

Humboldt
County



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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, March 12, 2020

8:00 A.M.

Agricultural Center – Auditorium – 5630 South Broadway - Eureka

(Items marked with * are attached to director packets.)

To request board packet information, please contact Doreen Hansen at 707-832-5593)

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. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
 - 5.1 District Correspondence (*Circulated at meeting*)
 - 5.2 HCRCD Director Updates and Announcements – Directors may provide updates on their activities related to the HCRCD such as other meetings attended and other relevant announcements.
 - 5.3 NRCS Update – *Jon Shultz, NRCS District Conservationist*
 - 5.4 UCCE Update - *Jeffery Stackhouse, Rangeland Specialist*
6. **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**
 - 6.1 Minutes for Regular Meeting of January 9, 2020* presented for approval
 - 6.2 Minutes for Special Meeting of February 13, 2020* presented for approval
 - 6.3 Financial Update
 - 6.4 Resolution 20-02* endorsing the application to the Wildlife Conservation Board's Restoration Grant Program to develop an alternatives analysis to investigate flood effects surrounding, and potential modifications to, the setback berm located on Riverside Ranch and conditionally accepting grant if offered.
 - 6.5 Review and potentially approve Memorandum of Agreement between United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Humboldt County Resource Conservation District; and California Association of Resource Conservation Districts*

7. **SALT RIVER ECOSYSTEM & WILLIAMS CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT**
 - 7.1 Update and discussion of activities
8. **RCD PROJECT UPDATES and STAFF REPORTS***
9. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION (CONT) – ACTION (Cphoon)**
 - 9.1 Distribute Form 700
 - 9.2 Distribute Updated Roster and Contacts List*
 - 9.3 Review 2019 Annual Report*
 - 9.4 Review and potentially approve Associate Director application*
10. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
11. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 8 a.m.**
Meeting location: Agricultural Center, 5630 South Broadway, Eureka, CA
12. **SPECIAL MEETING - Long-Range Planning: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 9 a.m.**
Meeting location: Agricultural Center, 5630 South Broadway, Eureka, CA
13. **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 707-442-6058 x 5. 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
Thursday, January 9, 2020

1. Called to order at 8:04 am by Chairman D. Cohoon.
2. Introductions-
HCRCD Directors-M. Moore, D. Cohoon, G. Belli, G. Markgard, L. Russ, R. Rice
HCRCD Director Absent-S. Dale
HCRCD Staff-J. Demers, C. Ihle, F. Tjarnstorm, S. Daugherty, T. Bailey, L. Barnwell
Guests-J. Shultzs NRCS, J. Stackhouse UCCE, K. Howard Point Blue, D. Wallace NRCS, K. Manhart
LACO, Z. Cahill, E. Bess, K. Phyliss
3. No changes to the agenda presented.
4. No public comment received.
5. Informational Items-
 - 5.1. District correspondence circulated for review by the Directors at the meeting. Items included LAFCO Notice regarding boundary changes for Rio Dell Fire Protection District, LAFCO request for nominations to serve as Board Members, letter from local auditor declining HCRCD request for CPA services and letter of appointment from the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to the HCRCD Board of Directors for Lane Russ.
 - 5.2. No Directors updates provided.
 - 5.3. HCRCD Forest Health Coordinator Tim Bailey provided an introduction and background to the Board of Directors about himself and his role as coordinator for the Department of Conservation Forest Health Coordinator Grant. T. Bailey provided details about the grant tasks and goals to be achieved during the funded of the two-year period.
 - 5.4. NRCS District Conservationist Jon Shultz provided a brief update on year end project contract modifications, activity closeout process, staff changes and computer program upgrades and trainings.
 - 5.5. UCCE Livestock Specialist Jeff Stackhouse provided an update on programs, year-end grant reporting, research project results and staff changes. J. Stackhouse discussed growing changes in prescribed fire through community and private member organization support utilizing legislative goals set statewide.
6. Board Action Items-
 - 6.1. Motion by Director G. Markegard to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2019. Second by Director M. Moore. Ayes-Belli, Rice, Cohoon Noes-None
 - 6.2. Presentation and discussion of the January 2020 Financial Report.
Motion by Director G. Markegard to accept staff recommendations and approve the January 2020 financial report. Second by Director M. Moore. Ayes-Belli, Rice, Cohoon Noes-None
 - 6.3. Discussion of Resolution No. 20-01 application for the California Resilience Challenge Grant. The CRG Grant is an innovation funding source directed at climate change projects. This proposal will assist is addressing the need for detailed data to develop carbon health strategies. Motion by Director G. Markegard to approve Resolution No. 20-01 and authorize the HCRCD to submit an application for the California Resilience Challenge Grant on behalf of the Resource Conservation Districts of the North Coast Durable Collaborative. Second by Director M. Moore. Ayes-Belli, Rice, Cohoon Noes-None
7. Salt River Ecosystem and Williams Creek Restoration Project
 - 7.1. *Salt River*

