

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 14, 2021

8:00 A.M.

VIDEO and TELECONFERENCE ONLY

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19 AND TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS:

Based on the mandates by the Governor in Executive Order 33-20 and the County Public Health Officer to shelter in place to minimize the spread of the coronavirus, please note the following changes to the District's ordinary meeting procedures:

- The meeting will be conducted via teleconference. (See Executive Order 29-20)
- All members of the public seeking to observe and/or to address the local legislative body may participate in the meeting via video conference or telephonically in the manner described below.

HOW TO OBSERVE THE MEETING:

The District is using Zoom to conduct the Board Meeting remotely. The public may observe the meeting from a desktop computer, mobile device, or telephone. You can learn more at <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>. We recommend that you test out your device, internet connection, and Zoom app compatibility well before attempting to join the meeting.

If accessing from a mobile device or desktop computer, click the following link to join the meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86397595187?pwd=TnR6dldzVWJ6WUZQdmF1Y0ZuM1IPdz09>

If accessing from a **telephone**, you can listen to the meeting live by calling:

1 669 900 6833

Enter Meeting ID: 863 9759 5187 when prompted

Enter Passcode: 1987 when prompted

To mute or unmute yourself on a telephone, press *6

HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Before the Meeting: Please email your comments to jillhcrd@gmail.com before 8am on the day of the meeting, write "Public Comment" in the subject line. In the body of the email, include the agenda item number and title, as well as your comments. If you would like your comment to be read aloud at the meeting (not to exceed three minutes at staff's cadence), prominently write "Read Aloud at Meeting" at the top of the email.

Contemporaneous Comments: During the meeting, the Board President or designee will announce the opportunity to make public comments and identify the cut off time for each attendee. The chat feature within Zoom will also be monitored for comments submitted during the meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Dan Cohoon, Chairman

2. **ROLL CALL - HCRCD Board and Staff**

_____ Dan Cohoon, Chairman

_____ Mark Moore, Secretary/Treasurer

_____ Gary Belli, Director

_____ Ryan Rice, Director

_____ Lane Russ, Director

_____ Zach Cahill, Director

_____ Christine Manhart, Director

_____ Jill Demers, Executive Director

_____ Curtis Ihle, Program Manager

_____ Frances Tjarnstrom, Project Coordinator

_____ Doreen Hansen, Watershed Coordinator

_____ Jake Taulbee, Project Coordinator

_____ Julia Sullivan, Forest Health Watershed Coordinator

_____ Anita Hipp, Office Manager

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 **Soil Health and Conservation & Carbon Farm Planning Program Update and Presentation** - Frances Tjarnstrom and Jake Taulbee, HCRCD Project Coordinators*

5.2 **District Correspondence**

5.3 **District Director Updates and Announcements** – Directors may provide updates on their activities related to the HCRCD such as other meetings attended and other relevant announcements.

5.4 **NRCS Update** – *Jon Shultz, NRCS District Conservationist*

5.5 **CDFW Update** - Shawn Fresz, Lands and Wildlife Program, *California Department of Fish and Wildlife*

5.6 **USFWS Partners and Coastal Programs Update** - *Conor Shea, PE, Hydrologist*

6. **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

6.1 Review and action to approve Minutes for Regular Meeting of December 10, 2020*

6.2 Financial Reports: Review and potential action to approve January 2021 Financial Report*

6.3 Possible Action to Extend Line of Credit for 2021

7. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION – ACTION (Cohoon)**

7.1 **Oath of Office for Appointed Directors**

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors acted on January 5th, 2021 to reappoint HCRCD Directors Moore, Russ, and Belli and to appoint Associate Director Manhart vacant position.

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 707-296-3992. 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.

7.2 Review Annual Calendar*

7.3 Elect Board Officers – Appoint Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary/Treasurer positions.

7.4 Committee Assignments – Discuss current committees, establish or abolish any new committees as may be needed, appoint committee members and chairs to serve a one-year term.

