



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, November 5, 2020 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.

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*

Stephanie Moreno
*Executive Director
District Clerk*

Richard Roos-Collins
District Counsel

Julie Gantenbein
District Counsel

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1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by President Lanman. Directors present for the meeting: President Rick Lanman, Vice-President Gary Jahns, and Directors Tess Byler and Bill Leikam. Director John Vidovich was absent. Staff present: Julie Gantenbein, District Counsel, and Stephanie Moreno, Executive Director/District Clerk.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Public Comment:

Yoriko Kishimoto, a Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) Director and the Independent Special District's alternate delegate to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), introduced herself to the Board and thanked President Lanman for attending the MROSD meeting the previous evening. She said she is seeking selection as the regular delegate to LAFCO and requested the District's support. President Lanman, who is the District's representative on the Independent Special District Selection Committee (ISDSC), indicated he intends to support Director Kishimoto as the regular delegate and there was no objection from the Board. Other attending public members introduced themselves at the invitation of President Lanman, including Director George Fohner from Loma Prieta RCD and Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) President Dede Smullen.

President Lanman thanked Director Kishimoto for bringing up the elk issue at last night's MROSD meeting during the presentation of the SFEI report, and said he has brought to their attention his concern with the lack of consideration for using native elk for grazing purposes, and raised issues with the San Francisco Estuary Institute scientific report regarding grazing on public lands, including the lack of consideration for using native elk as a grazer, and what he considers erroneous statements that elk management is expensive and that population control can be an issue.

4. Consent Agenda

Executive Director Moreno requested the Board continue item 4.1 to the next meeting.

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

5. Presentation

Neelima Palacherla, LAFCO of Santa Clara County Executive Officer, gave a presentation on LAFCO's role and responsibilities, its relationship with special districts, and the typical process for consolidation of districts, and answered questions from the Board and staff. Executive Director Moreno inquired of Ms Palacherla if it would be possible to set up a follow-up meeting between President Lanman, another Director, and herself to get a better understanding of LAFCO's perspective on the District's service area, to which she responded affirmatively.

Note: At this point, because of the time and the remaining length of the agenda, Executive Director Moreno asked the Board if they wanted to carry forward some items to another meeting later in the month. The Board agreed to convene again on November 19, 2020 to consider items not considered at this meeting.

6. Partner Reports

6.1 *USDA-NRCS Reports:* James Booth, District Conservationist for the Hollister Service Center, announced that the District's request for NRCS to adjust the Hollister Service Center boundary to include all of the District has been approved (the District was previously split between the Hollister and Livermore Service Centers). He also announced that NRCS-California has approved a series of mulching practices; this includes spreading compost on rangeland, which means it will now be a covered practice for NRCS funding. Executive Director Moreno let Mr. Booth know that she talked to the San Jose Conservation Corps + Charter School (SJCC) about the California Envirothon, and they would like to have a team next year.

6.2 *Valley Water Report:* Domingo Candelas, Local Government Affairs, announced Valley Water has a new interactive planning tool that one of their biologists created in collaboration with SFEI, the City of San Jose and County Parks, and it is called the Coyote Creek Native Ecosystem Enhancement Tool. They would like to present it to the Board at a future meeting. Executive Director Moreno offered to let Valley Water do a quick promotion of their tool at the Pond-IT workshop scheduled for next year. Mr. Candelas also reported that their Measure S passed that was on the November 3, 2020 ballot. Ms Moreno asked Mr. Candelas to send her the information regarding their interactive app (Access Valley Water) to pass on to SJCC for use by their new bike patrol. President Lanman asked if Mr. Candelas had gotten a response regarding his question as to how many acres Valley Water owns; Mr. Candelas indicated he made the request, but has not yet received a response.

6.3 *Other Partner Reports:* None.

