



Napa County Resource Conservation District Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

MINUTES

When: Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 8:00 A.M.

Where: Tele/videoconference

Bruce Barge President	Rainer Hoenicke Vice President	Jon Kanagy Director	Jim Lincoln Director	Bill Pramuk Director	Gretchen Stranzl McCann Director	Vacant Director
	Lucas Patzek Executive Director	Anna Mattinson District Secretary	Wendy Dau District Counsel	Tracy Schulze Auditor-Controller		

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Napa County Resource Conservation District was called to order at 8:04 A.M. on Thursday, September 8, 2022 by President Bruce Barge. This meeting was conducted pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953 and Governor’s Executive Order N-25-20, in that directors participated only by electronic means, through either audio (i.e., teleconference) or video (videoconference), or both. All directors present indicated that they there were able to hear everything clearly over the tele/videoconference system.

A. Roll call

Directors present included Bruce Barge, Jon Kanagy, Bill Pramuk, Gretchen Stranzl McCann, and Rainer Hoenicke (joined at 8:15 A.M.). Associate Directors Bryan Avila and Lauren Winczewski were present. RCD staff present included Lucas Patzek, Anna Mattinson, Frances Knapczyk, Ali Blodorn, and District Counsel Wendy Dau was present. NRCS staff present included Evelyn Denzin and Chip Bouril.

B. Approval of meeting minutes

Approved the minutes from the August 11, 2022 regular meeting.
MOTION: Kanagy; SECOND: Pramuk; AYES: Barge, Hoenicke, Kanagy, and Pramuk;
NOES: None; ABSENT: Lincoln; ABSTENSIONS: Stranzl McCann. Motion carried.

2. EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Mike Hackett, Founder and Board Member of the [Save Napa Valley Foundation](#), shared about their organization and areas of nexus with the mission and programs of the District.

3. DISTRICT BILLS

A. Ratification of District bills

Ratified regular District bills in the amount of \$2,829.15.

MOTION: Kanagy; SECOND: Stranzl McCann; AYES: Barge, Hoenicke, Kanagy, Pramuk, and Stranzl McCann; NOES: None; ABSENT: Lincoln; ABSTENSIONS: None. Motion carried.

B. Approval of District bills

Approved regular District bills for August 2022 in the amount of \$140,093.09.

MOTION: Stranzl McCann; SECOND: Hoenicke; AYES: Barge, Hoenicke, Kanagy, Pramuk, and Stranzl McCann; NOES: None; ABSENT: Lincoln; ABSTENSIONS: None. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Wilson praised the District's climate emergency resolution, and highlighted the need to improve the efficiency of action so that things speed up. He suggested Board members and staff request a meeting with the Interim County CEO, Department Director Morrison, and Supervisor Gregory as well as some local organizations to share about the resolution and other important conservation topics.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approved the consent calendar.

MOTION: Hoenicke; SECOND: Kanagy; AYES: Barge, Hoenicke, Kanagy, Pramuk, and Stranzl McCann; NOES: None; ABSENT: Lincoln; ABSTENSIONS: None. Motion carried.

A. Ratify Amendment No. 1 of Agreement No. 3020-1005 with the Department of Conservation

B. Ratify Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD) Contract No. C06-2022

C. Ratify Amendment No. 1 to CARCD's Agreement for Services with Napa RCD for projects under the "Enhancing Wildlife Habitat & Carbon Sequestration on Working Lands" block grant.

D. Ratify Agreement with CARCD's Post Fire Disaster Recovery (2022-2026).

E. Ratify Agreement No. 2022021 with Matt Greene Forestry & Biological Consulting.

F. Authorize Board President to sign Agreement with National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

- G. Authorize Board President to execute Landowner Design Agreement with Rancho Otranto LLC.**
- H. Ratify Right of Entry Agreements with Vallerie Hunt, Kenneth Lim, and Joan Marshall.**
- I. Approve revisions to Policy No. 1020 (Conflict of Interest).**

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion and possible action to request an appointment of a Director to fill the current vacancy on the Board of Directors.

An Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Directors composed of Bruce Barge, Rainer Hoenicke & Jon Kanagy interviewed five applicants for the director vacancy who were cleared by the County Counsel's Office for legal sufficiency and any conflicts of interest. These applicants were: Chris Carpenter, Lucio Perez, Bryan Parker, Patrick Tokar, and Paul Asmuth. The Ad Hoc Committees shared their process for interviewing applicants and developing a recommendation to the Board.

Authorized Resolution No. No. 2022-04 to Napa County's Board of Supervisors (BOS) to recommend Paul Asmuth for consideration and appointment by the BOS to the Napa RCD's Board of Directors.

MOTION: Barge; SECOND: Hoenicke; AYES: Barge, Hoenicke, Kanagy, and Stranzl McCann; NOES: None; ABSENT: Lincoln; ABSTENSIONS: Pramuk. Motion carried.

Bill Pramuk raised a potential conflict of interest in this appointment as he does consulting work for Paul Asmuth directly and his place of work. Counsel Wendy Dau recommended that it is best that he abstain from this request for appointment, and other potential conflicts of interest be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Bruce Barge requested Counsel Dau to provide some education to the Board on what might constitute a conflict of interest.

Bruce Barge will reach out to the other four applicants to explore whether they are interested in serving as Associate Directors, and then discussion and possible action on making Associate Director appointments can be added to the October Board meeting agenda.

B. Governance Committee items.

A Special Board Meeting is being proposed to occur at Fuller Park to serve a celebratory function and welcome the new director and associate directors. Bruce Barge will identify the best time with the Board.

A press release concerning the climate emergency resolution is being drafted and will go out soon.

Bruce Barge presented on the range of accelerators that are driving momentum for the organization, and what opportunities this presents. This was also shared with staff at a recent staff meeting.

Bruce Barge shared an intention to have Board members and staff meet with political leaders to share about what the District does and learn about the related priorities of these leaders. He will engage the Board in the next steps.

7. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST, AND DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Evelyn Denzin (NRCS District Conservationist) gave the following updates on NRCS projects and activities:

- She is meeting with USDA leasing office staff this morning to discuss developments in the new NRCS lease and remodel.
- Due to limited NRCS funding for forest improvement and fuel reduction projects this year, NRCS staff are working with our unfunded applicants to re-direct them to NBFIP, with assistance from Ali Blodorn.
- NRCS has several pending streambank stabilization projects that we are moving forward with. NRCS staff are focusing on our responsibilities as the lead federal agency on these projects and coordinating with regulatory agencies and providing assistance to landowners to proceed with permits.
- Several larger fuel reduction projects NRCS provided assistance for have recently been completed in the Angwin – Howell Mountain area. We are excited these projects have moved forward to completion so quickly, and the weather has been cooperative for these projects to proceed this summer.

Lucas Patzek (Napa RCD Executive Director) gave the following updates on Napa RCD projects and activities:

- Completing all pre-audit tasks, and will be ready to call a Finance Committee meeting in October to discuss last fiscal year financial outcomes, and explore financial policies and procedures.
- Will need to call a meeting of the HCV Advisory Committee to reevaluate vineyard management needs and bid out the work, and determine how to launch the Request for Ideas.
- In conversations with landlord to expand office, and working with NRCS on remodel.
- What education ideas would the Board wish to explore at future meetings? Rainer shared it would be good to invite City of Napa's new Parks and Rec Director Breyana Brandt and Jeff Gittings to address the development of the Urban Forest Master Plan and the role of the RCD in its development. Board members should feel free to share further ideas with Lucas over email.

Rainer Hoenicke (RCD Director) gave the following updates on CARCD projects and activities:

- Opportunity to present to the Board at a future meeting about the CARCD and its annual conference.

Gretchen Stranzl McCann (RCD Director) will be speaking tomorrow on Tech Trek, for Junior High Girls who wish to go into the STEM fields. She will share about the RCD and what it does to educate youth about these types of organizations.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Bruce Barge adjourned this meeting at 9:32 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Mattinson, District Secretary

(Zoom Recording)