



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, June 3, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

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 Sarmiento
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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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 (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:** Meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by President Lanman. Directors present for the meeting: President Lanman, Vice-President Jahns, and Directors Bautista, Hare and Quintero. Staff present: District Counsel Gantenbein, Program Manager Hale, and Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Prior to taking the roll call vote, Executive Director asked if there were any objections to the current process of taking roll call votes in the following order: President, Vice-President, remaining Directors in alphabetical order. There were no objections.

Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Hare/Quintero; 5-0-0)

- 3. Public Comment:** None
- 4. Consent Agenda:** Associate Director Leikam asked for background on why Item 4.11 was listed on the Consent Agenda; Executive Director Moreno responded that it was an official notice received from the City, and that it provides an opportunity for the Board to be aware that environmental comments are being solicited on a proposed project.

Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented. (Jahns/Bautista; 5-0-0)

5. Partner Reports

- 5.1 USDA-NRCS Report:** District Conservationist James Booth, Hollister Service Center, reported on the regional Nutrient Management Grant application that he and Executive Director Moreno brainstormed on that will be submitted on Sunday, June 6, 2021, and praised Ms Moreno's efforts in turning around the application so quickly. Mr. Booth also reported that USDA is re-evaluating its approach to Urban Farming in order to consider expansion of programs to farmers in urban areas that do not fit traditional models. He gave some examples and indicated that they are looking for input on how to accomplish that. The Board indicated they supported writing a letter to the State NRCS office in support of this needed paradigm shift.

- 5.2 *Other Reports:* Domingo Candelas, Valley Water, introduced Roseryn Bhudsabourg, a new member of their Government Relations team. He reported on the status of the Coyote Creek Watershed Plan (CCWP) in follow-up to a question he received from the Board at the last meeting, and said the plan is near completion and should be going to their Board of Directors this summer. He also indicated the intention is for Valley Water to next begin work on the Guadalupe and Pajaro Watershed plans under the One Water framework, and the One Water Plan also should be going to the Board this summer. Director Hare asked about the opportunities for public comment on the CCWP and about how to help Valley Water with soil health issues related to restoration of the banks after homeless camp cleanups. President Lanman inquired about the unique opportunity to potentially fix things in the Coyote Creek watershed because of the drought situation and asked what the top two or three mitigation opportunities would be as a result of the Anderson Dam retrofit project. Mr. Candelas said he would follow up on the questions.

Seth Schalet, Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Chief Executive Officer, said he would send Executive Director Moreno links to some presentations that may be of interest to the Board members and invited them to attend to their June and August meetings to hear more information.

6. Program and Projects

- 6.1 *Roundtable Discussion: Directors' Program and Project Priorities for FY 21-22:* Executive Director Moreno stated the purpose of the roundtable discussion is to allow each Director to talk about their individual priorities as they relate to the goals set forth in the Long Range Plan and determine if there are areas of consensus in which to focus funding as the budget is developed. She also asked for feedback on how much the Board would like to see remain in the operating reserves account over and above the minimum amount required per the District's reserve policy for purposed of guiding budget development. She indicated there were public comments received regarding this item which were posted online with the other meeting documents, and that there are members of the public who would like to present on potential areas for funding.

President Lanman opened up the discussion to members of the public first. Sheila Barry, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) County Director for Santa Clara County, reviewed a research proposal to monitor prescribed fire impacts in the Mount Hamilton Range and Chris Potter from CASA Systems 2100, reviewed a research proposal for a remote sensing study of the survival of oak woodland trees in the areas impacted by the Santa Clara Unit (SCU) Lightning Complex fires. Executive Director Moreno reported she also discussed potential partnership opportunities with Veggielution Community Farm and the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, and that the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency had reached out regarding the potential for developing a regional Monarch Butterfly project.

President Lanman indicated the importance of setting some general principles for providing funding on projects, such as giving priority to funding that will provide leverage for partners' projects and grants, and ensuring that projects that are funding support the District's mission. He has three specific focuses: 1) Tule elk habitat and passage (multi stakeholder meetings; expert consultants; DNA analysis); 2) watersheds (multi-stakeholder group; watershed assessment, top to bottom, of at least one watershed in conjunction with Valley Water and other parties); and 3) re-oaking projects (focusing on projects in disadvantaged communities to reduce ambient temperatures and particulate matter in the air).

