



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

# MINUTES

**When:** Thursday, November 14, 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 8:02 A.M. on Thursday, November 14, 2024 by President Bruce Barge.

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

Directors present included Bruce Barge, Rainer Hoenicke, Paul Asmuth, Bill Pramuk, Gretchen Stranzl McCann, and Karen Turjanis. Director Jim Lincoln was absent. Associate Directors Joseph Nordlinger, Jennifer Putnam and Matthew Reid were present. Napa RCD staff present included Lucas Patzek, Tatia Wieland, Frances Knapczyk, and Alison Blodorn. District Counsel Corey Utsurogi was present. Evelyn Denzin from NRCS was present.

### B. Approval of the agenda.

Approved the agenda for this meeting.

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

### C. Approval of meeting minutes.

Approved minutes from the October 10, 2024 regular meeting.

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

**D. Ratification of District bills.**

Ratified October 2024 bills approved by the Executive Director in the amount of \$150,431.71.

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

**E. Approval of District bills.**

Approved regular November 2024 bills in the amount of \$41,558.06.

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

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments from the public.

**3. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION**

Program Director Frances Knapczyk presented on Napa RCD’s youth education program planning in alignment with the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan. The school-based programs will focus on connecting students to nature, engaging diverse communities, and fostering equitable and inclusive stewardship of our natural resources. The plan also includes leveraging partnerships with teachers and other organizations to maximize Napa RCDs impact.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Approved consent calendar.

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

- A. Ratify Agreement No. 2024029 with San Francisco Estuary Institute/Aquatic Science Center.**
- B. Ratify Agreement No. 2024030 with North Valley Labor Compliance.**
- C. Authorize Executive Director or their appointee to execute Agreement No. 24-C25 with the Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA).**
- D. Authorize Executive Director or their appointee to execute professional services agreements with vegetation management contractors funded by existing agreements.**
- E. Authorize Executive Director or their appointee to execute professional services agreements with Dogwood Springs Forestry and LACO Associates.**

## 5. BUSINESS

### A. Presentation and potential action to support a proposed countywide HCP/NCCP.

Yvonne Baginski presented on a local coalition advocating for the development of a habitat conservation plan (HCP) or a natural community conservation plan (NCCP) covering all of Napa County. She requested a letter of support from Napa RCDs Board of Directors.

Directors discussed forming a Policy Committee to develop an Advocacy Policy for the Napa RCD Board of Directors.

### B. Updates about the Huichica Creek Riparian & Salt Marsh Restoration Project and potential action to establish a new advisory committee.

Approved Resolution No. 2024-04 establishing a new advisory committee for Huichica Creek Riparian & Salt Marsh Restoration Project.

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

### C. Potential action to adopt Policy No. 2023 titled "Telecommuting and Remote Work" and authorizing Executive Director to work with counsel on final review.

Adopted Policy No. 2023 titled "Telecommuting and Remote Work" and authorized Executive Director to work with counsel on final review.

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

### D. Updates from the Funding & Visibility Committee.

President Barge presented an update on the Funding & Visibility Committee activities including plans for volunteer recognition and meetings with high-potential donors.

Program Director Frances Knapczyk reported on the 2024 Napa Valley Give!Guide fundraising opportunity. She described Napa RCDs efforts promoting the initiative and introduced a Board Match incentive.

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

Evelyn Denzin (NRCS District conservationist) shared information regarding the NRCS conservation easement program for properties vulnerable to development. She reported on plans for additional prescribed burn events in collaboration with Napa RCD.

Executive Director Lucas Patzek spoke about three upcoming Board Meeting schedule changes. He also gave details on recruiting for the Conservation Project Assistant position.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Board of Directors of the Napa County Resource Conservation District is December 16, 2024.