



**Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District**  
(new name of *North Santa Clara RCD* is pending State confirmation)  
*An independent special district of the State of California*

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**

Hybrid In-Person and Online Format

(with Directors present in person at the meeting location)

*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.*

Susan Hare  
President

Gail Bautista  
Vice-President

Frank Maitiski  
Director

Cynthia McColl  
Director

Paula Quintero  
Director

Larry Johmann  
Associate Director  
Director Emeritus

Rick Lanman, MD  
Associate Director  
Director Emeritus

Bill Leikam  
Associate Director  
Director Emeritus

Mel Sarmiento  
Associate Director

Kat Wilson  
Associate Director

Stephanie Moreno  
Executive Director  
District Clerk

Julie Gantenbein  
District Counsel

Paulina Binsfeld  
Conservation Program  
Coordinator

Roger Castillo  
Watershed Project  
Assistant

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- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Hare. Directors present: President Hare, Vice-President Bautista, and Directors Maitiski, McColl and Quintero. Associate Directors present: Dr. Rick Lanman, Bill Leikam, and Kat Wilson. Staff and consultants present: Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno, Conservation Program Coordinator Paulina Binsfeld, and Watershed Project Assistant Roger Castillo.
- 2. President’s Welcome and Call for Nominations for the District’s Honor Roll of Resource Influencers:** The Directors shared their most iconic foothill habitats.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:**

*Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Maitiski/Quintero; 5-0-0).*
- 4. Public Comment:** None
- 5. Consent Agenda:**

*Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented. (Quintero/Bautista; 5-0-0).*
- 6. Presentation:** Executive Director Megan Fluke, Program Director Andrea Fraume Valencia, and Program graduates Lizbeth “Xochipapalo” Amador (Class of 2021) and Kat Wilson (Class of 2018) gave a presentation on the *Green Foothills Leadership Program*.
- 7. Partner Reports**
  - 7.1 *USDA-NRCS:* The Board received the monthly report from District Conservationist James Booth, Hollister Service Center.
  - 7.2 *Other Partners:* Genevieve Yip, Valley Water, gave an update on the status of their emergency conservation order and new voluntary conservation goals.
- 8. Programs and Projects**
  - 8.1 *Community Grant Program:* Executive Director Moreno gave an update on the District’s *Grant-Writing Technical Assistance Program* and reviewed sample program flyers designed by students at the Christa McAuliffe Middle School in Saratoga.

- 8.2 *Partnership Request:* Dr. Rick Lanman, Institute for Historical Ecology (IHE) President (and District Associate Director) presented a partnership proposal to perform a habitat suitability analysis for redwood trees in support of future implementation of local tree planting activities to increase long-term carbon sequestration and enhance ecosystem services within the District.

*Motion: Approve a partnership request and authorize execution of a partnership agreement with IHE in the amount of \$10,000 to perform a habitat suitability analysis for redwood trees in support of future implementation of local tree planting activities to increase long-term carbon sequestration and enhance ecosystem services within the District. (Quintero/Bautista; 5-0-0)*

## 9. Administration

- 9.1 *Associate Director Appointment:* The Board reviewed the associate director application for Brian Schmidt and the recommendation from the Executive Director. Mr. Schmidt was available to answer questions. Director Bautista asked about the associate director recruitment process.

*Motion: Appoint Brian Schmidt as District Associate Director for a 4-year term, effective May 4, 2023, and with a waiver of the constituency requirement as the Board of Directors finds it is in the District's best interests to do so. (Hare/Bautista; 5-0-0)*

- 9.2 *District Board Meetings:* The Board discussed changing the regular hours for the Board meeting from 6:00 p.m. to an earlier time in the day to better accommodate partner and staff schedules. There was also discussion about how to accommodate members of the public if they are not able to get to the meeting by 5:00 p.m., and it was suggested that the Board could incorporate more than one "public comment period" into the agenda.

*Motion: Adopt a resolution changing the location for the monthly Board meetings to 1560 Berger Drive, San Jose, California, and the regular meeting day and time from 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month to [ new day of the month and time ], effective June 2023, with the finding that it is the best interests of the District to set a regular meeting schedule that allows for maximum and balanced participation by volunteer Directors and Associate Directors as well as representatives from partner agencies and members of the public. (McColl/Quintero; 5-0-0)*

- 9.3 *District Name Change:* Executive Director Moreno gave an update on the status of the name change to *North Santa Clara Resource Conservation District*, and the difficulty in getting the County to send the required form to the Board of Equalization to complete the name change process. She suggested that the Board President become engaged if progress is not made by the following week.

- 9.4 *District Reports and Updates:*

9.4.1 *Board Committee Reports:* None.

9.4.2 *Executive Director and Staff Reports:* The Board received individual updates from staff.

9.4.3 *Director and Associate Director Updates:* The Board received individual updates and reports on topics and activities relevant to GCRCD.

## 10. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

### Consent Agenda

- 5.1 Approve minutes for the March 2, 2023 Board Meeting.  
5.2 Accept financial reports for March 2023.

### Information Only:

- 5.3 County of Santa Clara Controller-Treasurer's Office; *Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) June 1, 2023 Distribution Estimate; April 3, 2023.*