



Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)

An independent special district of the State of California

SUMMARY MINUTES

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.**

Rick Lanman, M.D.
President

Gary Jahns, Ph.D.
Vice-President

Gail Bautista
Director

Susan Hare
Director

Paula Quintero
Director

Roger Castillo
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Larry Johmann
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Bill Leikam
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Mel Sarmiento
Associate Director

Kat Wilson
Associate Director

Stephanie Moreno
Executive Director
District Clerk

Nathan Hale
Program Manager

Julie Gantenbein
District Counsel

Richard Roos-Collins
Special Counsel

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Due to the Shelter-in-Place Order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom and the Santa Clara County Health Officer in response to COVID-19, this meeting was held via Zoom teleconference only, as permitted by the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, Section 3. Call-in information for the meeting was provided on the agenda.

Note: Though agenda items may be considered out of order (for example, to accommodate the schedules of guest speakers and/or members of the public in attendance for a specific item, or when items are removed from the consent agenda), the official minutes remain recorded in the same order as originally published in the official agenda. Number of votes are reflected in the following order: Aye-Nay-Abstention, with nays and abstentions called out by Director name.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by President Lanman. Directors present: President Lanman, Vice-President Jahns, and Directors Bautista, Hare and Quintero (until approximately 6:00 p.m.). Associate Directors present: Associate Directors Leikam and Sarmiento. Staff present: District Counsel Gantenbein (joined at approximately 6:25 p.m.) and Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Hare/Quintero; 5-0-0)

3. Continuation of Local Emergency: Executive Director Moreno presented the information regarding the requirements of AB 361, which allows the Board of Directors to continue remote teleconferencing because in-person meetings would continue to cause imminent risk to attendees due to the continued threat of COVID-19.

Motion: Adopt a resolution proclaiming a local emergency, ratifying the proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Newsom's State of Emergency by Governor Newsom's on March 4, 2020, and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of GCRCD for the period of December 2, 2021 through January 1, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act provision. (Bautista/Jahns; 5-0-0)

4. Public Comment: None

5. **Consent Agenda:** Executive Director Moreno reiterated that the annual work plan on the consent agenda is based on Board priorities as determined by the budget and Board meetings, and is a living document that can be amended during the fiscal year.

Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented. (Jahns/Quintero; 5-0-0)

6. **Presentation:** Edmund Sullivan, Executive Officer for the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency, gave an overview of his agency and its current conservation priorities, and answered questions.

7. **Partner Reports**

7.1 *USDA-NRCS:* District Conservationist James Booth, Hollister Service Center, reported to the Board on this month's NRCS activities and accomplishments.

7.2 *Other Partners:*

7.2.1 *Santa Clara County Firesafe Council:* Seth Schalet, Chief Executive Officer, gave an update on some current options for landowners looking to reduce fire risk on their properties.

7.2.2 *Valley Water:* Roseryn Bhudsabourg provided a response to questions asked during last month's Board meeting regarding Anderson Reservoir and Singleton.

8. **Programs and Projects**

8.1 *Community Grant Program:* Executive Director Moreno presented the recommended modification to scope of services for previously approved grantee Guadalupe River Park Conservancy (GRPC). Jason Su, GRPC Executive Director, and Ciana Moreno, Communications and Administrative Coordinator, were present to answer questions.

Motion: Accept the recommendation of the Executive Director and authorize her to execute the agreement with GRPC. (Jahns/Hare; 4-0-0; Quintero absent)

8.2 *Tule Elk Habitat Program:* President Lanman gave an update on District efforts and engagements.

