



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, March 2, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Hybrid In-Person and Online Format

(with Directors present in person at the meeting location)

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.

Susan Hare
President

Gail Bautista
Vice-President

Frank Maitiski
Director

Cynthia McColl
Director

Paula Quintero
Director

Larry Johmann
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Rick Lanman, MD
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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- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Hare. Directors present: President Hare, Vice President Bautista, and Directors Maitiski, McColl (6:05 p.m.) and Quintero. Associate Directors present: Bill Leikam. Staff and consultants present: Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno, Conservation Program Coordinator Paulina Binsfeld, Watershed Project Assistant Roger Castillo (for last 1 ½ hours of meeting) and District Counsel Julie Gantenbein.
- 2. President’s Welcome and Call for Nominations for the District’s Honor Roll of Resource Influencers** The Directors shared their favorite “unsung hero of the water cycle”.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** Executive Director Moreno requested that Item 5.2 on the consent agenda be continued to the next meeting.
Motion: Approve the agenda as amended. (Maitiski/Bautista; 5-0-0).
- 4. Public Comment:** None
- 5. Consent Agenda:** Consent agenda was amended pursuant to Item 3 above.
Motion: Approve the consent agenda as amended. (Bautista/Quintero; 5-0-0).
- 6. Partner Reports**
 - 6.1 *USDA-NRCS:* District Conservationist James Booth, Hollister Service Center, presented his monthly report.
 - 6.2 *Other Partners:* No reports.
- 7. Programs and Projects**
 - 7.1 *Hazardous Fuel Reduction:* The Executive Director reported on an opportunity to execute a multi-year service agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for an amount not to exceed \$600,000 to provide project management services for Project Specific Analysis (PSA) development per the California Vegetation Treatment Program (Cal VTP) EIR on working lands within CAL FIRE’s Santa Clara Unit. CAL FIRE Division Chief Ed Orre was present to provide additional information and answer questions.
Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to execute a multi-year service agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

(CAL FIRE) for an amount not to exceed \$600,000 to provide project management services for Project Specific Analysis (PSA) development per the California Vegetation Treatment Program (Cal VTP) EIR on working lands within CAL FIRE's Santa Clara Unit. (Hare/McColl; 5-0-0)

- 7.2 **Community Grant Program:** The Executive Director reviewed the modification request for a previously awarded community grant in the amount of \$5,000 to the Urban Wildlife Research Project (UWRP). Patrick Ryan from UWRP was present to provide additional information and answer questions.

Motion: Approve the modification request and authorize the Executive Director to sign the amendment to the agreement. (McColl/Bautista; 5-0-0)

- 7.3 **Agricultural Producer Technical Assistance:**

7.3.1 **Flood Damage Assessments:** The Executive Director gave an update on the District's provision of in-kind assessment services to the USDA-Farm Services Agency to facilitate processing of their 2023 Flood damage applications.

7.3.2 **Agricultural Resilience:** The Executive Director reviewed a draft proposal developed in partnership with the Loma Prieta and San Benito Resource Conservation Districts to provide technical assistance to agricultural producers and improve outreach to historically underserved producers and communities. Executive Director Dina Iden from Loma Prieta RCD was present to provide additional information and answer questions.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to submit a USDA-NRCS cooperative agreement proposal in partnership with the Loma Prieta and San Benito Resource Conservation Districts and to execute all required documents for an agreement to provide technical assistance to agricultural producers and improve outreach to historically underserved producers and communities. (Bautista/Hare; 5-0-0)

- 7.4 **Watersheds:**

7.4.1 **Resilient and Equitable Urban Stream Corridors Project:** The Executive Director reviewed a draft proposal to serve as the the co-principal investigator responsible for District research activities and fiscal oversight as a community partner sub-awardee for the *Resilient and Equitable Urban Stream Corridors* project, a CA Climate Action Seed Grant application prepared by Principal Investigator Greg Pasternack, Professor at UC Davis.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to submit a letter of commitment on behalf of the District as a community/end user partner for the Resilient and Equitable Urban Stream Corridors project, and serve as the co- principal investigator responsible for District research activities and fiscal oversight. (Quintero/Hare; 5-0-0)

7.4.2 **Anadromous Fish Migration:** The Executive Director reviewed a potential grant proposal to conduct a feasibility study and develop preliminary conceptual designs for removal of anadromous fish passage barriers on Pheasant and Hicks Creeks.

Motion: Executive Director to submit a California Department Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) planning grant application for an estimated \$215,000 to conduct a feasibility study and develop preliminary conceptual designs for removal of anadromous fish passage barriers on Pheasant and Hicks Creeks. (Hare/Bautista; 5-0-0)

7.4.3 **Silver Creek Linear Park Wetlands Project:** The Executive Director reviewed a draft proposal for a California Department Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) planning grant application to allow for biological and expanded hydrological data collection and analysis for the existing partnership project.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to submit a California Department Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) planning grant application to allow for biological and expanded

*hydrological data collection and analysis for the existing partnership project.
(Bautista/McColl; 5-0-0)*

8. Administration

- 8.1 *District Meetings:* The Directors accepted feedback from meeting participants on the new hybrid format initiated at tonight's meeting.
- 8.2 *Board Member, Associate Director and Staff Reports:* The Board received individual updates and reports on topics and activities relevant to GCRCD.

9. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Consent Agenda

- 5.1 Approve minutes for the January 5, 2023 Board Meeting.
- ~~5.2 Approve minutes for the February 2, 2023 Board Meeting.~~ (continued to the next meeting).
- 5.3 Accept financial reports for January 2023.
- 5.4 Approve Board President nominations for the Santa Clara County Special Districts Association, effective for the June 2023 meeting.

Information Only:

- 5.5 Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful; *Whale Tail grant partially funded*; dated February 8, 2023.
 - 5.6 County of Santa Clara Finance Agency; *Quarterly Investment Report for Schools and Special Districts for the period ending December 31, 2022*; dated February 17, 2023.
 - 5.7 Xerces; accepting project proposals for the *Xerces Monarch and Pollinator Kits: California*; dated February 21, 2023.
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