



**Elsinore - Murrieta - Anza
Resource Conservation District**

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 13, 2009
1:30 PM**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource Conservation District was called to order at 1:37 PM by President Long. Present were the following:
Directors Long, Wheeler and Nelson
Associate Directors Head and Matrisciano
General Manager Rogers
District Counsel Ray Johnson
Public: Ellen Christensen .

Motion was made by Nelson, second by Wheeler, passed 3-0, to approve the Agenda, moving old and new business to the end of the Agenda.

B. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2009

Motion was made by Nelson, second by Wheeler, to approve Minutes of the October 9, 2009 Regular Meeting. Long requested a change to Board Action Item F. 2.1, to state that the proposed contract with Consultant Eldon Baber was not to exceed \$5,000, rather than for 40 hours, at \$125/hour.

Approved as amended, 3-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

D. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial reports prepared by EMARCD's accounting firm were reviewed by the Board. Acceptance of the financial reports was moved by Nelson, seconded by Wheeler, approved 3-0.

E. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Rogers presented a Notice of the California Association of Resource Conservation District annual conference November 19-21 at Squaw Valley, California, and encouraged Directors to attend.

Notes and handout materials from the South Coast Resource Conservation and Development Conference on October 30 in Riverside were presented and discussed. The conference was attended by Rogers, Directors Long, Nelson and Wheeler, and Associate Director Matrisciano.

An announcement of a Board vacancy from Special Districts Risk Management Agency was presented; applications from interested parties are due in the SDRMA office by November 30, 2009.

F. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

2.1 Consideration of Resolution approving the filing of an application for elective Disability Insurance with the State Employment Development Department. Rogers explained that this was a routine matter requested by the District's accounting firm, and was required because of the District's status as a public agency.

Approval of Resolution No. 09-01 was moved by , seconded by Nelson, approved 3-0.

2.2 Consideration of a letter of support to California Association of Resource Conservation Districts. Copies of four resolutions to be considered by CARCD at their November annual conference were discussed by the Board; in the absence of detailed information and explanation, no action was taken.

2.3 Consideration of cancellation of regular meeting of December 11, 2009. Long stated that in some years, the December meeting has been canceled for lack of a quorum. The Directors present had no personal conflicts, so no action was taken; the meeting will proceed as scheduled unless decided otherwise by President Long.

2.4 Consideration of approval of letter nominating candidate for appointment to SDRMA board. Rogers explained that any applicant for appointment to the Board was required to submit a resolution or letter of nomination from the candidate's home District. Since the application deadline was November 30, action would be required at this meeting.

There being no interest among the three Board members present, no action was taken. A motion was introduced by Long, seconded by Nelson, to direct the Manager to contact the absent Board members and if either were interested, to prepare the required letter of support. Approved 3-0.

3.1 Discussion Items. Reports by Board Members and Manager on activities since October meeting.

Rogers reported on grant application and project reviews that he was conducting. He met on November 13 with Ben Drake, local farm manager and Director of Rancho California Water District, about projects and directions that might be appropriate for EMARCD, and discussed the surface water testing initiative that was being required by San Diego RWQCB. EMARCD could be involved in this, in cooperation with the Riverside County Farm Bureau. Their concept involved collecting an initial fee, possibly \$100 per farm (for every farm grossing more than \$1,000 per year), then an annual maintenance fee on a per-acre basis to conduct the sampling and testing. The requirement is being phased in by SDRWQCB, with organization in 2010 and first testing in 2011. There are currently about 1,800 agricultural accounts in Rancho California Water District. Drake encouraged EMARCD to contact Perry Louck at RCWD about turf replacement programs, and Megan Reed, their outreach coordinator, about opportunities for educational programs.

Nelson asked about the EPA grants on which she had forwarded information. Rogers replied that they were large grants with a complex application process, and all required 25% local matching funds.

General discussion ensued, with the Directors concurring in the need to look for small projects and grants as a starting point. Nelson and Head discussed water efficiency projects, such as the retrofitting project at The Colony that had already been approved by the Homeowners' Association. Wheeler asked if EMWD had funding; Head said that grants are not available, but loans may be. Wheeler asked that efforts be directed to RCWD, who might be interested in our participation.

Nelson further discussed educational outreach. The Great Oaks High School Earth Club is organized for projects with six groups of six students each, meeting over Thanksgiving weekend; she will report further on their activities.

Wheeler suggested an outreach effort through the local Boy Scout council to identify Eagle Scout candidates looking for community service projects.

Regarding fundraising for the District, Nelson reported that the Grant/Project focus group had suggested two fundraisers, a rummage sale and the fabrication and sale of bird boxes.

Restoration projects on Bureau of Land Management property was mentioned, possibly using State Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) funds to construct fences and install signage.

Nelson requested that additional sources of funding be discussed at the December Board meeting, along with possible methods of contacting Homeowners' and Property Owners' Associations.

Long reported that she was scheduled to take a grant writing class from Eldon Baber, and she, Nelson and Head had met with him to receive pointers on preparing grant applications. Baber is knowledgeable about grantors, and has a good relationship with the Riverside Community Foundation.

Monthly Reports

District Counsel Ray Johnson reported on the Cornerstone Church proposal in Wildomar; he is representing clients who are opposing the project, based largely on the plan to export 700,000 cubic yards of earth materials to

Menifee. The appeal is scheduled to be heard by the Wildomar City Council on January 27.

Regarding Liberty Quarry, Johnson reported that field work for the truck traffic study authorized by quarry opponents was conducted on November 12, with results being available next week. The study was more complete than the one done by Granite, and included northbound and southbound traffic, both full and empty trucks. He is preparing a written response to the EIR which is due November 23, and asked Rogers to assist him in providing input on specific issues to be considered.

District Manager Rogers reported on an Ethics training webinar to be given by CSDA on December 9. Wheeler was invited, and Rogers will also invite Rahn.

Associate Director Matrisciano submitted a written report on his attendance at the Rancho California Water District Special Board Meeting concerning implementation of the new tiered rate system.

Matrisciano, as President of the Southwest Riverside County Fire Safe Council, also submitted a written report. He announced a meeting of the California State Legislature's Rural Caucus, "Rural Fire Protection Working Group" meeting to be held at the Pechanga Tribal Administrative Center on Pechanga Road (not at the Hotel/Casino) on December 9, hosted by Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries, a former volunteer fireman. A copy of the draft agenda was provided.

NRCS: Rogers reported on a telephone interview he had with District Conservationist Robert Hewitt. He has been very involved with Farm Bill projects, administering individual grants under the EQIP program for water conservation, the Organic EQIP with separate, smaller grants, a diesel engine replacement grant program aimed at helping to meet year 2014 air quality standards, Conservation Stewardship (CSP) programs to replace subsidies with bonuses for "going the extra mile" in environmental efforts. Most of his programs involve payments direct to farmers, usually on a 50% cost-sharing basis. He asked Directors to contact him directly for any additional information or to express their priorities.

The Directors asked that Mr. Hewitt be invited to a future meeting.

Old Business

None

New Business

Nelson announced a rummage sale, to be held at the District office on the weekend of December 12-13. Good salable donations are needed.

Adjournment: Moved by Nelson, second by Wheeler, to adjourn to 1:30 PM December 11, 2009, approved 3-0 at 4:00PM



Pamela Nelson
Secretary of the Board

Approved by Board of Directors December 11, 2009

Ayes 4 Noes 0 Abstained 0