



Board of Directors Meeting

The Mission of the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District is to enhance and improve the sustainability of natural resources by educating, providing training, and assisting private and public landowners and land users.

AGENDA

Thursday, June 9, 2016

8:00 A.M.

Agricultural Center – Auditorium – 5630 South Broadway - Eureka

(Items marked with * are attached to director packets)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Dan Cohoon, Chairman
2. **INTRODUCTIONS**
3. **ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA** (Gov. Code 54954.2(B))
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**
Any person may address the Board regarding any matter within the Board's jurisdiction that is not on the agenda. Speakers are asked to limit comments to three minutes. Members of the public may also comment on agenda items when they are discussed. (Gov. Code 54954.3(a))
5. **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF AUDITS – ACTION**
 - Presentation by Stacey Edgmon, CPA, Aycock and Edgmon
6. **DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE** (Circulated at meeting)
Incoming:
 - Sarah Poff: Redwood Meat Quarterly Report
 - Department of Industrial Relations : Reminder to File Annual Reports
 - LAFCo: Results of Special District Member Elections
 - Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians: Request of Formal Notification of Proposed Projects**Outgoing:**
 - Andrew Albin: Response to May 9th Proposal to the HCRCD
7. **HCRCD DIRECTOR'S REPORTS, REQUESTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - 6.1 Reports from Other Meetings Attended by Board Members
 - 6.2 Board Requests for Future Agenda or Information Items
 - 6.3 Other Announcements from Board Members
8. **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**
 - 7.1 Minutes for meeting of May 12, 2016* presented for approval
 - 7.2 May Financial Report presented for approval (Handout)
 - 7.3 Resolution 16-04: Authorizing staff to submit proposal(s) to the CDFW Proposition 1 Wetland Restoration Grant Program and sign contracts as necessary
 - 7.4 Resolution 16-05: Authorizing staff to submit Application for Federal Assistance to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and sign contracts as necessary

7.5 Resolution 16-06 : Authorizing staff to submit to the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program and sign contracts as necessary

9. **NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT** - *Jon Shultz, NRCS District Conservationist*
10. **UCCE Report** – *Jeffery Stackhouse, UCCE Livestock Advisor*
11. **SALT RIVER PROJECT UPDATE*** - *Staff*
12. **DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS and RCD PROJECT UPDATES*** – *Staff*
13. **PERSONNEL - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW**
14. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 8 a.m.**
Meeting location: Agriculture Center Auditorium, 5630 South Broadway (Humboldt Hill exit) Eureka, CA
15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Public Notice: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in a Board meeting, please contact the RCD at 707-444-9708 x 115. Notification at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable accommodations can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting.

Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of May 12, 2016

1. Call to Order-

Dan Cohoon Chairman, 8:03 a.m.

2. Introductions-

Directors Present: Dan Cohoon, Mark Moore, Gary Markegard, Gary Belli, Hugo Klopper, Pete Bussman

Directors Excused: Jim Renner

Staff Present: Jill Demers, Curtis Ihle, Lauri Barnwell, Doreen Hansen

Staff Excused: Frances Tjarnstrom, Summer Daugherty

Guests: Rex Bohn-Humboldt County District Supervisor, Denver Nelson-Watershed Council, Andy Albin, Jeremy Svhela-GHD, Inc.

3. Additions or Changes to the Agenda-

- Correspondence-Add Letter from Humboldt Weed Management Area.

4. Public Comment-

No Public Comment

5. HCRCO Audit Presentation by Stacey Edgmon, CPA Aycock and Edgmon-

Review and discussion of HCRCO grant revenue and expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ending 2014.

Motion by Director Moore to accept and approve HCRCO 2014 FY Audit by Stacey Edgmon, CPA Aycock and Edgmon. Second by Director Markegard. Ayes-Director Klopper, Bussman, Belli. Noes-None.

6. District Correspondence-

Summary provided and all documents circulated at meeting for review by the Directors and others present.

7. HCRCO Director's Reports, Request or Announcements-

Director Klopper provided an update on a meeting with California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Senator McGuire. Discussion was held regarding requirements and limitations to bidders as set forth within the CDFW RFP for Grazing activities on Wildlife Management Areas. Additional discussion held about the impacts of elk on public and private lands.

8. Board Action Items-

8.1 Discussion and Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2016.

Motion by Director Markegard to approve Humboldt County Resource Conservation District Board Minutes as presented from April 14, 2016. Second by Director Belli. Ayes-Director Moore, Klopper, Bussman. Noes-None.

8.2 Discussion and Approval of April 2016 Financial Report. *(Handout Provided)*

Staff provided an update on status of all grants, funds availability, and potential funding. Discussion held on status of payments received and those in process from the funding agencies. Open grants were discussed and their role in current operations. An update was provided on current cash flow constraints and the measures being taken to keep the RCD staff and operations moving forward. Additional discussion held in regards to consultant and contractor contract budget tracking and competitive rates.

