



Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)

An independent special district of the State of California

SUMMARY MINUTES

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, December 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Rick Lanman, M.D.
President

Gary Jahns, Ph.D.
Vice-President

Tess Byler
Director

Bill Leikam
Director

John Vidovich
Director

Roger Castillo
Director Emeritus

Nathan Hale
Associate Director

Larry Johmann
*Associate Director
Director Emeritus*

Kat Wilson
Associate Director

Stephanie Moreno
*Executive Director
District Clerk*

Richard Roos-Collins
District Counsel

Julie Gantenbein
District Counsel

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NOTICE PERTAINING TO TELECONFERENCING AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

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 to accommodate the schedules of guest speakers and/or members of the public in attendance for a specific item, 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 Rick Lanman, Vice-President Gary Jahns, Director Bill Leikam and Directors Tess Byler. John Vidovich was absent. Staff present: District Counsel Julie Gantenbein and Executive Director/District Clerk Stephanie Moreno.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Approve the agenda as amended. (Byler/Leikam; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

3. Public Comment

President Lanman announced that aDNA collaborative research paper (*Ancient DNA Analysis of Archaeological Specimens Extends Chinook Salmon's Known Historic Range to San Francisco Bay and Its Southernmost Watershed*) is now in pre-print. The link will be posted to the GCRCD website.

4. Consent Agenda

Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented. (Jahns/Byler; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

5. Programs and Projects

- 5.1 *Tule Elk/Pronghorn*: President Lanman explained the funding request to amend the FY20-21 budget to include a line item for the *Tule Elk/*

Pronghorn Habitat Suitability Analysis in the amount of \$15,000.

Motion: Approve an amendment to the FY20-21 Budget to create a new line item for the “Tule Elk/Pronghorn Habitat Suitability Analysis” in an amount up to \$15,000. (Byler/Leikam; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

- 5.2 *Research Publications*: President Lanman explained the funding request to amend the FY20-12 budget to include a line item for Research Publications in the amount of \$4,000.

Motion: Approve an amendment to the FY20-21 Budget to create a line item for “Research Publications” in the amount of \$1,700, authorize payment for printing costs for the aDNA research paper, and authorize the Executive Director to transfer any prior year aDNA encumbrance to this line item. (Byler/Leikam; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

- 5.3 *Natal Stream Research*: President Lanman and Executive Director Moreno explained the new budget estimate to complete this research project. Executive Director Moreno also recommended that additional funding be transferred from operating reserves to the *Other Watershed Projects* to cover the entire amount of the project, rather than using the existing budget allocation.

Motion: Approve an amendment to the South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition agreement in the amount of \$5,500 and transfer \$8,000 from the operating reserves into the line item “Other Watershed Projects”. (Jahns/Leikam; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

- 5.4 *River Corridor Management Plan (RCMP)*:

5.4.1 Executive Director Moreno gave an update on Valley Water’s collaborative efforts with stakeholders, including GCRCD, to discuss their preparation of an RCMP for the Guadalupe River, and was enthusiastic about the meeting they had been invited to attend by Valley Water. She recommended the Board consider providing financial and staff support for their process to keep momentum going. Consulting engineer Scott McBain explained the background on the 2011 Science Team’s RCMP recommendation and the value of having a RCMP for the Guadalupe River.

5.4.2 Executive Director Moreno answered questions from the Board regarding the impact of the recommendations for budget allocations on operating reserves. Public comments were received from Domingo Candelas (Valley Water) and Chuck Hammerstad. Executive Director Moreno made a point of reassuring Valley Water that GCRCD is recommending these actions to support Valley Water and be collaborative with them, not to take over their process or strike out on their own.

