



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

MINUTES

When: Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 8:00 A.M.

Where: Tele/videoconference

Bruce Barge President	Rainer Hoenicke Vice President	Ashley Anderson Bennett Director	Jon Kanagy Director	Jim Lincoln Director	Bill Pramuk Director	Gretchen Stranzl McCann Director
	Lucas Patzek Executive Director	Anna Mattinson District Secretary	Shana Bagley 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 8:03 A.M. on Thursday, February 10, 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 Ashley Anderson Bennett, Bruce Barge, Rainer Hoenicke, Jon Kanagy, Jim Lincoln, Bill Pramuk, and Gretchen Stranzl McCann. Associate Directors present included Bryan Avila and Pierre Washington. RCD staff present included Anna Mattinson, Lucas Patzek, Frances Knapczyk, Ashley Kvittek, and District Counsel Shana Bagley was present. NRCS staff present included Evelyn Denzin and Allen Curry.

B. Approval of the agenda

Approved the agenda for this meeting with the amendment that 6A “Introducing Allen Curry” be moved just ahead of the Education Presentation.
MOTION: Kanagy; SECOND: Anderson Bennett; AYES: Anderson Bennett, Barge, Hoenicke, Kanagy, Lincoln, Pramuk, and Stranzl McCann; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTENSIONS: None. Motion carried.

C. Approval of meeting minutes

Approved minutes from the January 20, 2022 regular meeting.

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

D. Ratification of District bills

There were no bills to ratify.

E. Approval of District bills

Approved the District bills for January 2022 in the amount of \$57,074.55 (\$49,456.67 regular bills and \$7,617.88 Kaiser benefits).

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Anna Brittain, Napa Green’s Executive Director, presented on the intent and content of the new [Napa Green Vineyard certification](#), and their partnership with Napa RCD on Carbon Farm Plans, Irrigation Assessments, Soil Sampling, Conservation Burning workshops, and more.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approved the consent calendar.

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

- A. Ratify agreement with WSI Next Gen Marketing.**
- B. Ratify Agreement No. 2022002 with Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (GCRCD).**
- C. Authorize Executive Director to execute agreements with Sonoma Resource Conservation District (SRCD) and Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC).**
- D. Authorize Executive Director to execute agreement with California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD).**

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Governance Committee update.

- a. Bruce Barge shared the following about Associate Director recruiting, recognition and engagement and personal action plans:
 - Board and staff have been asked to nominate one person each as a potential new Associate Director. We will compile the list and vet it against our skill and diversity goals, then begin recruiting with help of Board and staff who nominated them
 - Eric McKee has developed draft recruitment document which will be refined by the Governance Committee.
 - Bryan Avila has agreed to be the RCD Mentor for Associate Directors, to on-board them and help them find areas in which to contribute. The Governance Committee will help him develop an on-boarding process.
 - We remain interested in a future Youth Ambassador program.
 - We will be presenting recognition certificates to Margaret Woodbury, Bob Zlomke, Zen Hunter-Ishikawa, Dennis Bowker, and Jeri Hoover for their past service to RCD.
 - We received Personal Action Plans from 5 Directors and 4 Associate Directors. Responses were very positive, showing enthusiasm for where to contribute—but open-ended questions made it hard to easily organize the strengths and gaps. We needed a structure for where Directors and new recruits will contribute, so Bruce and Lucas have been working on organizing this input and will be reaching out again soon with individual Directors and Associate Directors.
- b. Ashley Kvitek shared the following update on communications activities aimed at raising the visibility of Napa RCD:
 - Annual Report is with Heave!Ho for design/layout, and we will have digital copy in hand by Feb 23.
 - Nametags will be ordered for board members at noon on Friday, Feb 11
 - Rack Card: we will be putting together a quick version for immediate use, and then spend some time fleshing out the details of a more refined version. This first version will be Spanish and English, and have a QR code that links back to the Napa RCD website.
 - Board Bio: please send ASAP if you have not already
 - Website Redesign Update: Frances and Ashley are in the process of doing an audit of existing pages, seeing what needs immediate improvement and what can be tabled for a more thorough review during a phase 2 editing process for content. We are on track to launch a new website in June.

B. Huichica Creek Vineyard update.

Lucas Patzek shared that the Request for Proposals for professional services for Removal of vines and related infrastructure is still live with a deadline for submission of February 18th. Our next step is to respond to any questions by tomorrow. Miguel Garcia sent a reminder to six vineyard management firms about the RFP deadline. Miguel has been trying to contact several well drilling companies to get an assessment of the potential to develop a new well on the property. We want to have this information before going live with our Request for Ideas.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introducing Allen Curry.