Standing Committees (Approved January 2020, modified June 2020):

Executive Committee – Chairman Cohoon, Vice-Chairman Markegard (retired), Secretary/Treasurer Moore

Soil Health Committee – Chairman Director Markegard (retired), Director Russ, Director Cahill, Shultz NRCS, Stackhouse UCCE

Dairy Committee - Director Cahill

Current Ad Hoc Committees (Approved January 2020, modified June 2020):

Salt River Implementation Committee- Director Cohoon, Director Belli, Director Russ, Associate Director Manhart

Riverside Ranch Committee - Director Belli, Director Markegard, Director Rice

Forestry Committee - Director Cohoon, Director Moore, Director Rice

7.5 Review Conflict of Interest Code* and Distribute Form 700

7.6 Discuss Update to Long-Range / Strategic Plan

- 8. SALT RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT and WILLIAMS CREEK PLANNING***
- 9. RCD PROJECT UPDATES and STAFF REPORTS***
- 10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
- 11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 8 a.m.**
Meeting location: Zoom Teleconference
- 12. ADJOURNMENT**



JANUARY 14, 2021 - 8AM **PRESENTATION -** **CONSERVATION &** **CARBON FARM** **PLANNING**

Join us to learn about Humboldt County RCD's Conservation & Carbon Farm Planning project and the application process for assistance to create a plan for your farm or ranch. A presentation will be held during the monthly Humboldt County RCD Board meeting. Join on Zoom or by phone.

**Contact jakehcrd@gmail.com
for meeting information.**

What is Carbon Farming?

Carbon Farming is a whole-farm approach implementing on-farm practices that increase the rate at which plants transfer carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to the soil, which then increases water infiltration, water-holding capacity, soil organic matter and promotes long-term carbon sequestration.

Examples of Carbon Farm Plan NRCS Conservation Practices

Compost Application – Riparian Forest Buffer – Prescribed Grazing – Cover Crops – Silvopasture/Shrub & Tree Establishment – Conventional Tillage to No Till – Forage and Biomass Planting – Windbreak/Hedgerow Establishment – Riparian Herbaceous Cover – Critical Area Planting – Improved Nutrient Management – plus many more!

**Learn about
Conservation &
Carbon Farm
Plans and how
they can help:**

**Increase Soil
Carbon!**

**Improve Soil
Water Infiltration
and Holding
Capacity!**

**Enhance
Biodiversity and
Ecosystem
Resilience!**

**Boost
Productivity!**

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

5630 S. Broadway, Eureka

707-442-6058 x5

Humboldt County Count Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2020

1. Meeting called to order at 8:05 am by Chairman Dan Cohoon via Video Teleconference.
2. Roll Call Attendance-
 - 2.1. Directors Present at Roll Call-Dan Cohoon-Chairman, Gary Markegard-Vice Chairman, Mark Moore-Secretary/Treasurer, Lane Russ, Zach Cahill, Ryan Rice
 - 2.2. Directors Absent at Roll Call-Gary Belli, Gary Markgard
 - 2.3. Associate Director Present-Christine Manhart
 - 2.4. Staff Present-Jill Demers-Executive Director, Curtis Ihle-Program Manager, Doreen Hansen-Watershed Coordinator, Frances Tjarnstrom-Project Coordinator, Jacob Taulbee-Project Coordinator, Julia Sullivan-Forest Health Watershed Coordinator, Lauri Barnwell-Office Manager
 - 2.5. Guests-Conor Shea-USFW, Jon Shultz-NRCS, Dean Kwasny-NRCS, Jack Rice, Kathy Phillis, Tim Phillis, Jim Regli, Bobby Dolcini,
3. No changes or additions to the agenda.
4. Public comment received, to be read during item 5.5.
5. Informational Items-
 - 5.1. Update on Director Vacancies
Staff provided update that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors has not yet acted on appointing directors for new terms. Under PCR 9314(a) the expiration of term of any director does not constitute a vacancy, and the director shall hold office until a successor has qualified. After 60 days if the County has not appointed directors, the HCRCDD Board may do so.
 - 5.2. Directors Updates
Director Moore provided update on the Leopold Award Mentorship Program granted by NRCS for underserved young farmers and ranchers.
 - 5.3. Introduction of Forest Health Watershed Coordinator Julia Sullivan. Julia has joined the HCRCDD as part of the Department of Conservation Forest Health Watershed Coordinator program grant. Julia studied in environmental management and recently completed her MS. She is working with the multiple RCDs that partnered on the forest health grant.
 - 5.4. District Correspondence
 - 5.4.1.Outgoing-Response letter to the Office of State Audits and Evaluations.
 - 5.4.2.Incoming-Letter from Jack Rice representing multiple stakeholders for the Centerville Slough Enhancement Project requesting the HCRCDD to be the lead agency for CEQA and to assist in finding off-easement restoration funds.
 - 5.5. Centerville Slough Enhancement Project
HCRCDD is administering an NRCS grant to assist with restoration and implementation on Wetland Reserve Easements. Currently HCRCDD is working with partners and consultants on 4 easements near Centerville Slough. The restoration desired by landowners include restoration work occurring off easement. Jay Russ provided public comment outlining landowner's support of the project and the benefits it will have to agricultural lands. Staff has been coordinating to explore permitting the project and funding off easement components. The off-easement work necessitates CEQA and additional funds for off easement components will be needed. Staff are supportive of increasing the HCRCDD's roll upon request by NRCS and landowners. Staff recommends defining roles and responsibilities of all partners as a next step. Board of Directors have requested a site visit and detailed project description. A presentation by NRCS was discussed as a future agenda item for the February 2021 board meeting.