Vice-President Jahns would like to see a request for proposal issued to solicit potential projects in line with District priorities and indicated he would prefer to spend down the operating reserves over a two-year period rather than allocating all of it this fiscal year. His priorities are habitat (in particular riparian habitat), biodiversity and water quality.

Director Bautista stated that she would like to follow up on the work of the ad hoc Environmental Justice Committee, and that her interests are public engagement, water quality, and providing student opportunities. She would also like to see projects that support the work being done by Veggielution and Master Gardeners.

Director Hare would like to see the District move this year from funding lots of little projects to funding a big idea that is important and measurable. She believes the District should show leadership in addressing climate change, and that a large climate change project could encompass other District priorities as well.

Director Quintero is interested in public engagement; hiring a grant writer as previously suggested to assist community organizations; and providing opportunities for engagement with students, particularly minorities and persons of color, on climate change and sustainability issues. She also would like to see more equity in providing funding to underserved communities.

During the discussion, Director Jahns echoed Director Quintero's comments on equity and said he would like the District to be conduct more outreach. Program Manager Hale recommended that the Board consider hiring an outreach coordinator given the Executive Director Moreno's current work demands. Director Hale voiced her support for hiring a grant writer. Associate Director Leikam indicated a Board member with the Urban Wildlife Research Project has grant expertise and may be able to provide insight to Ms Moreno regarding starting a grant writing program. District Conservationist James Booth offered his observation that resource conservation districts, and especially GCRCD, have been most impactful when they are able to fill in the gaps in services that other agencies cannot provide.

7. Administration

- 7.1 *Environmental and Social Justice Policy*: The Ad Hoc Committee (Quintero/Bautista) reviewed the process for developing the final document, and recommended the policy be renamed the Environmental and Social Justice Policy. The Board discussed suggested edits to the draft and reached consensus on amendments.

Motion: Adopt a resolution approving the Environmental and Social Justice Policy, as amended during discussion. (Lanman/Hare; 5-0-0)

- 7.2 *Rules of Order Policy (continued from April 1, 2021)*: The Ad Hoc Committee (Lanman/Hare) is recommending approval of the policy. Written public comment was received from Doug Muirhead and Nathan Hale (as a member of the public). The Board discussed suggested edits and reached consensus on amendments.

Motion: Adopt a resolution approving the Rules of Order Policy, as amended during discussion. (Quintero/Bautista; 5-0-0)

8. Director/Associate Director/Staff Updates:

- 8.1 Individual Directors, Associate Directors and staff provided updates.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Consent Agenda

- 4.1 Approve minutes for the April 1, 2021, Board Meeting.
4.2 Approve minutes for the April 20, 2021, Board Meeting.
4.3 Financial reports through April 30, 2021.

Information Only

- 4.4 Correspondence from County of Santa Clara; *Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) June 1, 2021, Distribution Estimate*; dated April 1, 2021.
- 4.5 GCRCD Press Release; *Ancient DNA Sequencing Provides Proof of Historic Chinook in Guadalupe River*; dated April 18, 2021.
- 4.6 Notice from Santa Clara LAFCO; *Adoption of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 & Notice Of June 2, 2021, LAFCO Public Hearing*; dated April 28, 2021.
- 4.7 GCRCD Correspondence to the Adaptive Management Team for the Guadalupe River flood control projects; *WY 2020 Draft Mitigation and Monitoring Report*; dated April 28, 2021.
- 4.8 Santa Clara County Public Health; *Mandatory Directive For Unvaccinated Personnel*; dated May 18, 2021.
- 4.9 Notice from State Water Resources Control Board; *Notice Of Opportunity for Public Comment and Public Hearing for the Draft 2020-2022 California Clean Water Act Section 303(D) List*; dated May 20, 2021.
- 4.10 Correspondence from Santa Clara LAFCO; *Santa Clara LAFCO Begins its Countywide Fire Service Review*; dated May 24, 2021.
- 4.11 Correspondence from City of San Jose; *Public Review Notice of Preparation: Fountain Alley Mixed-Use Project*; date May 24, 2021.