

Coastal San Luis RCD Board Meeting
Minutes for March 16, 2007
11:00 AM: tour of project site
12:30 PM: Arroyo Grande City Council conference room
215 East Branch Street, Arroyo Grande

11:00 AM: tour of Ikeda/RCD project was attended by City of Arroyo Grande employees Megan Meir, Teresa McClish, Victor Devens, Jim Bergman and Robin Strong, Arroyo Grande Planning Commissioners John Keen, Kristen Barneich, and Richard Marshall, Arroyo Grande Mayor Tony Ferrara, City Council members Chuck Fellows and Joe Costello, Times Press-Recorder reporter Josh Petray, Coastal RCD Board Members Neil Havlik, Jean-Pierre Wolff, Linda Chipping, and Ella Honeycutt, RCD employees Shawn Meara, Della Barrett and Julie Thomas, NRCS employee Mark Barnett, and landowner Vard Ikeda.

12:30 PM: regular meeting

I. Call to Order: President Neil Havlik called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm.

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

Directors Absent: None

Staff and Associates Present: Staff Members Deborah Barker, Kathy Evans, Shawn Meara, Della Barrett and Julie Thomas, and NRCS Representatives Mark Barnett, Margy Lindquist and Cheryl Zelus.

Guests: None

II. Public Comment: None

III. Approval of Minutes for February 16, 2007. Kathie M noted that Item II 2) should read "...a meeting on Oso Flaco Lake..." With that correction noted, on a motion by Cheryl L, and seconded by Ella, the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Report from Executive Session of February 16, 2007 Neil read the following summary: "The Board discussed policies for staff and Board members regarding grant funding and implementation of grant-funded projects. The Board directed a committee to review and if necessary submit for Board consideration new or adjusted staff roles and responsibilities, Board policies and procedures, and internal coordination of same."

IV. Financial Report

A. Warrant Orders to Be Approved for February 2007/ March 2007 expenses: Shawn presented and answered Board questions. Jean-Pierre moved to approve the warrant order list for February 2007/March 2007 as submitted. Linda seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. February 28, 2007 Financial Statements & Finance Manager Report: Shawn reviewed her report summarizing the February 2007 financials statements and answered questions. Board members discussed specific grants and their uses, particularly the PEG grant. Kathy Evans reminded the Board that this was her last meeting, and said she had very much enjoyed working with them.

C. Report on Brown Act compliance as pertains to location for posting of the agenda: Della reported and the Board discussed. It was agreed that the agenda will continue to be posted at the SLO County/City Library and on the RCD web site, but will also be posted so it's visible from outside the RCD office as well.

V. Discussion and/or Board Action Items

A. Strategic Planning Cheryl L had requested that members and staff write on their spreadsheets the start dates and completion dates of their tasks. Board members reported on their substantial individual progress.

B. Envirothon Workshop: Vivian was not present because of family illness. Ella reported the workshop is set for April 4th at the Botanical Gardens. The Board discussed sources of additional funding, and Deb will inform Vivian that both additional funding and physical help from AmeriCore can be available.

C. Grant of Easement at Chorro Creek Road, Chorro Flats Deb distributed copies of the letter from PG&E. Linda explained the request for easement from PG&E in order to provide underground electric service to a private home on Chorro Creek Road. After discussion, Kathie M moved to authorize Linda C and Jean-Pierre to work with PG&E to affect the agreement. Ella seconded. With the exception of Linda C, who abstained because she is acquainted with the property owner, the motion passed unanimously.

- D. Discussion of Priorities for Remaining MBNEP Project Clearwater Funds At Neil's request, Deb had put together a list for Board discussion. She distributed it and discussed each of the projects with the Board. Some of the projects would also qualify for 319h funding, and each has the usual amount of cost being shared by the landowner. Neil mentioned that he would like to see the Clearwater grants "spread out", and bring landowners into the program who have not benefited from it previously. He also updated the Board regarding one landowner's payments that have been withheld pending receipt of additional cost verification.
- E. Discussion of Possible Extension of Department of Conservation Watershed Coordinator Grants Deb reported that she has asked for additional funds for Watershed Coordinators and administration for the period April 1 – June 30, 2007. Possibly there will be another extension of grant monies through the end of September. Neil and Deb received Board direction to work on a letter to the DOC highlighting what the Watershed Coordinators have accomplished and asking for support. Ella and the Board discussed ways of publicizing the positive conservation outcomes that were only made possible by having Watershed Coordinators.
- F. Future Board Meeting Dates: April 20, 2007 and May 18, 2007 (both at the Coop. Extension in San Luis at 12:30 PM.) Both were ok with members, although neither Neil nor Shawn will be present in April.

VI. Report Items

- A. Edna Valley/Pismo Creek Watershed Group Jean-Pierre reported that interest in the watershed and flood protection is growing. The fish ladder design is coming along, with \$10,000 matching funds coming from CalTrans mitigation money. He also mentioned the complex problem of large numbers of homeless people living along Pismo Creek, and the resulting water pollution.
- B. Watershed Coordinator Report: Deb distributed and discussed her report and her summary of a settlement agreement between the District and a landowner. Neil pointed out legal issues that might come up in the future to protect the District's 1/3 interest in a shared well, and the board discussed.
- C. South County Watershed Coordinator Report: Julie Thomas distributed and discussed her report. She highlighted parts of it. There will be new funding opportunities for flood plain restoration and direct flood prevention projects, as well as other watershed activities.
- D. Natural Resources Conservation Service: Margy reported that there is grant money for the Wetlands Reserve Program's Chorro Flats Plan, and she discussed the possible specifics of the restoration plan.
- E. Project Clearwater Report: Cheryl Z distributed and discussed her report.
- F. Envirothon Report The Envirothon had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

VII. Meeting Updates

- A. Zone 9 Flood Control, LAFCO, CSDA: Neil reported that the Zone 9 meeting had been cancelled.
- B. Water Resources Advisory Committee: As Linda C had to leave early for another meeting, there was no report.
- C. Ag Task Force: Jean-Pierre reported. The Task Force is reviewing the Ag Land Use Ordinance as part of the county's review process.
- D. CARCD, NACD, RC&D: Kathie M gave a short report. She has become Treasurer of the RC & D.
- E. Ag Liason: Position available.

VIII. Other Business

1) Neil brought up the emerging issues involving perceived agricultural food safety concerns that are contrary to resource conservation practice. Examples are the food industry's suggestions to have sterile buffers around crop areas so there would be no grassy water ways, the clearing of riparian areas, and other measures that might need be taken. This movement is buyer-driven, as large food sellers are concerned about food safety. The Board discussed. A meeting of nationwide experts will be discussing the issues, and Kathie Matsuyuma will attend on behalf of the RCD. 2) Kathie M suggested a meeting at Oso Flaco Lake. Della will check as to whether a meeting can be held outside the district. 3) Neil asked that a budget line item be established for unrestricted money such as interest earned, gifts and miscellaneous income.

IX. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Della Barrett, Bookkeeper/Board Secretary

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

