



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, January 5, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Susan Hare
President

Gail Bautista
Vice-President

Frank Maitiski
Director

Cynthia McColl
Director

Paula Quintero
Director

Larry Johmann
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Rick Lanman, M.D.
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

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Consistent with Government Code section 54953(e) and Guadalupe-Coyote RCD Resolution 21-07, and in light of the declared state of emergency related to COVID-19, this meeting was held via a virtual platform.

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. Introduction of New Directors

2. **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 and Quintero (Director Quintero initially had technical difficulties maintaining a connection, but was able to rejoin the meeting at 5:02 p.m.) Associate Directors present: Rick Lanman and Bill Leikam. Staff and consultants present: Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno, Conservation Program Coordinator Paulina Binsfeld, and District Counsel Julie Gantenbein.

3. **President's Welcome and Call for Nominations for the District's Honor Roll of Resource Influencers:** The Directors shared their favorite "non-charismatic" native organisms.

4. **Approval of Agenda:** Director Bautista requested that Item 7.3 be moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda, and it was added to the regular agenda as Item 9.5.

Motion: Approve the agenda as amended. (McColl/Bautista; 5-0-0).

5. Public Comment

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) Vice-President and LAFCO Special District Commissioner Yoriko Kishimoto introduced herself and welcomed the new Board members. With regards to her position on LAFCO, she asked that the Board members to consider her as a resource for any questions they may have. With regards to MROSD, she asked the Directors to put on their radar consideration of Stevens Creek as a biodiversity corridor as well as a biking/walking corridor, and expressed hope that the two Districts will be able to work together in the future on it and other

creek issues. Brian Schmidt was present in his personal capacity and wanted to bring to the Board's attention recent activities at Lehigh Quarry and indicated there are definite steps towards getting the quarry and cement plant closed down. He believes it's something to keep in mind since Permanente Creek drains in part to the Stevens Creek watershed and that will present interesting watershed restoration possibilities. Doug Muirhead referenced the District's work with the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), and asked if the outreach for grazing will include other special districts that have grazing leases. Executive Director Moreno replied and provided information on the District's role in development of the CWPP.

6. Presentations

District Overview: For the benefit of the new Directors, District Counsel Julie Gantenbein reviewed the California Public Records Act and the Brown Act, including changes to in-person meeting requirements for Directors. Executive Director/District Clerk Stephanie Moreno presented an overview of the District's authorities, responsibilities, history, operations, and policies.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion: Approve the consent agenda. (Bautista/Quintero; 4-0-1 (Maitski abstained)).

8. Partner Reports

8.1 *USDA-NRCS:* No report.

8.2 *Other Partners:* Genevieve Yip from Valley Water reported on the storms and their countywide flood emergency declaration. Resources are posted on their website.

9. Administration:

9.1 *District Name Change:* President Hare reported on the successful petition to the Board of Supervisors for a name change to North Santa Clara RCD, which was approved unanimously and is now waiting on State confirmation. She recommended the formation of an ad hoc committee to start looking at creating a new logo and expanding community outreach. President Hare and Director Bautista volunteered to sit on the committee, which will bring back a plan to the Board.

Motion: Create an ad hoc branding committee with President Hare and Director Bautista as the members. (Maitski/McColl; 5-0-0).

9.2 *Policies:* President Hare reported that it was time for the periodic review of the *Director Duties and Responsibilities Policy*. Director Quintero suggested that the attendance section should be updated to reflect recent changes in the Brown Act. President Hare asked Executive Director Moreno to review the policy and incorporate the change, and bring it back to the Board for review and adoption.

9.3 *California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD):* Director Quintero gave her report on the annual business meeting held on December 8, 2022, and reviewed a motion that they took an "unofficial" vote on (she abstained):

Establish a working group to help develop a template applicable for all rcds throughout the state that takes a landscape-level approach to climate adaptation and ghg emission reductions and/or sequestration mechanisms.

Directors felt it would be useful to participate in future CARCD meetings scheduled to discuss this issue so long as involvement did not become so time consuming as to take away from other District activities. Director Maitski believes the District should be approaching climate action in terms of adaption as opposed to mitigation. Brian Schmidt (as a member of the public) commented that the District is in a unique position in terms of its proximity to Silicon Valley corporations, and since they are looking for opportunities to become carbon neutral, the work at the State level might lead to some local partnership opportunities for the District. President Hare

gave direction to the Executive Director to give attention to this topic and bring back to the Board anything that they need to take action on to participate in the CARCD discussion.

- 9.4 *Board Member, Associate Director and Staff Reports:* The Board heard updates and reports from on topics and activities relevant to GCRC.
- 9.5 *Holiday Schedule:* Director Bautista asked about the possibility of adding Juneteenth to the District's holiday calendar. President Hare indicated that she believes that changes to the holiday schedule should also be considered in terms of the impact on paid employee leave. Executive Director Moreno suggested the request be referred to the ad hoc Environmental and Social Justice Committee and that they come back with a recommendation to the Board on changes to be made to the personnel handbook and holiday schedule.

Motion: Direct the ad hoc committee to take up the topic of paid staff holidays moving forward. (Hare/Bautista; 5-0-0)

10. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m. until the February meeting.

Consent Agenda

- 7.1 Approve minutes for the December 1, 2022 Board Meeting.
- 7.2 Adoption of a resolution to allow continued remote teleconference meetings due to COVID-19 emergency.
- ~~7.3 Approve the 2023 Holiday Schedule.~~ Moved to regular agenda (new Item 9.5).