Staff coordinated with the Mattole Restoration Council (MRC) and CalFire to install 10 acres of riparian the second week of December 2019. Salt River design engineers and hydrologists are continued to develop channel design plan options for 2020 construction season and met with project landowners in December. Meetings with key landowners are being held in early January.

Williams Creek

GHD is completing the Alternatives Analysis and a project team meeting was held in early December to review design plan options. Meetings with key landowners were held in December to review options. Once options and the Alternatives Analysis is nearly finalized, a Williams Creek community meeting is anticipated to be held in January or February 2020.

7.2. Staff continues to wait for word back on the WCB grant proposal regarding Riverside Ranch hydrologic investigations. Annual monitoring reports are being developed by staff.

8. Board of Directors Annual Organizational Session-Action

8.1. Oath of Office presented by Executive Director Jill Demers to newly appointed HCRC Board Director Lane Russ. Official Oath accepted and signed by Director L. Russ. L. Russ will fulfill a 1-year appointment for the remainder of retired Director P. Bussman's term.

8.2. Review and discussion of Conflict of Interest Code. Form 700 to be distributed by March Board Meeting.

8.3. Discussion held on HCRC Associate Director Policy. Board discussed the value of knowledge and technical assistance that can be provided by Associate Directors. Additional information provided by staff as to duties and responsibilities of Associated Directors.

Motion by Director G. Markegard to accept applications from Eric Bess and Zach Cahill and approve appointment as HCRC Associate Directors. Second by Director G. Belli. Ayes-Cohoon, Rice, Moore, Russ Noes-None

Staff noted an additional application received after publication of the January Board Packet by Kristen Manhart of LACO and Associates. Application to be provided in February Packet for review.

8.4. HCRC Board Committees reviewed and discussed.

Motion by Director G. Markegard to accept and approve HCRC Board Committees and members as outlined-

Standing Committees:

Executive-Officers; Chairman Cohoon, Vice-Chairman Markegard, Secretary/Treasurer Moore

Soil Health-Chairman Director Markegard, Director Russ, Director Belli, Associate Director Cahill, Shultz NRCS, Stackhouse UCCE

Dairy-Chairman Director Belli, Director Dale, Associated Director Cahill, Associate Director Bess

Ad Hoc Committees:

Salt River Implementation-Director Cohoon, Director Belli, Director Russ, Associate Director Cahill

Riverside Ranch Drainage and Management-Director Belli, Director Markegard, Director Rice, Associate Director Cahill

Forestry-Director Cohoon, Director Moore, Director Rice, Associate Director Bess

Second by Director Belli. Ayes Cohoon, Moore, Rice, Russ Noes-None

8.5. Annual HCRC Calendar provided as informational item.

- 8.6. Review and discussion of HCRCO Long Range/Strategic Plan. Current plan dates 2016-2019. HCRCO to schedule a facilitator to assist with development of updated 3-5-year plan in mid-March.
9. Written RCD project update and staff reports provided to Directors. Additional information provided regarding CARCD/WCB Carbon Farm Plan development grant and resignation of Project Coordinator Summer Daugherty.
10. Future agenda items included scheduling of Board Meeting in Ferndale with Salt River Project presentation and Long-Range Planning meeting.
11. Next regular meeting to be held February 13, 2020.
12. Meeting adjourned at 10:10am

Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 13, 2020

1. Called to order at 9:04 am by Chairman D. Cohoon.
2. Introductions-
HCRC D Directors- D. Cohoon, G. Belli, G. Markgard, L. Russ, R. Rice, S. Dale
HCRC D Director Absent- M. Moore
HCRC D Staff-J. Demers, C. Ihle, F. Tjarnstorm, L. Barnwell, J. Taulbee, D. Hansen
3. No changes to the agenda presented.
4. No public comment not related to an agenda item received.
5. Salt River and Williams Creek Restoration Update-

HCRC D District Staff and Salt River and Williams Creek project design team, Jeremy Svelha (GHD) and Mike Love (Mike Love and Associates) presented on the proposed Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project 2020 construction implementation phasing and integration of the Williams Creek Project Alternatives Analysis.

The Salt River Watershed Council and community of Ferndale requested an update on the Salt River and Williams Creek project activities proposed for the 2020 and future years. The HCRC D Staff emphasized that the presentation provided is to be considered “*a snap shot in time*” of current plans, designs alternatives, and scheduling as continued landowner and agency meetings are underway and information provided is subject to change.

The Presentation began with a commonly used project location map outlining the four main goals of the Salt River Project; 1. Tidal Restoration, 2. Channel Excavation, 3. Upslope Restoration Activities through a partnership with NRCS and 4. Adaptive Management for maintenance into the future. The Salt River Project is currently permitted, funded, and in the final phases of design and implementation. Williams Creek has undergone an alternatives analysis and data collection by working in cooperation with landowners. Williams Creek has not been permitted or funded for implementation activities. To complete the Williams Creek process, similar to that done for the Salt River, a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process must be followed. The Williams Creek project will include connectivity to Salt River, reduce flood risks, improve agricultural lands, manage sediment, improve and restore natural habitat, minimize the impacts to the Salt River Project, and provide a plan for long term management and maintenance.

Following an overview of the Salt River and Williams Creek current status, project hydrologist Mike Love discussed the historical activities of the Williams Creek tributary as related to the deposition of sediment onto the valley floor. Detailed information was presented on the tremendous amounts of sediment transported by Williams Creek including the potential impacts to the newly constructed Salt River. Jeremy Svelha, GHD engineer for the Salt River and Williams Creek project, discussed the Williams Creek Alternatives Analysis to address the Williams Creek sediment load and flooding impacts, including various maps and charts. A list was provided outlining key elements to the Alternative Alternatives process; 1. How well does the alternative meet the project goals, 2. Minimize impacts to infrastructure, 3. Landowner support and approval, 4. Regulatory permits, and 5. Project costs. Using these elements, eight concepts were developed and/or analyzed. J. Svelha provided details regarding each of the alternatives presented, with a recommendation of a hybrid

proposed design incorporating both a confined transport channel with a sediment basin as it best fits the landscape and would prove more efficient.

While the Salt River Project has been permitted and funded, Williams Creek is in the beginning stages of this planning. Proposals have been submitted to State funding agencies for continued data analysis and restoration design of Williams Creek necessary for the CEQA process. HCRC Staff and engineers are working with private landowners during the design process. As data is collected and the designs are developed, involvement from the regulators and agencies increases for the preparation of permits that allow implementation, maintenance and monitoring of the constructed project.

J. Svehla continued with the recommendation of a two-step process for the connection between Salt River and Williams Creek. Step 1-2020 Salt River construction would include channel excavation from the 2019 project end point near highway 211 and continuing upstream approximately 4000 ft just short of the confluence of Williams Creek. Included would be a shallow channel to allow for drainage from the Salt River-Coffee Creek area to reduce flooding impacts. Ultimately, Williams Creek and Salt River would not be connected in 2020. High water would flow through, and sediment would continue to deposit, onto pasture lands. Step 2- restoration activities projected for 2022/2023 would include channel restoration on Williams Creek and the connection of Williams Creek to the Salt River, as well as agricultural land rehabilitation. Step 2 is contingent on landowner approval, design and restoration activities approval by State and Federal agencies, permitting, and funding. Significant landowner coordination and design planning are continuing for the Williams Creek portion of the project. J. Svehla provided a brief overview to the benefits of the two-step process including development of a sediment management area on Williams Creek to reduce the sedimentation risks to the Salt River channel.

