



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, April 1, 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:** Meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by President Lanman. Directors present for the meeting: President Lanman, Vice-President Jahns, and Directors Bautista, Hare and Quintero. Staff present: District Counsel Gantenbein and Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno.
- 2. President's Welcome:** President Lanman welcomed guests.
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Hare/Jahns; 5-0-0)
- 4. Public Comment:** Seth Schalet, Chief Executive Officer for the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council and Helen Chapman, Director for the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority and LAFCO Special District alternate, introduced themselves.
- 5. Consent Agenda**
Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented. (Quintero/Jahns; 5-0-0)
- 6. Presentation**
 - 6.1 University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE):** Dr. Lucy Diekmann, Urban Agriculture & Food Systems Advisor for Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, gave an overview of UCCE's Urban Agriculture Program and discussed the current collaboration with the County of Santa Clara to draft a workplan for a Santa Clara County Food, Restaurants, Agriculture, and Health Access Initiative. She answered questions from meeting attendees and indicated an interest in future collaboration with the District.
- 7. Partner Reports**
 - 7.1 USDA-NRCS Report:** District Conservationist James Booth, Hollister Service Center, gave his monthly report and reviewed the results of the NRCS-RCD Local Work Group Meeting held on March 23, 2021, in collaboration with GCRCD and Loma Prieta RCD. He and Executive Director Moreno discussed the nutrient management regional proposal the District recently submitted to NRCS.

- 7.2 *Other Reports:* Domingo Candelas, Valley Water Government Relations, announced they sent out invitations to an environmental stakeholder meeting they are convening. President Lanman indicated he will designate an attendee if he cannot attend himself.

8. Programs and Projects

- 8.1 *Post-Disaster Technical Assistance Program:* Executive Director Moreno reported that the program is continuing to progress, and that the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has indicated that NRC Manager Hale not only provided valuable assistance in their efforts to provide post-fire relief to local agricultural producers, but has “raised the bar” with the quality of his submittals. Mr. Hale gave an update on the FSA site visits and post-fire damage assessments he has been conducting. Cal Fire Unit Forester/Division Chief Ed Orre of the Santa Clara Unit also gave a brief update on the status of CalFire’s post-fire mitigation work related to fire suppression impacts, and extended an invitation to the Directors to attend a prescribed burn event in the future.
- 8.2 *Integrating Agriculture into Climate Mitigation:* Executive Director Moreno gave an update on scheduling for the second focus group and the intended development of an RCD/Agricultural Producer final report on implementation barriers and policy recommendations.

9. Administration

- 9.1 *Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Policy Committee (Bautista/Quintero):* The Committee members reported on the public meeting they held, and their subsequent progress on the policy. They would like to expand the scope of the committee to develop an “Environmental and Social Justice” policy rather than just an “Environmental Justice Policy”, and explained the reasons for the request.

Motion: Expand the scope of the Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Policy Committee to develop an “Environmental and Social Justice Policy”. (Bautista/Lanman; motion amended – see below.)

After discussion, the Directors agreed social justice needs to be imbedded in District activities, but indicated they need additional time to reflect on how best to incorporate language into the policy.

Amended Motion: Include environmental and social justice within the scope of this policy. (Bautista/Lanman; 5-0-0)

- 9.2 *Rules of Order Policy (Hare/Lanman):* Executive Director Moreno reviewed the background on the rules of order request and the committee’s work on the policy. President Lanman stated the goal was for the rules to be concise and transparent, and to emphasize the opportunity for public input and comment. Director Hare highlighted specific portions of the policy. Director Bautista requested additional time for review prior to adoption.

Motion: Table this item until the next meeting. (Bautista/Lanman; 5-0-0.)

- 9.3 *FY20-21 Annual Work Plan:* Executive Director Moreno reviewed the status of the activities outlined in the FY 20-21 annual work plan and the Directors provided feedback. They discussed the funding previously set aside to support Valley Water on development of a Guadalupe River Corridor Management Plan; in response to President Lanman’s comments regarding the importance of retaining Scott McBain as a consultant, Ms Moreno indicated she will be continuing to use him for work on other watershed issues. The Board requested that Mr. Candelas, Valley Water, seek an answer to this question: Is Valley Water’s intention to still create a Coyote Creek Watershed Plan and a Guadalupe Watershed Plan, and if so, what is the process by which they will be created and what is the timeframe?

10. **Director/Associate Director/Staff Updates:** Directors, Associate Directors and District staff gave updates on topics and activities relevant to GCRCD.
11. **Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.**

Consent Agenda

- 5.1 Approve minutes for the March 4, 2021 Board Meeting.

Information Only

- 5.2 County of Santa Clara Controller-Treasurer's Department; Excess ERAF Distribution Amounts, dated March 5, 2021.
- 5.3 Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County (LAFCO); Notice of Public Hearing on April 7, 2021 Regarding the Adoption of the Proposed Work Plan and Budget for FY 2022 and Dissolution of Inactive Special District – Reclamation District No. 1663, dated March 11, 2021.
- 5.4 County of Santa Clara; *Agricultural Resilience Incentive (ARI) Grant Program* flyer, March 2021.

Notice to the Public

Members of the public may address the Board of Directors on any item not on the agenda (§54954.2(b)) and may provide comments before or during the Board's consideration of items (§54954.3(a)). No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body, may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda (§54954.2(a)(3)).

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the District to all or a majority of the Board of Directors will be available for public inspection at the District Office, 888 N 1st Street, Suite 204, San Jose, California (call 408-288-5588 for office hours) or by sending an email to the District Clerk at gcrd@gcrd.org.

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