Allen Curry introduced himself as the new USDA NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations to be based out of Salinas. He is replacing Kay Joy Barge who recently retired from that position. He looks forward to visiting Napa County sometime in the near future. Rainer Hoenicke and Lucas Patzek will loop him into the CARCD Bay-Delta group's meeting invitation and contact list.

B. Introducing Ali Blodorn.

Ali (Alison) Blodorn is the new Napa RCD supervising Program Manager overseeing forest health programming. She will also be working with Lucas Patzek, Frances Knapczyk, and Anna Mattinson on general organizational improvements related to program management and financial administration.

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

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

- CARCD is working with RCDs statewide on a single bundled request to the Wildlife Conservation Board for CFP & Habitat Implementation projects. The total request is nearly \$18M statewide. Napa RCD has been participating in that submission to cover CFP work, pollinator habitat enhancements, and fish passage barrier removal work in Napa County.
- Fish monitoring season is upon us, and the property where our Rotary Screw Trap is stored and used was recently sold to a new owner. Martin is coordinating a new Right of Entry agreement. Optimistically, our operating window for the trap runs from March 1st to June 30th, but this of course changes with how much water is in the river. Ideally we would like to do an open house or other public event around the RST this season.
- Martin and Paul have been working on an update to our fish passage barrier assessment of the whole Napa River watershed. This is a big and important

undertaking. We recently received a grant from the Gasser Foundation to support developing this updated assessment. Our hope is to identify 8-10 barriers that are ripe for removal, provide significant habitat improvement benefits, and can be bundled into a single project to be implemented fairly quickly. We'd like to work with CDFW on exploring an accelerated and simplified permitting process for removing them under the new Cutting the Green Tape Initiative once we have a prioritized list. Water Audit has been wanting to work on this with us, and we have been meeting with them to explore how this collaboration could work. Sometime soon we'd like to have another presentation and discussion about this because it's a pretty major endeavor.

- We received a Whale Tail grant to support expanding our volunteer citizen science Stream Watch program, so look for more exciting developments with this program over the coming year.
- The Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) unanimously approved and adopted the final Napa Valley Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) on January 11, 2022, and the GSP was submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on January 31, 2022. The completion of this plan, following an 18-month stakeholder-driven planning process, is a major step forward in the County's efforts to achieve sustainable groundwater management for the Napa Valley subbasin. The next steps as shared during the recent Board of Supervisors meeting is to launch a technical advisory process with scientists to hammer out the fine details of things like how a groundwater monitoring program should work. RCD will definitely want to be involved in this process.
- One Million Trees program will be featured in the Vintner's November fundraising event. Thank you to Bill Pramuk and others for helping the development of this program idea.

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

- Allen Curry will be managing all of Area 2 for NRCS and will be based in Salinas.
- March 9th workshop on Prescribed Grazing for Fuels Management will be happening in Calistoga. NRCS has been working with RCD on planning the workshop.
- NRCS has been working with Eric on a school planting event.
- Continues to work on EQIP contracts.

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

- CARCD Board Meeting is scheduled for 3 days at the end of November. The Bay Delta group will be meeting Feb 24th over Zoom.
- Board members should consider participating in CARCD Conferences in the future.

Counsel Shana Bagley shared some updates relating to COVID:

- State is not extending its mask mandate starting on Feb 15th, so those that are vaccinated will not have to wear masks indoors. This indicates that there will be an

opening in COVID restrictions, but it's unclear exactly what this means for Napa County at the moment.

- Governor just signed a bill to pay for employee sick leave related to COVID. Shana will share details with Lucas.
- Board of Supervisors just extended the resolution allowing for virtual board meetings due to COVID.

Additional Director reports:

- Director Ashley Anderson Bennett shared that she is stepping down from the Board of Directors. She will continue to work with the RCD in her role at the vineyard.
- Director Bill Pramuk was approached by a landowner about the oak mitigation plan for the Walt Ranch property, so he has been investigating what the plan is for planting and monitoring trees. Shana Bagley will provide him with more information about this.
- Director Jim Lincoln shared that a "Birds and Textiles" show will be presented on Mare Island in the month of February in recognition of the Flyway Festival, and he can share the details with anyone interested.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Rainer Hoenicke left the meeting at 9:24 A.M. Bruce Barge adjourned this meeting at 9:26 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna Mattinson, District Secretary

(Zoom Recording)