The presentation concluded with a recap of both the timeline for Salt River implementation and Williams Creek development. While permitting and funding are critical, the project cannot move forward without private landowner cooperation and support.

Questions:

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| K.Garrison-
Staff- | Does the coarse sediment come from the hills (Wildcats)?
The Wildcats are highly erosive, creating large volumes of naturally occurring sediment.
NRCS has sediment reduction programs active in the upper watershed. |
| K. Phylis-
Staff/GHD- | Coffee Creek has clean water, isn't that good for moving the sediment?
Coffee Creek does not flow like Williams Creek or Francis Creek. Elevations will be reviewed. Various factors will determine amount of excavation. |
| Director Russ-
Staff/GHD- | Has Coffee Creek had data collected?
No. Flow scaled by other areas. Modeling used. |
| Director Russ-
Staff/GHD- | Has Hybrid concept been used?
Yes, in Europe. |
| Director Russ- | Does the monitoring on Francis Creek match the models. |

Staff/GHD- Data continues to be gathered, sediment basin is working well.

Staff/GHD- To Andy Albin property owner for current Salt River Sediment Basin; Is the basin doing what you thought it would?
A.Albin- I guess.

NRCS Shultz- Is the Williams Creek sediment basin scaled similar to Francis Creek Sediment Basin?
Staff/GHD- Project is using 6 acres as an average for the sediment basin for planning purposes, 1200 ft long rock outlet with maintenance access. Could be potentially split into two separate locations.

NRCS Shultz- If the Williams Creek sediment basin approach is successful, could that design be implemented on Francis Creek?
Staff/GHD- The excavation cut would be too large, and costly. However, research continues to learn as much as possible.

A.Albin- What is the estimated sediment basin capacity?
Staff/GHD 4000cy of coarse materials.

Director Rice- What is the projected volume of Francis Creek sediment basin?
Staff/GHD- 8000-12000cy

Director Russ- What is the Williams Creek flow input into Salt River?
Staff/GHD- Williams Creek is 42% of the Watershed

Director Rice- Can Williams Creek fill in?
Staff/GHD- Design of the future sediment basin will consider flow pattern to determine where and how the sediments settle out or go by.

J.Regli- In relationship to the two slides presented side by side- it (*right slide*) shows the Salt dug to depth and final up Williams?
Staff/GHD- This is a two-step approach; (*left*) 2020 Salt River construction then (*right*) 2022/2023 Williams Creek. Yes, the 2022/2023 slide shows Salt River dug to depth and Williams Creek connected.

J.Regli- Why not connect Salt River at the final depth of channel on Coffee Creek?
Staff/GHD- Coffee Creek would be lower than at the Williams Creek confluence during this interim period and it would create a backflow. Risks to Salt River would be increased.

J.Regli- Recommend doing the whole project with risk to Salt River. Williams Creek sediment dumped into Salt with Coffee Creek low flow. Do all the pieces (*step 1 and step 2*) this year.
Staff/GHD- This is a two-step approach; Salt River is permitted and funded for 2020; Williams Creek is not.

- K.Phyllis- Staff/GHD- Do both steps in 2020?
Williams Creek does not have landowner access, permits, or funds for final design and implementation.
- D.DelBiaggio- Staff/GHD- How is landowner participation going?
Landowners are aware of today's presentation, again this presentation is a "snap shot in time."
- D.DelBiaggio- The Community can have an opinion but cannot make the landowners' decisions. These activities are happening on private property. Not all partnerships are as smooth as everyone who like them to be.
- W. Lorenzen- Staff/GHD- Noted his land ownership relative to the presentation map redline representing Salt River.
Acknowledged his concern.
- Supervisor Bohn- Staff/GHD- Used a prom date request analogy relative to community buy in and design.
Based on our current status we are here today to present.
- Chairman Cohoon- The HCRC D is doing their best to facilitate the process. This is a challenging process. The next steps will include finalizing the alternatives analysis while working with landowners.
- NRCS Shultz- Offered continued support for the project from NRCS.
- Director Belli- Encourage HCRC D to continue to seek funding opportunities, and re-use options for the sediment.

6. Next regular meeting to be held March 12, 2020.
7. Meeting adjourned at 11:04am