

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 November 21, 2013

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:
 - National Association of Conservation Districts – Invitation for membership
 - California Association of Resource Conservation Districts – Quarterly newsletter
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service – Closing Letter for WQI Agreement # 65-9104-2-941**Outgoing:**
 - Riverside Community Services District – Letter requesting RCSD formally accept new section of waterline constructed by HCRCD as part of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project
6. **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FOR September 12, 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 November 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) Termination of all leases on California Department of Fish and Wildlife properties.

BACKGROUND: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has directed HCRCD not to re-new any of the existing leases for agricultural activities on CDFW-owned lands. To comply with this direction, the Board will take action to terminate the leases identified below effective December 31, 2013 and direct staff to notify each Lessee of this action, advising them to remove all livestock; any and all debris; and any and all equipment or other items belonging to the Lessee that may be present on the Wildlife Management Areas no later than December 31, 2013.

- a. Fay Slough: Grant Pedrotti, Lessee
- b. Mad River Slough: Domingo Santos, Lessee
- c. Eel River: Dennis Leonardi, Lessee
- d. Cock Robin Island: Dennis Leonardi, Lessee

- b) **Adopt and Approve Resolution #13-13** – Relinquish all claims and responsibility for new section of waterline to Riverside Community Services District

BACKGROUND: Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD) and Riverside Community Services District (RCSD) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to work cooperatively to re-locate a portion of waterline owned and operated by RCSD. The waterline conveys potable water and runs between meters located on Riverside Road to meters located on Camp Weott Road. The existing waterline crossed Riverside Ranch and needed to be moved to accommodate construction of Phase 1 of the Salt River Project.

RCSD took action at their April 10, 2013 meeting to abandon approximately 5110 feet of 2” PVC line that crosses Riverside Ranch. HCRCD contracted with Wahlund Construction to install, at no cost to the RCSD, approximately 6,350 of new 3” PVC line on two adjacent properties so that potable water could continue to be provided.

The work has been completed according to the plans and specifications which were reviewed and determined to meet the California Waterworks Standards by Craig M. Bunas, P.E. of the State of California Department of Public Health. The new line passed the required pressure test at the end of a second 30 day acceptance period. HCRCD also secured signed, notarized documents from the adjacent landowners where the new line was installed; providing an irrevocable easement ten feet in width for the purpose of installing and maintaining the buried waterline to the benefit of RCSD.

HCRCD staff attended the October meeting of the RCSD Board to provide the record drawings and related construction documents and asked the Board to 1) formally acknowledge that required pressure testing of the new line has been completed successfully; 2) accept ownership of the work and assume responsibility for all future operational and maintenance costs, and 3) execute certificates of acceptance allowing the maintenance easements to be recorded with the County. The RCSD Board voted to accept the easements but asked for additional time to review the record drawings and documentation and take action to accept the work at their November meeting.

The purpose of this resolution is to document completion of work undertaken in cooperation with RCSD and to record the decision of the HCRC Board to abandon any and all claim or responsibility for the work completed and to formally transfer ownership and any and all responsibility for future operation and maintenance of the new section of waterline to Riverside Community Services District.

- c) Army Corps of Engineers' Request for the RCD to enter into a Feasibility Study Cost Share Agreement – **POTENTIAL ACTION**

BACKGROUND: For at least the past 10 years, perhaps longer, the RCD has engaged with the Army Corps of Engineers through its Ecosystem Restoration Program to conduct feasibility studies and provide technical assistance on the Salt River Project. During that time, work done by the Corps has been funded completely by the Federal government. Several months ago the RCD 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 having 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.

We've recently been told that as a result of "sequestration" the Federal government will no longer pay the full costs of feasibility studies. For all current feasibility planning, the partner (RCD) will be asked to sign a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement. While signing the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement does not obligate the RCD to pay its share immediately, it does indicate that the RCD is intending to continue to work with the Corps toward project implementation. If the RCD actually were to enter into an agreement with the Corps to implement the project, the RCD would then be obligated to pay a share of the design and implementation costs incurred to date.

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. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION – ACTION** (Cohoon)
 - **OFFICERS** - Elect Officers to serve a one-year term.
 - Current Officers: Chairman – Dan Cohoon
 - Vice-Chair – Gary Markegard
 - Secretary/Treasurer – Mark Moore
 - **COMMITTEES** – Discuss current committees, establish any new committees as may be needed, appoint committee chairs to serve a one-year term.
 - Current Committees:
 - Grazing Committee – Current Chair: Peter Bussman
 - Dairy Committee – Current Chair: Jim Renner
14. **PERSONNEL** – Establish this year's guidelines for the Board's performance evaluation of the Executive Director.
15. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 8 a.m.**
16. **ADJOURNMENT**