9. **Administration:**

9.1 *Community Grant Writing Services:* Executive Director Moreno reported that she has selected Pai Venegas to provide community grant writing services and requested the Board authorize her to execute an agreement with Ms Venegas.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with the selected contractor to provide grant writing services. (Jahns/Bautista; 4-0-0; Quintero absent)

9.2 *Donations to the District:* Executive Director Moreno reported that President Lanman had requested this be placed on the agenda for discussion. Ms Moreno initially developed a draft policy for review, but during her review, District Counsel Gantenbein indicated that she would like it to be more robust regarding the process for vetting and processing donations. Ms Gantenbein commented that given that the District is a government agency, there is a higher burden to make sure that charitable donations are deliberate and transparent, and although the potential conflict-of-interest is low, it does need to be addressed within the policy. The Board discussed whether to accept donations and agreed if a method that could be found that would make the administrative process cost-effective, they would consider accepting donations on a project-specific basis. Ms Moreno committed to doing additional research and bringing that information back to the Board.

9.3 *Board Retreat:* The Board discussed holding a retreat for a strategic and visioning purposes. They agreed to hold it in February, in-person but outdoors, and asked Executive Director Moreno to determine if Martial Cottle Park was available, and if so, find a date that works for the Directors.

- 9.4 *Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2022:* President Lanman announced that he will not be seeking re-appointment when his term ends in November 2022, and would like to step down as President in the interim. He nominated Vice-President Jahns to be President.

Motion: Elect Vice-President Jahns to be the President, effective with the January 2022 meeting . (Lanman/Hare; 4-0-0; Quintero absent)

Director Bautista nominated Director Hare to be Vice-President.

Motion: Elect Director Hare to be the Vice-President, effective with the January 2022 meeting . (Lanman/Jahns; 4-0-0; Quintero absent)

10. Board Members, Associate Director and Staff Reports:

- 10.1 The Board heard updates from Directors and Associate Directors on topics and activities relevant to GCRC. Executive Director Moreno reported she would soon be issuing the job announcement for the new program manager position and anticipates conducting interviews in January; will be preparing comments on the Pacheco Reservoir Draft EIR; and that instead of her submitting written comments to the City of San Jose as mentioned at the last meeting, President Lanman provided verbal comments (online) to the City regarding consideration of staff's recommendation to protect on the Coyote Valley Open Space, which was approved by the Council.

11. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m. until the January 6, 2022 meeting.

Consent Agenda

- 5.1 Approve minutes for the November 4, 2021, Board Meeting.
5.2 Accept financial reports through October 2021.
5.3 Approve FY 2021-22 Annual Work Plan.
5.4 Approve 2022 Holiday Schedule.

Information Only

- 5.5 Correspondence from Jerry J. Smith, PhD; *Comments on the FAHCE draft EIR*; dated October 14, 2021.
5.6 Correspondence from CARCD: *CARCD Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Events*; dated November 5, 2021.
5.7 Article in EOS; *Academic Citations Evolve to Include Indigenous Oral Teachings* (<https://eos.org/articles/academic-citations-evolve-to-include-indigenous-oral-teachings>); dated November 9, 2021.
5.8 Article in Bay Nature; *Beavers Can Help California's Environment, But State Policy Doesn't Help Them* (<https://baynature.org/2021/11/11/beavers-can-help-californias-environment-but-state-policy-doesnt-help-them/>); dated November 11, 2021.
5.9 Correspondence from the City of San Jose; *Public Review Draft EIR: Cambrian Park Mixed-Use Village Project (PD20-007)*; dated November 12, 2021.
5.10 Correspondence from County of Santa Clara; *County of Santa Clara Treasury Investment Portfolio Status as of September 30, 2021*; dated November 17, 2021.
5.11 Correspondence from Valley Water; *Notice of Availability, Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project Draft Environmental Impact Report*; dated November 17, 2021.
5.12 Correspondence from State Water Resources Control Board; *Notice of December 8th Bay-Delta Plan Information Item*; dated November 17, 2021.
5.13 Correspondence from County of Santa Clara; *Help Inform the County's Climate Roadmap*; dated November 22, 2021.
5.14 Correspondence from California High Speed Rail Authority; *FRA's General Conformity Determination for the San Jose to Merced Project Section Available for Public Comment Until December 27, 2021*; dated November 26, 2021.