- 5.6. Eel River Groundwater Working Group met on November 30 via Zoom, during which County staff Hank Seeman provided an overview of current and future activities required to complete the Groundwater Sustainability Plan due in January 2022. Advisory committee to be formed by mid-2021. Next working group meeting to be held in March 2021. Staff has been assisting with data collection that will be used in the GSP.
- 5.7. NRCS Update provided by Jon Shultz, District Conservationist on assistance effort as related to fire recovery and program funding opportunities. Eureka office staff is continuing to assist Trinity County NRCS with land assessments in the burn areas. The Federal fiscal budget has not been set. Eureka NRCS office is currently closed due to COVID-19, however staff has reassigned active contracts for practices and projects keeping activities current and moving forward as best they can.
- 5.8. USFWS Partners and Coastal Program update provided by Conor Shea, PE, Hydrologist to provide update during agenda item 7.3.
6. Board Action Items-
 - 6.1. Motion by Director Moore to accept and approve the minutes for the regular Board of Directors Meeting held November 12, 2020. Second by Director Rice. Roll Call Vote-Mark Moore-aye, Ryan Rice-aye, Lane Russ-aye, Zach Cahill-aye. Absent-Gary Belli, Gary Markegard
 - 6.2. Motion by Director Moore to accept and approve the December 2020 Financial Report. Second by Director Rice. Roll Call Vote-Mark Moore-aye, Ryan Rice-aye, Lane Russ-aye, Zach Cahill-aye. Absent-Gary Belli, Gary Markegard
7. Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project and Williams Creek Planning-
 - 7.1. Salt River-Landowner coordination for a 2021 construction season continues. Staff is scheduling a Salt River Committee meeting to provide an in-depth project update and discuss next steps moving forward.
 - 7.2. Williams Creek-Work continues for cultural resources survey as part of the CEQA process. Staff has had positive progress moving forward and looking to further working with landowners and community members. AB52 Tribal notices have been sent.
 - 7.3. Riverside Ranch committee met with design team and landowners in early December to review the status of the alternatives analysis that is currently underway to identify options for modifying berm. C. Shea, PE, USFWS, provided information regarding areas of concern. Public comment was given by Tim Phillis to request that the berm is lowered to a specific elevation. Public comment was given by Bobby Dolcini to express his disappointment in berm performance and HCRCO response to landowner's requests. Staff will provide board of directors previous videos and photos provided by landowners of flood conditions. Staff and design team to meet with State Coastal Commission regarding permit modifications in January 2021, and a Riverside Ranch committee, design team, and landowner meeting will occur in March 2021 for project updates.
 - 7.4. Adaptive Management-Staff has begun scheduling a Spring Management Team meeting to review the monitoring reports, anticipated maintenance, and AMP process.
8. District Updates-
 - 8.1. Administrative-Cal/OSHA passed several new rules and procedures regarding COVID-19. Office Manager Lauri Barnwell's final day with the district is January 5th, 2021. Interviews scheduled to find replacement. Staff are working with JJACPA on the 18/19 fiscal year end audit.
 - 8.2. Projects- CALFire Yurok and Garberville are moving forward after a slow down due to the extreme fire activities in the past months. Staff is working with the County of Humboldt on the Eel River Groundwater Sustainability Plan and continues efforts for water sampling with the Six Rivers Dairy Association. Staff continues developing 3 Conservation and Carbon Farm Plans and to

present a future board meeting. Watershed Coordinator Hansen is working on an NRCS WQI Watershed Assessment to be completed in March 2021.

9. Future agenda items -Board Organizational activities including oath of office for Directors and committee assignments and rescheduling of March 2020 postponed Strategic Planning Meeting due to COVID-19.
10. Next Regular Meeting via Teleconference Thursday January 14, 2021 8a.m.
11. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.