



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

MINUTES

When: Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 8:00 A.M.

Where: JoAnn Busenbark Board Room, Napa Valley Transit Authority (NVTA),
625 Burnell St, Napa, CA

Bruce Barge President	Rainer Hoenicke Vice President	Paul Asmuth Director	Jim Lincoln Director	Bill Pramuk Director	Gretchen Stranzl McCann Director	Karen Turjanis Director
		Lucas Patzek Executive Director	Corey Utsurogi 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, March 14, 2024 by President Bruce Barge.

A. Call to order and roll call

Directors present in-person included Bruce Barge, Jim Lincoln, Rainer Hoenicke, and Karen Turjanis. Gretchen Stranzl McCann video-conferenced from a second location, and due to insufficient notification of location, was unable to vote. Associate Director Jennifer Putnam was present. Napa RCD staff present included Lucas Patzek, Ali Blodorn, Monique Byro, and Frances Knapczyk. District Counsel Corey Utsurogi was present. Evelyn Denzin and Erika Valek from NRCS were present.

B. Approval of the agenda

Approved the agenda for this meeting.

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

C. Approval of meeting minutes

Approved the minutes from the February 8, 2024 regular meeting.

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

D. Ratification of District bills

Ratified bills approved by the Executive Director in the amount of \$764,200.03.

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

E. Approval of District bills

Approved the District bills for February 2024 in the amount of \$22,202.62.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Wilson shared that local Napa youth are organizing to bring Climate Restoration Resolution for consideration to Napa Valley Unified School District next month, which will ask NVUSD to endorse various climate restoration measures, including commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2030, increasing rate of carbon sequestration, and reducing black carbon emissions.

3. EDUCATION PRESENTATION

USDA-NRCS staff Evelyn Denzin provided an overview of USDA Farm Bill programs, and presented on how biochar production can be incorporated into forest health and fuel reduction work on our forestland.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approved the consent calendar.

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

- A. Approve airline travel for Eric McKee to the Annual Statewide Conference of the California Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education.**
- B. Approve travel for Alison Blodorn to the 2024 Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Conference.**

5. BUSINESS

- A. Updates about the North Coast Soil Hub and potential action to adopt Memorandum of Agreement and authorize Executive Director or designee to enter into the MOA.**

Adopted Memorandum of Agreement for the North Coast Soil Hub and authorized Executive Director or designee to enter into the MOA.

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

B. Presentation of the draft Employee Handbook.

Trish Griffus, The Personnel Perspective presented the draft Employee Handbook. The purpose of the Employee Handbook is to familiarize staff with the District’s policies, practices and benefits, and it supersedes all previously issued policies and practices. This draft has been reviewed by the Policy Advisory Committee and leadership staff and will be considered for adoption by the Board at the April Board Meeting.

C. Potential action to adopt amended FY23-24 Salary Level and Step Schedule.

Adopted amended FY23-24 Salary Level and Step Schedule.

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

D. Introducing Monique Byro, the District’s new Community Engagement Project Manager.

Frances Knapczyk introduced Monique Byro, Napa RCD’s new Community Engagement Project Manager. Monique will be working on several major projects for Napa RCD, as well as coordinating organizational marketing and communications.

6. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST, AND DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS

- Evelyn Denzin shared that NRCS will be participating in the upcoming Fire Resources Fair and Earth Day events, and will be attending the Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference at the end of March to learn more about best practices related to stream restoration. NRCS will be awarding 20 EQIP contracts to Napa County producers in the coming weeks.
- Rainer Hoenicke is the current delegate for Napa RCD in CARCD Board of Director elections. In April, the CARCD Board of Director elections will take place at their regularly scheduled meeting. Molly Watkins of San Joaquin RCD is now the Bay Area representative on CARCD

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 A.M.