



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

# MINUTES

**When:** Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 8:00 A.M.

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

Bruce Barge <b>President</b>	Rainer Hoenicke <b>Vice President</b>	Paul Asmuth <b>Director</b>	Jim Lincoln <b>Director</b>	Bill Pramuk <b>Director</b>	Gretchen Stranzl McCann <b>Director</b>	Karen Turjanis <b>Director</b>
		Lucas Patzek <b>Executive Director</b>	Corey Utsurogi <b>District Counsel</b>	Tracy Schulze <b>Auditor-Controller</b>		

## 1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Napa County Resource Conservation District was called to order at 8:13 A.M. on Thursday, June 13, 2024 by President Bruce Barge.

### A. Call to order and roll call.

Directors present in-person included Bruce Barge, Rainer Hoenicke, Jim Lincoln, Gretchen Stranzl McCann, Bill Pramuk, and Karen Turjanis. Director Paul Asmuth was absent. Associate Director Ernie Schlobohm was present. Napa RCD staff present included Lucas Patzek, Tatia Wieland, Ali Blodorn, Frances Knapczyk, and Eric McKee. 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: Turjanis; SECOND: Stranzl McCann; AYES: Barge, Hoenicke, Lincoln, Pramuk, Stranzl McCann, Turjanis. NOES: None; ABSENT: Asmuth; ABSTENSIONS: None. Motion carried.

### C. Approval of meeting minutes.

Approved minutes from the May 9, 2024 regular meeting.

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

**D. Ratification of District bills.**

Ratified bills approved by the Executive Director in the amount of \$115,286.18.

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

**E. Approval of District bills.**

Approved the District bills for May 2024 in the amount of \$137,530.70.

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

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Wilson shared that local Napa youth brought Climate Restoration Resolution to Napa Valley Unified School District, asking 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. SET ITEMS OR PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**A. Presentation and possible action to adopt the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget and salary schedule.**

Executive Director Patzek presented the draft budget recommended for adoption by the District Board. After adoption it will be submitted to the Napa County Auditor Controller’s Office before the end of the current fiscal year. Budgeted revenues are \$8,525,220 (\$7,345,179 from intergovernmental agreements, \$688,000 non-intergovernmental agreements, donations, and other sources, and \$492,041 taxes, dividends, and interest. Budgeted expenses are \$8,212,207 (\$2,222,867 in salaries and employee benefits, \$2,700,800 in services, \$3,288,540 in supplies and other, including contributions and community grants to other agency and nonprofit partners).

Fiscal year 2024-2025 budget and a salary schedule with a 3.8% COLA increase were adopted.

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

#### 4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approved consent calendar.

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

- A. Authorize Executive Director to execute Agreement No. 2024013 with Conservation Corps North Bay.**
- B. Authorize Executive Director to execute Right of Entry Agreements for the Devaux Vineyard project.**
- C. Authorize Executive Director to execute Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. A24-1207-S004 with The Regents of the University of California (University).**
- D. Authorize Executive Director to execute a Framework Agreement with Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP (Firm).**

#### 5. BUSINESS

- A. Discuss and select recipient(s) of Napa RCD's Scholarship for Emerging Environmental Leaders.**

Eric McKee shared that 2 qualified scholarship applicants were selected by a staff review panel. He recommends that both be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship each. Additionally, he discussed the formation of a new scholarship committee and sought directors and associate directors to help envision, collaborate, research, and discuss opportunities for improving the relevance and equitability of Napa RCD's scholarship program.

Award two \$1,000 scholarship to the staff-recommended recipients.

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

- B. Possible action to reappoint Associate Director.**

Appoint Lauren Winczewski to another term as Associate Director.

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

- C. Funding & Visibility Committee report.**

Bruce Barge reported that the Funding & Visibility Committee will continue to meet monthly. Participation will be expanding to include both Napa RCD staff and board members. 5 key stakeholder groups have been identified by the committee. Messaging will be focused on reaching and staying connected to each of these groups.

**D. Presentation and possible action to adopt Napa RCD’s Strategic Plan.**

Amy Stork presented the new five-year strategic plan that includes vision, goals, and key strategies for moving forward. This new plan reflects the input of Directors, Associate Directors, and staff. Staff recommended the adoption of the new strategic plan.

Motion to adopt Napa RCD’s new Strategic Plan.

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

**E. Discussion about district state and federal advocacy.**

Lucas Patzek discussed how Napa RCD currently engages in advocacy through membership with groups such as the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts. These associations are beneficial but may not be sufficient in connecting with some important stakeholders. He introduced Jayson Braude and Jasmid Enciso of Rojas Public Affairs – an organization that could enhance advocacy at the state and federal level. Jayson and Jasmind spoke about the services Rojas Public Affairs offers.

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

- Evelyn Denzin shared that NRCS staff are continuing to work on obligating contracts that received funding during this fiscal year. We recently received information that one of the forestry practice payment rates in RCPP (Forest Stand Improvement, 666) is lower than EQIP. We’ve expressed our concern and confusion about this to our RCPP representative at the state office and are waiting to hear back. If this issue is not resolved, Evelyn will ask to work with Ali to communicate this feedback to the NRCS state office. The RCPP coordinator at the NRCS state office may be more receptive to feedback coming from a partner involved in the RCPP.
- Lucas Patzek spoke about two items included in the June 13, 2024 meeting packet. The first was the draft letter to the Park, Recreation and Trees Advisory Commission written by Rainer Hoenicke. The second was The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Monitoring pilot project in Napa County.
- Rainer Hoenicke discussed the upcoming Park, Recreation and Trees Advisory Commission meeting taking place at City Hall.
- Gretchen Stranzl McCann expressed her observations regarding this year’s Earth Day event.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

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