

Humboldt
County



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting

The mission of the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District is to assist private and public landowners in the planning, design, and implementation of soil, water, and forest resource conservation practices to improve and enhance natural and working lands in Humboldt County

REGULAR MEETING: AGENDA

Thursday, June 11, 2026

8:00 A.M.

(Items marked with * are attached to director packets. Packets may be requested by contacting the HCRCDC at 707-296-3992 or emailing jill@hcrdc.org.)

LOCATION: HUMBOLDT AGRICULTURAL CENTER

5630 South Broadway

Eureka, CA 95503

OR

TELECONFERENCE via ZOOM & TELEPHONE

The public may observe the meeting from a desktop computer, mobile device, or telephone.

Join Zoom Meeting

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When it is time for public comment on the item you wish to speak on, you'll hear a prompt that will indicate your phone is unmuted. Please state your name and the agenda item number you will be commenting on. You will have 3 minutes to comment.

HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Before the Meeting: Please email your comments to jill@hcrdc.org 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 Chair or designee will announce the opportunity to make public comments and identify the cut off time for each attendee. Attendees may also "raise" their hand in Zoom or via telephone by pressing *9 to make comments. The Q&A feature within Zoom will also be monitored for comments submitted during the meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Christine Manhart, Chair
2. **ROLL CALL**
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. **CONSENT CALENDAR – ACTION**
 - 5.1 Approve Minutes for Regular Meeting of May 14, 2026*
 - 5.2 Approve contractor agreement 202-08 with Native Ecosystems, Inc for the Humboldt Redwoods State Park Salmon-Canoe Unit Forest Health-Mechanical and Manual Services Project in the amount of \$798,900.00 and authorize the Executive Director to execute necessary amendments as needed to complete the project*
 - 5.3 Approve Resolution 26-07 to approve the application of funds to the U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund for the Russ Creek and Centerville Slough Restoration Project and conditionally accepting grant, if offered.*
6. **ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR - ACTION**
7. **NEW BUSINESS – ACTION**
 - 7.1 Review and potential action to approve Resolution 26-08 to establish a partnership with project proponent Cottrell Ranch, LLC and certify that the Butte Creek – Buck Mountain Project Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum to California Vegetation Management Program (CalVTP) Program EIR complies with CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines and adopt the CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Project.*
 - 7.2 Review and potential action to select candidate for Humboldt LAFCo Special District Regular Member*
 - 7.3 Review and potential action to approve HCRCD Annual Budget and Fund Balance for Fiscal Year 26/27
 - 7.4 Review and approve June 2026 Financial Report and Staff Recommendations to approve reserve for payroll and tax liabilities and approve and issue payments for operating expenses and contractor payments as outlined in financial report.
8. **OLD BUSINESS – ACTION**
 - 8.1 Review 2026 Long-Range Plan development to-date, provide feedback and staff direction, and potential action to adopt portions of the plan.*
9. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
 - 9.1 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.

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 or email admin@hcrccd.org. 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.

9.2 District Correspondence

9.3 NRCS Report

9.4 HCRCD Staff Reports*

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: July 9, 2026 at 8am

Meeting location: Humboldt Agricultural Center

12. ADJOURNMENT

Agenda Item #5.1 (CONSENT)
For Regular Board Meeting of: July 11, 2026

HUMBOLDT COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jill Demers, Executive Director
SUBJECT: 5.1 Approve Minutes for Regular Meeting of May 14, 2026*
AGENDA SECTION: CONSENT

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Minutes for Regular Meeting of May 14, 2026

SUMMARY

n/a

FISCAL IMPACT

n/a

ATTACHMENTS

Minutes for Regular Meeting of May 14, 2026

Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
Board of Director's Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Humboldt Agricultural Center, 5630 South Broadway, Eureka, CA 95503
or Teleconference via ZOOM and Telephone
May 14, 2026

1. Call to Order: Lane Russ, Vice Chair at 8:01am
2. Roll Call
 - HCRC D Board of Directors: Christine Manhart (Chair, arrived at 8:17am), Lane Russ (Vice Chair), Reid Cody (Interim Secretary/Treasurer), Dan Cohoon, Jim Cotton
 - HCRC D Board of Directors Excused: Zach Cahill
 - HCRC D Staff: Jill Demers (Executive Director), Curtis Ihle (Assistant Executive Director), Anita Hipp, Doreen Hansen, Jake Taulbee, Alex Cunha, Travis Massey, Olivia Lopes, Renata Urbina De la Flor.
 - HCRC D Staff Excused: Katrina Cole, Megan Kownurko, Giorgio Zampaglione, Zoe Ziegler, Matt Settelmayer, Paige Quinn
 - In-Person Guest: Alex Hunt (Mercer-Fraser)
 - Virtual Guest: Jeremy Svehla (GHD), Nate Key (NRCS), other members of the public
3. Additions or Changes to Agenda
 - New Business Item Order Change ~ item 7.1 Resolution 26-06 moved below item 7.3 May 2026 Financial Report
4. Public Comment Period – None
5. Consent Calendar
 - 5.1. Approve Minutes for Regular Board Meeting of March 12, 2026
 - 5.2. Approve Minutes for Special Meeting of March 12, 2026
 - 5.3. Action to remove Director Barnwell as signer on HCRC D's Redwood Capital Checking and CalTRUST accounts effective immediately.
 - 5.4. Approve 2026 Financial Report and Staff Recommendations to approve reserve for payroll and tax liabilities and approve and issue payments for operating expenses and contractor payments as outlined in the financial report.
 - 5.5. Approve amending professional services agreement 181-00 with James L. Able Forestry Consultants, Inc. for Registered Professional Forester services associated with the Six Rivers 2022 Lightning Complex Post Fire Disaster Recovery Project for \$175,000.00 and authorize the Executive Director to execute agreement and any subsequent amendments.