7. Environmental Justice

- 7.1 *Diversity and Inclusion:* Executive Director Moreno gave a report on progress she has made towards helping the Board meet the commitments set forth in its Statement of Diversity and Inclusion. She has incorporated new language into policies and has had several good discussions with members of the community about how to move forward. She asked SJCC about the possibility of one of their youth becoming either a Director or Associate Director, and has requested that Valley Water CEO Rick Callender be invited to make a presentation on environmental justice at the December 7, 2020 Santa Clara County Special District's Association meeting. She asked the Directors to take a moment to email her and let her know their thoughts about what they are going to try to do individually to expand their knowledge and understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) issues, so that the information can be shared at a future meeting.

8. Programs and Projects

- 8.1 *Post-Fire Technical Assistance:* Executive Director Moreno reported on SCU Lightning Complex post-fire activities, outreach she has conducted and meetings she has attended. NRCS District Conservationist James Booth provided feedback on the site visits and indicated that the Cruz Fire has now been deemed eligible for Farm Service Agency funding. SCCFSC President Dede Mullen thanked Ms Moreno for attending their meeting and said she is looking forward to strengthening the relationship between the District and the SCCFSC. Ms. Moreno announced the upcoming Amah Mutsun Fire Symposium scheduled for November 19, 2020, and said it has been posted to the District's website.
- 8.2 *Integrating Agriculture into Climate Mitigation Project:* Executive Director Moreno reported that they had a follow-up meeting with one of the producers involved in the original focus group meeting and will be beginning one-on-one stakeholder outreach to agencies and organizations involved in agricultural issues.
- 8.3 *Carbon Farming Program:* Executive Director Moreno explained the request for funding for her to develop a carbon farm plan for Veggielution Community Farm, and indicated it would identify implementation projects that could enhance Veggielution's ability to obtain grant funding for conservation practices implementation, and potentially lead to a carbon farm demonstration site. NRCS had been providing the mapping for carbon farm plans, but that doesn't appear to be an option at this time. She requested an allocation of \$2,500 for mapping work, to be used on an as-needed basis, to complete the carbon farm plan. Pelayo Alvarez from Carbon Cycle Institute is willing to provide in-kind assistance to the planning effort. If approved, funding would be transferred from contingency funds to Programs and Projects.

Motion: Authorize Executive Director to develop a carbon farm plan for Veggielution Community Farm and approve allocation of up to \$2,500 for mapping work on an as-needed basis. (Jahns/Leikam; 4-0-0; /Vidovich absent)

- 8.4 *Anadromous Fish Migration:* Former Board President Roger Castillo shared his observations on Coyote Creek's increased flows due to the dewatering of Anderson Dam and the lack of water in portions of the Guadalupe River system. He questioned as to whether some of the Anderson water could be stored in Calero. Mr. Candelas asked Mr. Castillo to send him an email so he can provide responses to his questions and concerns; President Lanman indicated he would also follow up with Mr. Candelas.

9. Administration (Due to the length of the meeting, these items were continued to the November 19, 2020 meeting).

9.1 *District Policies:*

- ~~9.1.1—*Bidding Policy*: Review and discussion of recommended changes to the policy; approve resolution adopting the amended policy.~~
- ~~9.1.2—*Director Duties and Responsibilities*: Review and discussion of recommended changes to the policy; approve resolution adopting the amended policy.~~
- ~~9.1.3—*Financial Policy*: Review and discussion of recommended changes to the policy; approve resolution adopting the amended policy.~~
- ~~9.1.4—*Lactation Accommodation*: Review and discussion of recommended policy (SB 142); approve resolution adopting the new policy.~~
- ~~9.1.5—*Volunteer*: Review and discussion of recommended changes to the policy; approve resolution adopting the amended policy.~~
- ~~9.2—*Website Update*: Overview of the new District website, which went live on October 30, 2020.~~

10. Director/Associate Director/Staff Updates: Directors, Associate Directors and the Executive Director gave individual updates on topics and activities relevant to GCRC.

11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. to November 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Consent Agenda

- ~~4.1—Approve minutes for the October 1, 2020 Regular Meeting. *Continued to next meeting.*~~
- 4.2 Approve minutes for the October 29, 2020 Special Meeting.