



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, July 14, 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. **DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE** (Circulated at meeting)
Incoming:
 - Humboldt LAFCo: Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17
 - Food, Fibers and Flowers: Status and use of USDA-NRCS Land Evaluation & Site Assessment & soils survey
 - Ann Barbata: Communication to NRCS Chief Weller re: Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project**Outgoing:**
 - Headwaters Fund: Letter of Interest
 - Coastal Commission: Status of Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project
 - UCCE: Comments re: Humboldt & Del Norte Dairy Advisor Position
6. **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
7. **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**
 - 7.1 Minutes for meeting of June 9, 2016* presented for approval
 - 7.2 May Financial Report presented for approval (Handout)
 - 7.3 Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Budget presented for approval (Handout)
8. **NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT** - *Jon Shultz, NRCS District Conservationist*
9. **UCCE Report** – *Jeffery Stackhouse, UCCE Livestock Advisor*
10. **SALT RIVER PROJECT UPDATE*** - *Staff*

11. **DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS and RCD PROJECT UPDATES*** – *Staff*
12. **PERSONNEL - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW**
13. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 8 a.m.**
Meeting location: Agriculture Center Auditorium, 5630 South Broadway (Humboldt Hill exit) Eureka, CA
14. **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 Director's

June 9, 2016

Monthly Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order**-Dan Cohoon, Chairman 8:02am

2. **Introductions-**

Directors Present: Dan Cohoon, Jim Renner, Gary Belli, Pete Bussman

Directors Excused: Hugo Klopper, Gary Markegard, Mark Moore

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

Staff Excused: Summer Daugherty

Guests: Rex Bohn-Humboldt County District Supervisor, Denver Nelson-Watershed Council, Jon Shultz-NRCS District Conservationist, Jeff Stackhouse-UCCE Livestock Advisor

3. **Additions or Changes to Agenda-**

a. Item 8.5 No Action Necessary

b. Item 6 Outgoing Correspondence – additional correspondence added: Chairman Cohoon: Request to NRCS State Conservationist for meeting the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project.

4. **Public Comment-**

No Comments Received

5. **Discussion and Approval of Audit-**

HCRCDD Audit Presentation by Stacey Edgmon, CPA Aycock and Edgmon. Review and discussion of HCRCDD grant revenue and expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ending 2015. Copies to be provided to Directors not present for review and additional follow-up set for future Board Meeting. No action taken.

6. **District Correspondence-**

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

7. **HCRCDD Director's Reports, Request, or Announcements-**

No Reports Provided

8. **Board Action Items-**

8.1 Minutes for meeting of May 12, 2016 presented for approval

Motion by Director Bussman to approve Humboldt County Resource Conservation District Board Minutes as presented from May 12, 2016. Second by Director Belli. Ayes-Director Renner, Cohoon Noes-None.

8.2 May Financial Report presented for approval

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 Bussman 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 Renner. Ayes-Director Cohoon, Belli. Noes-None.

8.3 Resolution 16-04 Authorizing staff to submit a proposal(s) to the CDFW Proposition 1 Wetland Restoration Grant Program and sign contracts as necessary.

Motion by Director Bussman to adopt Humboldt County Resource Conservation District Resolution 16-04 authorizing staff to submit proposal (s) to the CDFW Proposition 1 Wetlands Restoration Grant Program and sign contracts as necessary. Second by Director Renner. Ayes-Director Belli, Cohoon Noes-None.

8.4 Resolution 16-05 Authorizing staff to submit an application for Federal Assistance to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and sign contracts as necessary.

Motion by Director Bussman to adopt Humboldt County Resource Conservation District Resolution 16-05 authorizing staff to submit an application for Federal Assistance to the US Fish and Wildlife Services and sign contracts as necessary. Second by Director Renner. Ayes-Director Belli, Cohoon Noes-None.

8.5 Resolution 16-06 *No Discussion or Action*

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

Shultz provided the Board an update regarding current program activities on program funding opportunities through NRCS programs such as EQIP and WQI, administrative updated included interviewing for a Soil Conservationist position and leasing agreement activity between NRCS and GSA for space in the Humboldt County Agricultural Center Building.

10. **UCCE Report-Jeff Stackhouse, UCCE Livestock Advisor-**

Stackhouse provided the Board an update on future positions at the Humboldt UCCE office: Dairy Advisor and Plant Science Advisor, 4-H enrollments continuing increase, the Fire Advisor has scheduled prescribed burns with local landowners to happen later this fall, Coyote Brush and Milk Thistle control options continuing to be researched and applied, and continued efforts by Yana Valachovic in Oak Woodland Restoration projects and forestry legislative activities.

11. Salt River Project Update-

Update provided by HCRCD Executive Director Demers regarding the postponement of the 2016 implementation of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project following a May 27, 2016 multi-agency meeting. The HCRCD was unable to accommodate requests from landowners for compensation and design changes due Project's permit requirements and engineering constraints and conflict with the appropriate use of public funds supporting the Project. The HCRCD is bound by fiscal responsibility and the need for transparency, and postponement is necessary at this time for the project to move forward and achieve success. Currently 10 funding grants are held by the HCRCD for Salt River restoration activities. The HCRCD is working with NRCS to resolve concerns within the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program Floodplain Easement. Staff anticipate the Salt River construction will resume in 2017 and the 2017 construction footprint will be larger than the proposed 2016 footprint.

Humboldt County District Supervisor Rex Bohn offered staff and Directors thanks and appreciation for their continued efforts on the Salt River Project. He noted there are health and safety concerns expressed by the Community, as well as the varying perspectives of the project held by landowners. Executive Director Demers noted the continued need for willing landowners for the project to be successful and that through the postponement the RCD will continue their efforts in working with landowners. Director Cohoon noted that understanding of the constraints of the project is key and will be necessary for moving forward working with landowners for 2017. Supervisor Bohn acknowledged the NRCS District Conservationist's efforts working with the landowner within the Floodplain Easement as both an agency representative and friend. Supervisor Bohn also acknowledged the need for multi-agency involvement and the need for the Community to understand the constraints of the HCRCD. Director Cohoon agreed the Salt River project is a working partnership. Guest Denver Nelson expressed concern as to how the HCRCD was going to move the project forward. Director Cohoon explained that the HCRCD and agency partners are reviewing agreements, documents, and funding to ensure clarification in regards to all options available to HCRCD. Director Cohoon stated that the HCRCD is moving as best as it can, as fast as it can.

12. District Staff Reports and RCD Project Updates-

Summary of District activities provided in Board packet. Project Coordinator Tjarnstrom provided brief update on CDFW's Wildlife Management Area grazing lease Requests For Proposals. CDFW received bids on Fay Slough, Mad River Slough, and Cock Robin Island, however no bids received on Salt River Unit. Award announcements have not been made public at this time. Additional discussion to be held by CDFW regarding potential options for the Salt

River Unit in 2016. Executive Director Demers updated on the White Slough Restoration Project 2016 construction season. Project activities for 2016 are uncertain at this time due to availability of sediment.

13. Personnel-Executive Director Review-

Follow-Up with Director Moore regarding formation and a closed session is to be schedule for July Meeting

14. Next Regular Meeting-July 14, 2016 8 am Humboldt Agricultural Building

15. Adjourned- 9:38am