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- 5.6. Approve amending contractor agreement 180-181-04 with Jones Family Tree Service for the Manual Post Fire Restoration Services in Willow Creek Project to increase contract amount to \$350,000.00.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar (items 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6) by Director Cotton, Seconded by Director Cody. Ayes: Directors Manhart, Russ, Cohoon. Noes: None. Passed Unanimously

6. Items pulled from Consent Calendar: None

7. New Business

- 7.1. (7.2) Annual Board Organizational Meeting to Take Action to Notify and Fill Vacancies, Elect Officers, and Select Committee Assignments. Executive Director Demers reviewed Secretary/Treasurer vacant position due to Director Barnwell resignation. Also discussed Director Cohoon leaving the Board at the end of his term, after 20 years of service on the Board. Executive Director Demers will notify the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors of the two vacancies. Director Reid Cody accepted the Interim position of Secretary/Treasurer.

Motion to approve Reid Cody as Interim Secretary/Treasurer by Director Cotton, Seconded by Director Cohoon. Ayes: Directors Manhart, Russ. Noes: None. Passed Unanimously

- 7.2. (7.3) Approve May 2026 Financial Report and Staff Recommendations to approve reserve for payroll and tax liabilities and approve and issue payments for operating expenses and contractor payments as outlined in the financial report.

Motion to approve May 2026 Financial Report and Staff Recommendations by Director Cody, Seconded by Director Cotton. Ayes: Manhart, Russ, Cohoon. Noes: None. Passed Unanimously

- 7.3. Director Russ recused himself due to conflict of interest.

(7.1) Action to approve Resolution 26-06 of the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District Board Awarding Mercer-Fraser for the Russ Creek & Centerville Slough Restoration Project and Authorizing the Board Chair or Designee to Execute Contract Documents and Related Amendments. Executive Director Demers reviewed project, permits, and funding. Nate Key (NRCS) reviewed NRCS contributions. Project Engineer Jeremy Svehla (GHD)

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answered questions from the HCRCDD Board. Alex Hunt (Mercer-Fraser) provided public comment.

Motion to approve item Resolution 26-06 by Director Cohoon, Seconded by Director Cotton. Ayes: Directors Manhart, Cody. Noes: None. Passed Unanimously

8. Old Business

8.1. Review 2026 Long Range Plan development to-date and potential action to adopt HCRCDD Purpose and Value Statements and Organizational Decision Filters. Feedback provided by Board and members of the public on next draft. No Action taken.

9. Informational items

9.1. District Director Updates and Announcements – None

9.2. District Correspondence – None

9.3. HCRCDD Informational Reports

9.3.1. Health Soils Program Block Grant – Program Manager Taulbee reviewed upcoming grant program and fielded questions from the board.

9.3.2. Informational report on potential agreement with the USDA Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest to implement fuels reduction treatments in and around the communities of Willow Creek in the Six Rivers 2022 Lightning Complex wildfire footprint – Executive Director Demers and Project Coordinator Lopes review USDA Forest Service treatments for Public Land projects.

9.3.3. Informational report on the Buck Mountain/Butte Creek Project-Specific Analysis and Addendum to California Vegetation Management Program PEIR for the Butte Creek/Buck Mountain Forest Health Project. Executive Director Demers reviewed the project and answered questions from the board.

9.3.4. HCRCDD Staff Reports – provided in written report

10. Future Agenda Items

8.1. 2026 Long Range Plan

9.3.3. Butte Creek/Buck Mountain Project

11. Next Regular Meeting: June 11, 2026 at 8:00am

12. Adjournment at 9:58am

HUMBOLDT COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jill Demers, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 5.2 – Approve entering into contractor agreement 202-08 with Native Ecosystems, Inc for the Southern Humboldt Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Project for \$798,900.00 and authorize the Executive Director to execute agreement and any subsequent amendments.*

AGENDA SECTION: CONSENT

RECOMMENDATION

Consistent with HCRCD's Procurement and Subaward Policy, approve the contract and authorize the Executive Director to execute agreements and any subsequent amendments for contract #202-08 with Native Ecosystems, Inc. for \$798,900.00 for the Southern Humboldt Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Project.

