



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, June 1, 2023, at 5:00 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

Paulina Binsfeld
Conservation Program
Coordinator

Roger Castillo
Watershed Project
Assistant

Julie Gantenbein
District Counsel

1560 Berger Drive
Room 211
San Jose, CA 95112
408-288-5888
gcrd@gcrd.org
www.rcdsantaclara.org

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Hare. Directors present: President Hare, Vice President Bautista, and Directors Maitiski, McColl (5:02 p.m.) and Quintero (5:16 p.m.). Associate Directors present: Rick Lanman, Bill Leikam and Brian Schmidt. Staff and consultants present (for all or a portion of the meeting): Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno, Conservation Program Coordinator Paulina Binsfeld, Watershed Project Assistant Roger Castillo (and District Counsel Julie Gantenbein).
- 2. President's Welcome and Call for Nominations for the District's Honor Roll of Resource Influencers** The Directors shared their favorite "native baby bird".
- 3. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Maitiski/Bautista; 3-0-0; Quintero absent).
- 4. Public Comment:** None
- 5. Consent Agenda:**

Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented. (McColl/Maitiski; 4-0-0; Quintero absent).
- 6. Agricultural Producer Roundtable Discussion:** Agricultural producers Peter Van Dyke (Van Dyke Organics), Sam Thorp (Spade and Plow Organics) and Harlan Wittkopp (San Felipe Ranch) answered questions and provided feedback to the Directors.
- 7. Partner Reports:**
 - 7.1 National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD):** Caleb Griffin, Pacific Region Representative, gave an overview of the association, which represents the nation's 3,000 conservation districts through grassroots advocacy, education and partnerships.
 - 7.2 USDA-NRCS:** District Conservationist James Booth gave the monthly report for the Hollister Service Center.
 - 7.3 Other Partners:** Seth Schalet, Chief Executive Officer for the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, gave a report on activities of interest to the District.

8. Programs and Projects

- 8.1 *CDFW Cannabis Restoration Grant Program:* Executive Director Moreno reviewed the possibility of a partnership with the Alameda County and West Stanislaus RCDs to submit an application to the *California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Cannabis Restoration Grant Program Cleanup, Remediation, and Watershed Enhancement Funding Opportunity* in response to a request for habitat restoration landowner assistance on approximately 950 acres of land spanning the three-RCD area. She also indicated that CDFW is interested in the District considering offering cannabis restoration services. Polina Dorfman-Su, Operations Coordinator for Tri-County Land LLC, was present to answer questions.

Motion: Approve resolution authorizing the Executive Director to submit applications, in partnership with the Alameda County and West Stanislaus RCDs, to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Cannabis Restoration Grant Program Cleanup, Remediation, and Watershed Enhancement Funding Opportunity in response to a request for habitat restoration landowner assistance on approximately 950 acres of land spanning the three-RCD area. (Maitski/Hare; 5-0-0)

- 8.2 *California State Coastal Conservancy Grant Program:* Executive Director Moreno reviewed the possibility of submitting an application to the Coastal Conservancy, in partnership with Loma Prieta RCD, Santa Clara County Parks, and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), to develop and implement an agricultural stock pond habitat restoration program and permit streamlining program.

Motion: Approve resolution authorizing the Executive Director to submit a grant application to the Coastal Conservancy, in partnership with Loma Prieta RCD, Santa Clara County Parks, and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), to develop and implement an agricultural stock pond habitat restoration program and permit streamlining program. (Bautista/McColl; 5-0-0)

- 8.3 *Post-Disaster Technical Assistance Program:* Executive Director Moreno gave an update communications with the County of Santa Clara, USDA-NRCS and Lexington Hills constituents regarding 2022-23 winter storm damage.

9. Administration

- 9.1 *District Name Change:* Executive Director Moreno gave an update on the status of the name change, which has now been processed by the State Board of Equalization. She indicated that it could take another 90 days or longer to process the name change on financial documents, contracts and documents due to a waiting period for the IRS name change on the EIN. The website has been updated and the delay should not hamper other outreach activities under the new name.
- 9.2 *District Reports and Updates:*
- 9.2.1 *Board Committee Reports:* None
 - 9.2.2 *Executive Director and Staff Reports:* The Board received updates and reports from staff.
 - 9.2.3 *Director and Associate Director Updates:* The Board received individual updates and reports on topics and activities relevant to GCRCD.

10. Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Consent Agenda

- 5.1 Approve minutes for the April 6, 2023 Board Meeting.
- 5.2 Accept financial reports for April 2023.
- 5.3 Authorize the Executive Director to sign a joint letter of support for SB 675 (Senator Limón; *Prescribed grazing: local assistance grant program: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force*).

Information Only:

- 5.4 County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors; *Support for Funding of Green Foothills Leadership Program*; May 8, 2023.
- 5.5 County of Santa Clara Controller-Treasurer Department; *FY23-24 Property Tax Distribution Schedule*; May 23, 2023.
- 5.6 Valley Water; *Join Valley Water for a public meeting about the Ogier Ponds-Coyote Creek Separation Project*; May 25, 2023.