



Yolo County Resource Conservation District

221 West Court Street, Suite 1
Woodland, CA 95695

phone: (530)-661-1688
www.yolorcd.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS-REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Time: 5:05 pm – 6:12 pm

Location: Yolo County RCD Office, 221 West Court Street, Suite 1, Woodland, CA

Directors Present: Giovanni Ferrendelli (President), Mark Cady, Garth Williams

Directors Absent: Suellen Witham, Michael Leacox

Associate Directors Present:

Associate Directors Absent: Dave Gilmer, Ali Pahlavanian, Benjamin Leacox, and Rudy Lucero

Others Present: Heather Nichols, Joanne Heraty, Phil Hogan

1. **Call Meeting to Order - Giovanni Ferrendelli, President:** The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by President Ferrendelli.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes:** ACTION: Approve the agenda as presented; MOTION: Williams, SECOND: Cady. AYES: Unanimous (Ferrendelli, Cady, Williams). ACTION: Approve the minutes for the October 14, 2014 Regular Meeting as presented; MOTION: Williams, SECOND: Cady. AYES: Unanimous (Ferrendelli, Cady, Williams).
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Approval and Payment of Claims:** ACTION: Approval of claims; MOTION: Williams, SECOND: Cady. AYES: Unanimous (Ferrendelli, Cady, Williams).
5. **Special Reports and Presentations (10 minutes):**
 - a. **New Staff Introduction:** Joanne Heraty, Project Manager
6. **Regular Reports:**
 - a. **NRCS Update:** Hogan, NRCS District Conservationist. Hogan is newly elected Woodland Chamber of Commerce President next year. NRCS recently hired Fanny Ye to fill the vacant soil conservationist position. Start date will be January 11, 2016. Inventory of highly erodible lands (HEL's) in Yolo County has been completed totaling approximately 40,000 acres. Approximately 6,000 acres of HEL's have been converted into orchards and vineyards in the past several years. 8,000 acres are still being planned for annual commodity crops.
 - b. **Executive Director's Report and Upcoming Events:** Nichols, Executive Director. Yolo County is in transition from GENLED to INFOR resulting in incomplete financial reports for this meeting. Nichols updated the board on current conservation activities including project implementation and volunteer planting days. She reported on attending the CARCD conference where carbon sequestration is now a state-wide funding priority. In partnership with CLBL and Putah Creek Council, the RCD received a Yocha Dehe Community Fund grant for the next three years. Prior funding from Yocha Dehe Community Fund supported 10 projects. RCD has been partnering with CLBL on a new urban farm project in West Sacramento. Jeanette and Heather are planning to re-submit a concept proposal to Delta Conservancy. The RCD is increasingly engaged in restoration planning on the Yolo Bypass. Proposals currently in review for funding support will be determined by spring 2016. Cost estimate for replacing irrigation lines damaged by the Wragg fire on the Putah Creek Fishing access site was unsuccessful. Administratively, there is no cost of living increase for 2016. Health insurance costs dropped slightly. Nichols proposed adoption of a cell phone reimbursement policy in response to increased personal cell phone use by in-field staff. A full proposal will be submitted to the board in January. Ferrendelli suggested amending the employee handbook to reflect new cell phone reimbursement policy and privacy concerns. Nichols distributed Annual Report for 2014-2015 to the board. Board commented that the brief annual report is a useful tool but that financial reporting information may not be useful for outreach or marketing purposes. Suggestions included a small statement to address this on the annual report. Cady raised a question about discrepancies between official and informal mission on the Annual Report. Board discussed that on version of the Annual Report may not be appropriate for all audiences.
 - c. **Board Member Reports and Comments:** Cady reported on attending the CARCD conference. Training for board members was invaluable and should be revisited for future RCD board meeting



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agendas. Ferrendelli would like a better system to report on the success and direction of the RCD's projects. Board requested that Leacox and Nichols work towards a more simplistic tracking system for each project to be presented at board meetings.

7. New Business:

a. Approve PT04 budget: ACTION: Budget approval of \$44,667 for PT04; MOTION: Ferrendelli, SECOND: Williams. AYES: Unanimous (Ferrendelli, Cady, Williams).

8. Continuing Topics (10 minutes):

a. Director Recruitment Update: Robyn Schlosser has accepted Witham's invitation to consider replacing her position on the board. Nichols distributed Schlosser's professional biography to the board.

b. Tier 1 Compliance Update: Goal is to have Associate Directors who have not served in official capacity as Directors, and are interested in serving as full Directors. Heather introduced a sample Renewal of Commitment to the board which will be a written contract that communicates expectations of the board. Nichols introduced idea to have two separate renewals, one for directors, and one for associate directors. Mike Turkovich has been solicited as an Associate Director. Ferrendelli requested revisiting term expiration periods and streamlining the board renewal procedures. Nichols suggested recruiting Yolo Bypass landowners to directorships as RCD continues conservation involvement in that region. Nichols gave a Tier 1 update that included the DOC's tentative plans to develop an accreditation process for RCDs.

c. Board Input for Upcoming Topics: None

9. Confirm Next Regular Meeting Date and Location: Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 5:05 pm at the Yolo County RCD Office.

10. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned to RCD Holiday Party at the Black Dragon Brewery at 6:12 pm by President Ferrendelli.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Garth Williams, Board Secretary, and Heather Nichols, Executive Director. Approved on January 13, 2016 by the Yolo County Resource Conservation District Board.

By:


Board Secretary, Garth Williams