

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 January 9, 2014

8:00 A.M.

Agriculture 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**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**
5. **DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE** (Circulated at meeting)
Incoming:
 - North Coast Resource Partnerships – Thank you to Chambers for presentation on Salt River Project at recent conference
 - Ducks Unlimited – Amendment #2 to Partner Agreement between DU and HCRCD for phase 1 of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project to include new funding received by DU for fencing on the Riverside Ranch property
 - County of Humboldt/Auditor-Controller – Notice of annual LAFCo charge of \$692.87
 - Riverside Community Services District – Response to request to receive agendas and minutes of regular meetings, and notification that RCSD charges a fee of \$5.00 per month plus a \$.10/per page copying fee plus postage as they do not provide this information electronically
 - State of California Fish and Game Commission – Notice of proposed regulatory action relating to public use of CDFW lands, specifically Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves. Comments must be received before February 5, 2014
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Public Notice regarding PG&E’s application to implement a project known as the Humboldt Bay Power Plant Intake and Discharge Canal Remediation
 - Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) – 2012-2013 Annual Report and copy of Special District Board Member Handbook

- Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) – Letter advising interested agencies of availability of Draft Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Humboldt Bay Power Plant Canal Remediation Project with comments due by January 14, 2014
- Humboldt County Planning and Building Department – Notification of pending March 15, 2014 expiration of permit for site access for vegetation clearing along Port Kenyon Road in Ferndale associated with the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project
- California State Lands Commission – Notice of Modifications to Text of Proposed Regulations. Proposed additions to text under “Categories of Leases, Permits or Agreements” adds “Grazing” and “Agriculture”, as well as “...environmental preservation, mitigation, or restoration; or protection against invasive species”. In addition, minimum annual rents for the various categories include “Grazing: \$600, Agricultural: \$600” representing an increase from current charges. A special Commission meeting will be held on January 23 in Sacramento to hear the proposed regulations
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Letter informing HCRCD that the proposal submitted for the “North Fork Yager In-Stream Steelhead Habitat Restoration Project” is currently under CEQA review and that HCRCD will be notified sometime after January 31, 2014 if it is selected for funding
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Letter Requesting a Letter of Intent from HCRCD to execute a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement to continue work by the Corps on their Salt River Restoration Study: **Agenda Action Item 9 (b)**

Outgoing:

- Dennis Leonardi, Domingo Santos, and Grant Pedrotti – Notice of Termination of Lease Agreements on CDFW Wildlife Management Areas
- California Department of Transportation - Cover letter to Blue Lake Mad River Weir Removal Mitigation Project Completion Report
- Riverside Community Services District – Letter requesting RCSD provide documentation of action taken at their November meeting to formally accept new section of waterline constructed by HCRCD as part of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project and providing RCSD with copy of HCRCD Resolution #13-13 relinquishing all claim to and responsibility for the section of waterline installed
- Ducks Unlimited – Cover letter transmitting signed copies of Amendment #2 to Partner Agreement between DU and HCRCD for phase 1 of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project to include new funding received by DU for fencing on the Riverside Ranch property
- Riverside Community Services District (RCSD) – Letter requesting time on the agenda of the January 8, 2014 meeting to discuss design and coordination regarding areas in the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project footprint that impact RCSD waterlines

6. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FOR November 21, 2013 – ACTION *

7. HCRCD DIRECTOR’S REPORTS, REQUESTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Reports From Other Meetings Attended By Board Members
- b) Board Requests For Future Agenda or Information Items
- c) Other Announcements from Board Members

8. FINANCIAL REVIEW AND REPORT – L. Barnwell (Handout)

- a) Review January Financial Statement

- 1) Review of checks issued since last Board meeting
- 2) Current Status of Invoices and Payments Received
- 3) Discuss and Approve List of Payments – **ACTION**

9. NEW BUSINESS– **ACTION**

- a) Opportunity to Partner with University of California Cooperative Extension on a proposed Biomass Utilization Project – Yana Valachovic

BACKGROUND: The Board will receive a presentation from Valachovic, hold a discussion and determine whether or not to take action

- b) Receive and Respond to Letter from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to execute a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement to continue work by the Corps on their Salt River Restoration Study – Chambers

BACKGROUND: The US Army Corps of Engineers has been involved with work in the Eel River delta for some time. In the late 1980's the Corps of Engineers conducted an assessment of flood control problems and opportunities in the Salt River delta. The assessment determined that the flooding in the delta was the result of inadequate drainage and thus did not qualify for Corps flood control participation. Beginning in 2002 the City of Ferndale and the County of Humboldt reached out to the Corps for assistance through the Corps' Ecosystem Restoration program. In April of 2003 HCRCD, as the local sponsor for the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project, signed a Letter of Intent with the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a Preliminary Restoration Plan. This began HCRCD's participation in the Corp's Section 206 process for feasibility, design and planning assistance for the project.

Since 2003 the Corps estimates it has incurred some 1.1 million dollars in "sunk costs" toward the project in the form of digital aerial photography, analysis, planning, field work, development of a Section 206 Feasibility Study, and other studies. Several months ago the HCRCD was contacted by the Corps with an offer to continue to assist with the Salt River Project. After talking through options for potential Corps involvement, the RCD and the Corps agreed to have the Corps contract with a local consulting firm (McBain and Trush) to develop a conceptual design plan for the trans-delta reach of Williams Creek.

At the end of November the HCRCD received a formal letter from the Corps requesting that HCRCD provide a letter of intent to execute a Feasibility Cost-Sharing Agreement (FCSA). This letter is needed for the Corps to continue to expend money to complete its Salt River Restoration "Study". Recent changes to the Continuing Authority Program (CAP) require all costs of the "Study" that are incurred prior to signing a Project Partnership Agreement to be cost-shared 50/50. While signing the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement does not obligate the RCD to pay its share immediately, it does indicate that HCRCD is intending to continue to work with the Corps toward project implementation. If the HCRCD actually were to enter into a Project Partnership Agreement with the Corps to implement some part of the project, the HCRCD would then be obligated to pay 50% of all feasibility phase costs in excess of \$100,000 in four equal payments over a two-year period. Since the project has already begun implementation utilizing grant funding it appears unlikely that HCRCD will enter into a Project Partnership Agreement with the Corps for this project.

10. **SALT RIVER PROJECT UPDATE - STAFF**
11. **NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT** - Jon Shultz, NRCS District Conservationist
12. **DISTRICT STAFF ACTIVITIES REPORTS and OTHER RCD PROJECT UPDATES - STAFF**
13. **PERSONNEL** – Adjourn to Closed Session to conduct the Board’s performance evaluation of the Executive Director.
14. **Reconvene to Open Session and Report Action Taken**
15. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 8 a.m.**
16. **ADJOURNMENT**

NOTE: GRAZING COMMITTEE MEETING DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE BOARD MEETING