SUMMARY

HCRCD is administering a CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant to support wildfire resilience and forest health on three project areas in Southern Humboldt, including Humboldt Redwoods State Park Salmon-Canoe Unit to build continuity to previous projects and two fuels reduction and prescribed fire treatment units on industrial and private properties on the strategically and culturally important Mail Ridge.

Treatment in the Humboldt Redwoods State Park Salmon-Canoe unit consists of mechanical treatment (mastication), lop and scatter manual thinning, and piling. Treatments will benefit forest health and resilience by increasing spacing of remaining trees, promoting vegetation heterogeneity, and restoring prairie habitat. California State Parks (CSP) is the landowner, and CSP staff are playing an important role in planning, Registered Professional Forester oversight, and monitoring. HCRCD and CSP intend to hire one contractor to complete all treatments in the Humboldt Redwoods State Park Salmon-Canoe unit.

HCRCD's Procurement Policy and Subaward Policy establishes requirements for the procurement of services, materials, and supplies and establishes processes for contracting with partners for subawards and subrecipients. HCRCD recently released a Request for Proposals ("RFP") for the [Humboldt Redwoods State Park Salmon-Canoe Unit Forest Health-Mechanical and Manual Services Project](#) to identify an experienced and qualified contractor to perform fuels treatment services in the Salmon Creek watershed in Southern Humboldt. The RFP was released on Monday, April 27th and the contractors' Proposals were due Tuesday, May 26th. A mandatory bid walk was held on Friday, May 8th. The HCRCD received 8 proposals, which were ranked by HCRCD based on pre-established criteria, including budget and demonstrated experience and competence. CSP also weighed in, according to those criteria. Native Ecosystems, Inc was selected based on their competitive budget, high level of experience and competence, and social benefit through the employment of local crew members.

FISCAL IMPACT

None to general fund; contract to be fully funded through CAL FIRE Forest Health grant program (#202).

ATTACHMENTS

- none

HUMBOLDT COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jill Demers, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 5.3 – Approve Resolution 26-07 to approve the application of funds to the U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund for the Russ Creek and Centerville Slough Restoration Project and conditionally accepting grant, if offered.*

AGENDA SECTION: CONSENT

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution 26-07.

SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is currently accepting applications for its Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. The Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (RCD) intends to request up to \$2 million for the Russ Creek and Centerville Slough Restoration Project. Applications are due June 29, 2026, and Board consideration is scheduled for the June 11, 2026 Regular Meeting.

The RCD proposes submitting a grant application to support implementation of the Russ Creek and Centerville Slough Restoration Project. This Project spans multiple Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetland Reserve Easements within the Eel River estuary and focuses on restoring 4 miles of Centerville Slough and approximately 550 acres of tidal marsh habitat. Project objectives include improving hydrologic connectivity between Russ Creek and Centerville Slough and reestablishing direct tidal connection to the Eel River.

The RCD has awarded a \$17.2 million construction contract to Mercer Fraser. Existing grant funding is insufficient to fully cover construction costs, necessitating additional funding efforts to close the remaining gap or approximately \$2.3 million, which includes contingency. The proposed application will support implementation of restoration activities on both NRCS easement lands and adjacent privately owned properties.

FISCAL IMPACT

- None:
 - o Project development and grant writing costs are covered by current grant agreements (176).
 - o If awarded, grant funds would support project activities.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution 26-07



Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

5630 South Broadway Eureka, CA 95503

Phone (707) 442-6058 Ext. 5

info@hcred.org

RESOLUTION NO. 26-07

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY FUND FOR THE RUSS CREEK AND CENTERVILLE SLOUGH RESTORATION PROJECT, AND CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTING GRANT, IF OFFERED.

WHEREAS, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is inviting grant proposals from eligible applicants under the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (District) is a Special District established under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code to deliver and facilitate natural resources conservation in coordination with landowners of Humboldt County; and

WHEREAS, the District, in collaboration with the National Resources Conservation Service, is implementing the Russ Creek and Centerville Slough Restoration Project and is seeking further restoration construction funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for funding to the NOAA Fisheries' Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund; and
2. Further commits to the terms and conditions specified in the grant agreement; and
3. Appoints the Executive Director or designee as a representative(s) of Humboldt County Resource Conservation District to conduct negotiations, execute, submit and sign all documents including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests, and other documents which may be necessary for the completion of the proposed project.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District at its regular meeting held on the 11th day of June, 2026, by the following vote:

Ayes: _____

Noes: _____

Absent: _____

Abstain: _____

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 26-07 was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District.

Reid Cody, Secretary
Board of Directors