Motion: Approve an amendment to the FY20-21 budget to create a line item for Coordination: RCMP/Watershed Group and transfer \$30,000 from operating reserves to fund the line item. (Byler/Jahns; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

5.4.3 Executive Director Moreno gave an update on a new Bureau of Reclamation grant opportunity that she recently became aware of that allows applications in an amount up to \$100,000 for the creation of a grassroots, non-regulatory, stakeholder-driven watershed stakeholder group. She said it looks perfect for what GCRCD had asked Valley Water to do for the RCMP, but she’s envisioning something that would cover all of the South Bay watersheds, not just the Guadalupe River. The fact that Valley Water has indicated it is moving forward with the Guadalupe River RCMP process could be mentioned in the grant application to demonstrate to the funders that there is already a project being developed that would benefit from a broad-

based stakeholder group. She said she had talked to a number of potential stakeholder groups that have indicated interest in helping develop a grant application for a South Bay watershed group. Public comments were received from Brian Schmidt (Green Foothills) and Dave Poeschel (Sierra Club).

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to submit and/or collaborate in the submittal of a grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation for creation of a South Bay watershed group. (Leikam/Byler; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

After the motion, Executive Director Moreno encouraged anyone participating in the meeting to let her know if they are interested, or know of someone who might be interested, in being the lead applicant and/or assisting with the application development.

- 5.4.4 Executive Director Moreno explained the request to approve a sole source contract and authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with McBain Associates in the amount of \$30,000 to perform consulting work related to the development of Valley Water's RCMP and to assist with the preparation of grant application(s).

Motion: Approve the award of a sole source contract to McBain Associates. (Byler/Jahns; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

- 5.4.5 Executive Director Moreno explained the request to authorize President Lanman and herself to conduct and/or participate in outreach to potential corporate sponsors and other grant funders to seek supplemental funding for the RCMP that Valley Water has initiated.

Motion: Authorize the President and Executive Director to conduct and/or participate in outreach to potential corporate sponsors and other grant funders to seek supplemental funding for the RCMP. (Jahns/Byler; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

6. Administration

- 6.1 *Election of Officers:* Accept nominations and elect officers for the positions of President and Vice-President for calendar year 2021.

Motion: Nominate and elect Rick Lanman as President and Gary Jahns as Vice-President (Byler/Leikam; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

6.2 Policies:

- 6.2.1 *Personnel Policy:* Executive Director Moreno reviewed the proposed Personnel Policies and Procedures/Employee Handbook.

Motion: Approve the resolution adopting the Personnel Policies and Procedures/Employee Handbook. (Byler/Jahns; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

- 6.2.2 *Financial Policy:* Executive Director Moreno reviewed the proposed changes incorporating a credit card policy into the Financial Policy.

Motion: Approve the resolution adopting the amended Financial Policy (Jahns/Byler; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

6.3 Associate Director Appointments:

6.3.1 New Appointment:

Motion: Approve the appointment of outgoing Director Bill Leikam as GCRCD Associate Director for a 4-year term, effective January 1, 2021 or the end of his term as GCRCD Director, whichever comes later. (Lanman/Jahns; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

6.3.2 New Appointment:

Motion: Approve the appointment of Roger Castillo as GCRCD Associate Director for a 4-year term, effective January 1, 2021. (Lanman/Byler; 4-0-0; Vidovich absent).

6.3.3 Director Appointment Process: President Lanman indicated the Board is appointing three new Directors to the Board, and as a result, Director Leikam is losing his seat. Executive Director Moreno recommended that President Lanman reach out to Supervisor Wasserman when he assumes the position of Board President next month to open discussion on development of a policy or routine process for Director appointments.

7. Adjourn Meeting

Consent Agenda

- 4.1 Approve minutes for the December 3, 2020 Regular Meeting.
- 4.2 Accept financial reports for November 2020.
- 4.3 Approve amended FY20-21 amended work plan.
- 4.4 Authorize the Executive Director to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and establish an on-call list of technical service providers qualified to provide District/landowner consultation and services in one or more topical areas, including but not limited to NRCS conservation practices; CDFA Healthy Soils practices; fire restoration; forest health; carbon farming; habitat restoration; vegetation management; and pond health.
- 4.5 Authorize the President to sign UMPQUA's Commercial Card Account Agreement and other required documents offered through the California Special District Association's (CSDA) Commercial Card Program to allow the President and Executive Director to make authorized purchases subject to the District's Financial Policy.

Information Only

- 4.6 Notice of Independent Special District Selection Committee Meeting – Selection of Special District Members to Serve on LAFCO; dated November 30, 2020
- 4.7 Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Agenda for December 15, 2020