Motion by Director Markegard to approve Humboldt County Resource Conservation District staff recommendation to pay operating expenses as presented, continue to manage expenditures to reduce costs, retain contractor/consultant project payment retention, pay contractors/contractor invoices as matching funds are received and to hold Bertha Russ Lytle funds in reserve pending receipt of additional outstanding contract payments. Second by Director Moore. Ayes-Director Klopper, Belli, Bussman. Noes-None.

9. **NRCS Report-Jon Shultz-District Conservationist NRCS**

No Report, NRCS staff not present.

10. **UCCE Report-Jeff Stackhouse**

No report, UCC staff not present.

11. **Salt River Project Update**

Update provided by HCRCED Executive Director Demers regarding 2016 implementation of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project. Demers reported the HCRCED staff have been working with 2 landowners, the City of Ferndale, and NRCS, who holds a Floodplain Easement, to implement another season of Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project construction. The proposed project footprint for 2016 included the connecting of Salt River to Francis Creek, the construction of a sediment management area on the Floodplain Easement, and the restoration of 2,000 linear feet of Francis Creek. Demers provided a map of the proposed project footprint. Demers reported that the two landowners have not provided final approval of project design and are not allowing for access to the project area for implementation of construction activities necessary for the project to move forward in 2016. Demers provided an overview of the landowner requests for both compensation and design changes. The RCD is unable to accommodate these requests due to the restrictions that govern the use of public funds, permit requirements, and project engineering constraints. Despite the setbacks, Demers has directed HCRCED staff and engineers to finalize the design plans so that the HCRCED is ready to go out to bid should the landowners give their approval. Demers anticipates that the construction documents will be ready for bid release in one week from today, or May 19th.

The Board of Directors expressed deep concern regarding the impacts to the surrounding areas and community that may be caused by a delay of construction. Director Moore asked for impacts to the current funding sources should a project delay be experienced. Demers outlined that finalized funding of pending grants could be jeopardized and those currently in place could potentially incur a funding decrease relative to project tasks completed as outlined in the original funding agreement.

Further discussion was held as to causes for delay. Demers provided an overview of landowner design concerns as well as request made by landowners for compensation. Demers also clarified that the Salt River Project could move forward without the support of the landowners on Francis Creek south of Port Keyon Bridge, but the completion of the Salt River Project, including the connection to Williams Creek, is dependent on the connection of Francis Creek to the Salt River and the construction of a sediment management area. The Salt River Project cannot continue to move upstream without connecting Francis Creek to the Salt River via the sediment management area.

Director Moore asked Mr. Albin, what the Board can do to move forward. Mr. Albin expressed that he wants a good project and that he has concerns about downstream and upstream issues. Mr. Albin expressed that he supports the Salt River channel design, but is concerned for the loss of agricultural production on his land that will be imposed by the construction of the sediment management area. Mr. Albin states that Luis Laracuate, NRCS State Engineer, offered the suggestion that Mr. Albin should request compensation from the HCRCD for agricultural losses, and Mr. Albin proposed potential approaches for compensating him for the loss. Director Cohoon outlined the inability for the HCRCD to compensate landowner with project funds, as they are designated for specific project activities as granted by the funding agencies. Director Belli addressed the NRCS Easement Floodplain owned by Mr. Albin where the sediment management area is proposed to be placed. Director Belli ask if the intent of NRCS Floodplain Easement placed within the Salt River Project footprint and paid for with public dollars was to support the Salt River project. Mr. Albin noted that he believed the Floodplain Easement was not purchased to facilitate the Salt River Project, and that without the Salt River Project, the Floodplain Easement is currently meeting its function as intended. Director Belli noted that NRCS knowingly purchased an Easement directly in the middle of the Salt River Project and asked why they are not accountable to that now. Director Cohoon noted that NRCS staff is not present to ask details of their understanding of the Easement.

Director Klopper inquired on the possibilities of a modified design for the current construction season to continue working forward while landowner concerns are addressed. Mr. Svehla of GHD, Inc., the lead engineering firm for the HCRCD, addressed the impacts of modifications to the design and the process for potential changes as they relate to the project footprint as a whole. Options will be taken into consideration and reviewed for viability. Director Klopper asked questions regarding the bid process. Due to the quantity of earthmoving work, Mr. Svehla recommended that the HCRCD issue a notice to proceed by mid-July, and therefore the bid package should be released by late May.

Mr. Nelson expressed concern regarding potential lawsuits generated by affected landowners upstream. Mr. Nelson also noted that Mr. Albin purchased the property after the NRCS Easement was in place. Mr. Albin noted that he had lengthy discussions with NRCS staff, studied easement language, talked to attorney, and spoke to the previous landowner, Mr. Vevoda, prior to closing on the property.

Despite the current delays, the HCRCD Board has directed Executive Director Demers to continue moving forward with final design plan submittals to permitting and funding agencies, preparing construction bid documents, and continue efforts in cooperation the City, County, and Watershed Council to secure project approval from the landowners within the project footprint by the end of May.

12. District Staff Reports and Other RCD Project Updates

Humboldt County RCD Board Of Directors
Meeting Minutes May` 2016

Summary of District activities provided in Board packet.

13. Next Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 8 a.m.

Agricultural Center- Auditorium, 5630 South Broadway, Eureka, CA

14. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 10:26 a.m.