report.
- D. Watershed Coordinator Report: Deborah reviewed several items from her written Board Report.
- E. South County Watershed Coordinator Report: Julie distributed and reviewed items from her Board Report.
- F. Envirothon Update: Vivian was not present to give a report.

VII. Meeting Updates

- A. Zone 9 Flood Control, LAFCO, CSDA: Neil had nothing to report.
- B. Water Resources Advisory Committee: Linda gave a report on a Bureau of Reclamation project in Estero Bay and other items.
- C. Agricultural Liaison: No report due to Ella's absence.
- D. Ag Task Force: Jean-Pierre gave a complete report of the last meeting.
- E. CARCD, NACD, RC&D: No report due to Kathie's absence.

VIII. Other Business: Neil had two other items. On the Brughelli Ranch, he reported that the easement the City has been working on for some time "was killed" due to requirements associated with State & Federal funding. However, a different, and possibly larger, easement is being worked out using City funds only. Lastly, Neil asked the Board to consider making a statement in response to recent developments on the Dalidio property, expressing District's hope that however it is developed, as much of the property as possible remain in agriculture. Cheryl L. moved that the Board send a letter expressing its view to the Board of Supervisors. Jean-Pierre seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Neil offered to draft the letter.

IX. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Evans, Board Secretary/Finance Manager

NOTE: Corrections to these minutes appear in the next month's minutes.