



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, October 6, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.**

Gary Jahns, Ph.D.
President

Susan Hare
Vice-President

Gail Bautista
Director

Rick Lanman, M.D.
Director

Paula Quintero
Director

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

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. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order 5:01 p.m. by President Jahns. Directors present: President Jahns, Vice President Hare, and Directors Bautista, Lanman and Quintero (arrived at 5:06 p.m.) Associate Directors present: Bill Leikam. Staff and consultants present: Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno, District Counsel Julie Gantenbein.

2. Approval of Agenda: Executive Director Moreno requested that Item 6.1 be removed from the agenda to allow additional time for staff review before placing it back on the November agenda.

Motion: Approve the agenda as amended. (Lanman/Jahns; 5-0-0).

3. Public Comment: None

4. Consent Agenda

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

5. Partner Reports

5.1 *USDA-NRCS:* District Conservationist James Booth provided a report regarding the current application cycle and the significant increase in funding NRCS is scheduled to receive as a result of the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

5.2 *Other Partners:* No updates.

6. Programs and Projects

~~6.1 *Community Grant Program:* Discussion and possible action regarding a request for modification of the community grant award to the Urban Wildlife Research Project (UWRP). (Removed from the agenda; see Item 2 for explanation).~~

7. Administration:

7.1 *District Name Change:* Executive Director Moreno reviewed her staff report and reported that the Ad Hoc Name Change and Branding Committee held three (3) online meetings, which were noticed and held pursuant to the Brown Act. Directors Lanman and Hare, as the two Directors participating in the Committee, stated their support for the name “North Santa Clara” for reasons substantially the same as those provided in the staff report. They each further explained their reasoning for why a name change is in the best interest of the District, particularly in regard to better reflecting the District’s mission and enhancing opportunities to enhance community engagement. Director Bautista asked questions regarding the process, the survey results, and comments made in the letter received from Valley Water (VW) CEO; and indicated she would like to get additional feedback by using focus groups. Director Quintero commented that, as someone who works with the Latino community and others who are not as familiar with District programs, she finds it difficult to get people to understand that the work of the District is not just focused on the Guadalupe and Coyote rivers but includes East San Jose and other areas. She indicated she believes the name change is long-overdue, and will help the District achieve its mission as it revitalizes its community engagement efforts.

Public input was received from Genevieve Yip, VW Government Relations, who indicated VW wanted to make sure a deliberative approach was used for the District’s name change and indicated that VW may be willing to offer assistance with public outreach through the use of focus groups. President Jahns responded that, given the District does not have the same level of name recognition or direct impact on people’s daily lives, the District’s use of focus groups would likely not result in the same level of public input as VW received in the course of its renaming process.

Motion: Adopt a resolution determining that it is in the best interest of the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District to change its name to North Santa Clara Resource Conservation District and directing Executive Director to forward the resolution, along with a name change request signed by the Board President, to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for their formal consideration pursuant to Sections 9261-9627 of the California Public Resources Code. (Lanman/Hare; 4-0-1 (Bautista)).

The Board then discussed the recommendation from Ms. Moreno to disband the Ad Hoc District Naming and Branding Committee. Director Hare indicated that a new ad hoc committee may be formed in the future to focus on the outreach and branding efforts to support the new name. Director Bautista asked if such a new committee would be charged with revisiting the name change if the Board of Supervisors does not approve the request, and Ms. Moreno responded that if that were to happen, the item would be placed back on a future agenda for the District Board to decide how to proceed.

Motion: Move to disband the Ad Hoc District Naming and Branding Committee, effective October 6, 2022. (Lanman/Hare; 5-0-0).

7.2 *Policies:* Executive Director reviewed the recommendation to adopt a formal ticket policy for the District.

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

7.3 *CARCD:*

7.3.1 *AB 1902:* Executive Director Moreno and District Counsel Gantenbein gave a brief update on AB 1902, an act to amend the California Public Resources Code relating to resource conservation, which has now been signed into law. President Jahns and Director Lanman thanked staff for the role they played in securing successful amendments to the bill, particularly those that addressed equity issues for smaller RCDs. Ms. Moreno indicated that it was truly a group effort on the part of several RCDs, and that they have decided to continue

meeting on a regular basis to ensure that both member and non-member RCDs are kept informed and treated fairly.

7.3.2 *Annual Business Meeting: Executive Director Moreno indicated that President Jahns will no longer be present at the December 8, 2022 meeting, and that Vice-President Hare will be unavailable, so she asked if one of the other Directors would like to represent the Board at the meeting. Director Bautista volunteered to be the delegate.*

Motion: Appoint Director Bautista as the delegate to the CARCD 2022 Annual Business Meeting. (Hare/Quintero; 5-0-0)

7.4 *Board Member, Associate Director and Staff Reports: The Board received updates and reports on topics and activities relevant to GCRCD. Director Lanman reported that the two CDFW Journal Tule elk publications he was lead author on (noting GCRCD affiliation) are scheduled to be published soon. Associate Director Leikam indicated concern with the recent disruption of the ecosystem due to VW activities.*

8. Adjourned meeting until November 3, 2022.

Consent Agenda

- 4.1 Approve minutes for the August 4, 2022 Board Meeting.
- 4.2 Accept financial reports for August 2022.
- 4.3 Approval of updated Job Classification Schedule and the new Conservation Program Coordinator job description.
- 4.4 Adoption of resolution to allow continued remote teleconference meetings due to COVID-19 emergency.
- 4.5 Authorization for the Executive Director to submit an application for membership to the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network.