



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, February 2, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Susan Hare
President

Gail Bautista
Vice-President

Frank Maitiski
Director

Cynthia McColl
Director

Paula Quintero
Director

Larry Johmann
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Rick Lanman, M.D.
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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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 at 5:05 p.m. by President Hare. Directors present: President Hare, Vice President Bautista, and Directors Maitiski, McColl and Quintero. Associate Directors present: Rick Lanman and Bill Leikam (first three agenda items). Staff and consultants present: Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno, Conservation Program Coordinator Paulina Binsfeld, 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 "beneficial soil organism".
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Bill Leikam inquired as to when the Urban Wildlife Research Project modification request will be on the Board's agenda. Executive Director Moreno responded that it would be on the March agenda.
Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Quintero/McColl; 5-0-0).
4. **Public Comment:** None
5. **Consent Agenda:**
Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented. (Maitiski/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:** Seth Schalet, Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, indicated he will be forwarding a Community Wildfire Prevention Plan presentation for the Board and that they have received a grant to establish a county wildfire coordinator position. William Ware, California Trout, and Trina Hineser, Land Trust of the Santa Clara Valley, were present for the meeting. Genevieve Yip announced that Valley Water has two grant programs currently open.

7. Programs and Projects

- 7.1 *Agricultural Stock Pond Program:* Executive Director Moreno presented an update on the development of a countywide agricultural stock pond program in collaboration with Loma Prieta RCD, the County of Santa Clara, local ranchers, and other public agency partners. The Board had no issues with the Ms. Moreno proceeding on developing a Coastal Conservancy grant proposal; she intends to bring back the final proposal for approval prior to submittal.
- 7.2 *Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Disposal Program:* The Executive Director reviewed her request to submit a CalRecycle Illegal Disposal Site Abatement Grant Program application for abatement of the Clayton Road site.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to submit the application to CalRecycle and authorize the Board President to sign a resolution attesting to application approval. (Hare/Quintero; 5-0-0).

- 7.3 *Tule Elk Habitat Project:* Executive Director Moreno and Associate Director Lanman reviewed the recommendation to use a portion of the existing allocated budget funding for this project to execute a cooperative management agreement with Santa Clara University and the University of Oklahoma to develop and implement an ancient DNA sequencing protocol designed to determine the genetic similarity of historic and prehistoric elk in the south and west San Francisco Bay Region in collaboration with the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. They responded to questions from Director Maitiski regarding the project's cost, its nexus to the District's strategic plans, and what are the next steps after the DNA results are received.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to execute the cooperative management agreement with Santa Clara University and University of Oklahoma, in collaboration with the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. (Hare/Quintero; 5-0-0).

- 7.4 *Watershed Education and Technical Assistance Program:* Executive Director Moreno reviewed the recommendation to submit a U.S. Department of Transportation Culvert AOP Program partnership application to facilitate fish passage barrier removal within the Guadalupe watershed. Watershed Project Assistant Castillo and William Water from California Trout also provided comments.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to submit the grant application. (McColl/Quintero; 5-0-0).

8. Administration

- 8.1 *Board Meetings:* The Board discussed the time and format for the in-person Board of Director meetings scheduled to resume in March 2023, and the consensus was to return to the pre-pandemic start time of 6:00 p.m. Individual directors may contact the Executive Director if they need to have access to an electronic device to view the documents at the meeting. Director Maitiski requested that at least one hard copy be available at the meeting for members of the public.
- 8.2 *Financial Services:* Executive Director Moreno reviewed her recommendation to execute a letter of engagement with Eide Bailly LLP for financial audit preparation at an estimated cost of \$15,000.00.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to execute the letter of engagement with Eide Bailly LLP. (Maitiski/Quintero; 5-0-0).

- 8.3 *Board Member, Associate Director and Staff Reports:* The Board heard updates and reports from on topics and activities relevant to GCRCD. Director Maitiski asked about attending the CARCD conference and Director McColl indicated her interest in meeting with other agency partners or attending their meetings on behalf of the District.

9. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m. to the March meeting.

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Consent Agenda

- 5.1 Adoption of a resolution to allow continued remote teleconference meetings due to COVID-19 emergency.
- 5.2 Authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreements for the CARCD Wildlife Conservation Board grant award received for the *Los Gatos Creek Watershed Restoration Project*.