



Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)

An independent special district of the State of California

SUMMARY MINUTES

Rick Lanman, M.D.
President

Gary Jahns, Ph.D.
Vice-President

Gail Bautista
Director

Susan Hare
Director

Paula Quintero
Director

Roger Castillo
*Associate Director
Director Emeritus*

Larry Johmann
*Associate Director
Director Emeritus*

Bill Leikam
*Associate Director
Director Emeritus*

Mel Sarmento
Associate Director

Kat Wilson
Associate Director

Stephanie Moreno
*Executive Director
District Clerk*

Nathan Hale
Program Manager

Julie Gantenbein
District Counsel

Richard Roos-Collins
Special Counsel

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Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, January 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

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 by President Lanman. Directors present for the meeting: President Lanman, Vice-President Jahns, Directors Bautista, Hare and Quintero. Staff present: District Counsel Gantenbein and Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno.
- 2. Introduction of Directors:** The opportunity was provided for Directors and other attendees to introduce themselves.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:**
Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Jahns/Lanman; 5-0-0)
- 4. Public Comment:** Don Rocha, Valley Water, read a statement expressing concern regarding action taken by the GCRCD Board of Directors at the December 14, 2020 meeting. Director Yoriko Kishimoto, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, gave an update and shared a link to their conservation grazing program: <https://www.openspace.org/our-work/resource-management/grazing>. Executive Director Moreno requested that Item 8.3 be moved forward in the agenda to allow Ms. Sarmento to be present for the presentation regarding her appointment.
- 5. Presentation:** For the benefit of the new Directors, Executive Director Moreno provided an overview of the District's authorities, responsibilities, history, operations, and policies. District Counsel Julie Gantenbein reviewed the Brown Act, including recent amendments related to social media use by Directors, and the Public Records Act.

6. Partner Reports:

- 6.1 *USDA-NRCS Report:* None
- 6.2 *Valley Water Report:* None
- 6.3 *Other Partner Reports:* Seth Schalet, Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, reported on the status of the preparation of the Forest Health grant application, for which GCRCD provided funding and committed in-kind outreach assistance.

7. Programs and Projects

- 7.1 *Anadromous Fish:* Associate Director Roger Castillo reported on his observations of Coyote Creek's and Guadalupe River's anadromous fish migration/spawning activities, discussed poaching concerns, and answered questions.
- 7.2 *Tule Elk/Pronghorn:* President Lanman gave an update on District efforts to enhance habitat and identify potential crossings for the Tule elk herds located on the east side of Highway 101.
- 7.3 *Reintroduction of Sea Otter to San Francisco Bay:* President Lanman gave a presentation on recent developments that led to identification of the Palo Alto Flood Basin as a potentially safe location for the keystone species, and indicated that sea otter reintroduction efforts there could eventually allow the species to move off of the Endangered Species list. He would like to explore if there are ways to assist with reintroduction efforts, such as producing scientific reports, providing educational workshops and/or hosting stakeholder meetings. Executive Director Moreno stated another option for involvement is to provide contract services to another jurisdictional agency. Director Hare indicated she would be willing to consider providing assistance, but would like to learn more about GCRCD's anticipated role and jurisdiction before proceeding.

8. Administration

- 8.1 *Post-Fire Technical Assistance:* Executive Director Moreno explained her request for authorization to execute an agreement with San Mateo RCD for USDA-NRCS funding in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 to allow the District to expand its post-fire technical assistance program, and answered questions from the Board.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with San Mateo RCD in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 to assist cooperators with post natural disaster technical assistance and conduct outreach to those affected by the fires. (Jahns/Bautista; 5-0-0).

- 8.2 *Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Program:* Executive Director Moreno explained the opportunity to participate in cleanup of an illegal dump site was referred to the District by the County of Santa Clara, and reviewed the grant program and proposed debris removal project. She indicated subcontractors would be used to perform the work, and answered questions from the Board.

Motion: Approve a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to submit a grant application to CalRecycle in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the cleanup of illegal solid waste site on one piece of property. (Jahns/Quintero; 5-0-0)

- 8.3 *Associate Director Appointment:*

Motion: Approve the appointment of Mel Sarmiento as GCRCD Associate Director for a 4-year term, beginning February 1, 2021. (Jahns/Hare; 5-0-0)

- 8.4 *Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) Distribution:* Executive Director Moreno reported prior year excess Educational Augmentation Revenue Funds (ERAF) adjustments have been made

to the District's Los Gatos and San Jose Successor Agencies' distributions, but it is unknown if further retroactive adjustments will be needed.

Director/Associate Director/Staff Updates: Directors, Associate Directors and the Executive Director gave updates on topics and activities relevant to GCRCD. During this item, President Lanman and Executive Director Moreno briefly responded to the misinformation contained within Valley Water's letter and comments regarding the action taken at the December 14, 2020 Board meeting. Ms. Moreno stated she had requested a phone call with CEO Callender to try to resolve the misunderstanding. Director Hare requested that California Department of Fish and Wildlife Warden Edgar Corona-Alvarez be invited to present at a Board meeting.

9. Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m. to February 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.