

**Agenda**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 23, 2022 at 12:00 pm**  
**UCE Auditorium, 2156 Sierra Way**  
**San Luis Obispo, CA**

**I. Call to Order and Introductions**

- A. Directors Present and Absent
- B. Staff, Associates, and Guests

**II. Public Comments**

- III. Consent Agenda** -- Any item from the Consent Agenda can be removed by a member of the Board of Directors for separate consideration. Consent Items are considered routine and do not require separate discussion. Individual items on the Consent Agenda are approved with the same vote that approves the Consent Agenda except for any items that have been pulled for separate consideration. Pulled Consent Agenda items will be discussed following the Consent Agenda.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Approval of Minutes of July 22, 2022 (see Attachment A)</li><li>B. Approval of Minutes of August 26, 2022 (see Attachment B)</li></ul> |
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**IV. Discussion of Pulled Consent Items**

**V. Financial Report**

- A. Ratification of Disbursements of: July 20, 2022 to August 19, 2022 and August 20, 2022 to September 21, 2022 - Accounting Manager Rachels
- B. August 2022 Financial Reports – Accounting Manager Rachels

**VI. Discussion and/or Board Action**

- A. Discussion of Future Grant Opportunities and Updates
  - Diablo Canyon
  - Cal Poly
- B. Discussion and Approval Annual Work Plan (Attachment C) and 2020-25 Strategic Plan Final 10\_23\_2020 - JC Edits (Attachment C.2).

- C. Future Regular Board Meetings: October 28, 2022 and November 25, 2022 at the UC Co-Op Extension 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo, CA, both at noon.

## **VII. Report Items**

- A. Staff Report – Programs Manager Richard (Attachment D)
- B. Natural Resources Conservation Service – Representative Phillips

## **VIII. Meeting Updates**

- A. CARCD – Executive Director Crabb
- B. ALAB, Edna/Pismo Watershed, RWQCB – Director Wolff
- C. Water Resources Advisory Committee –Director Chipping
- D. Zone 9 Flood Control, LAFCO, CSDA – President Havlik

## **IX. Other Business**

- A. Update on Loan Support options
- B. Update on Disposition of Mill Creek 204 Row Mulch Compost Spreader

## **X. Adjournment**

### **Attachments:**

- A. Board Meeting Minutes from July 22, 2022
- B. Board Meeting Minutes from August 26, 2022
- C. Annual Work Plan
- C.2 2020-25 Strategic Plan Final 10\_23\_2020 - JC Edits
- D. Staff Report – Programs Manager Richard

**Coastal San Luis RCD Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**July 22, 2022  
12:00 PM**

- I. Call to Order and Introductions:** President Havlik called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.
- A. Directors Present and Absent: President Havlik, Directors Chipping, Wolff and Munds
- B. Directors Absent: Directors Alford and Crutchfield
- C. Associate Directors, Staff and Guests: Associate Director Cadby, RCD staff members Executive Director Crabb, Programs Manager Richard, Project Manager Barnes, District Engineer Murphy, and Board Secretary DeCarli, and NRCS District Conservationist Phillips
- II. Public Comments:** Director Munds thanked staff for their efforts on the Los Osos wetland property tour conducted recently.
- III. Consent Agenda:** Any item from the Consent Agenda can be removed by a member of the Board of Directors for separate consideration. Consent Items are considered routine and do not require separate discussion. Individual items on the Consent Agenda are approved with the same vote that approves the Consent Agenda except for any items that have been pulled for separate consideration. Pulled Consent Agenda items will be discussed following the Consent Agenda.

A. Approval of Minutes of June 24, 2022 (see Attachment A)

A. Approval of Minutes of June 24, 2022.

Action: On motion by Director Chipping and seconded by Director Munds, the Consent Agenda was approved.

Ayes: Directors Chipping, Munds, Wolff and President Havlik

Noes: None

Absent: Directors Alford and Crutchfield

**IV. Discussion of Pulled Consent Items**

Action: No items were pulled from the Consent Agenda.

**V. Financial Report**

- A. Ratification of Disbursements of June 21, 2022 to July 19, 2022 – Executive Director Crabb presented an overview of the of disbursements.

Action: On motion by Director Wolff and seconded by Director Chipping, the disbursements of June 21, 2022 to July 19, 2022 were ratified. There was no discussion of disbursements.

Ayes: Directors Munds, Chipping, Wolff, and President Havlik

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Directors Alford and Crutchfield

- B. June 2022 Financial Reports – Executive Director Crabb provided a summary of the reports, and the following items were highlighted:

Project Manager Barnes noted that the HSP Demo/Avila project contract was extended, and that it was approved by CDFR (but not yet filed), and that the last invoice needs to be processed. Work will continue as an in-kind match between now and end of activities.

It was noted that the City of San Luis Obispo has been slow to submit reimbursements.

It was also noted that the WCB is in the 90-day column with a long turnaround time (waiting for the Monarch project final payment).

Staff commented that there is advancement of PG&E work, and that it also has a slow turnaround time.

President Havlik questioned how close staff is to closing the books and timing for year end posting. Staff responded they are on track to do so.

The summary by staff also noted that Item 2420 has only received 50 percent of payment, that that the district will receive remaining funds by the end of August 2022.

Staff provided an overview of the status of the district's profits and losses. It was pointed out that the Tally Ho project shows a negative balance, but that it is acceptable in the overall project timeframe. Programs Manager Richard noted that the project got off to late start. It was also noted that the Monarch project is finalized, and that the budget reflects this portion for the year and that the District has not overspent the budget. The USFWS/Los Osos project phase 3 is anticipated to be at 64 percent of the budget. There was discussion of the Districts accounts having positive project balances and that there may be a modest surplus at year end.

Staff is tracking active awarded grants listed on the agenda and summarized their status. There were no questions from the Board.

Director Chipping noted that she compared the Districts balance sheet for year-end last year to this year and indicated the District is in a favorable position between liabilities and equities, and that it is in a stable position.

- C. FY 2022/2023 Annual Budget– Executive Director Crabb provided an overview of the budget for FY 2022/2023.

Ms. Crabb indicated that the projects list is growing, and that new projects required new budgets. An example highlighted was the Oceano Dunes project, which described each year and associated activities, and shows an overall surplus at this time.

Director Munds had questions on the budget cost allocation formula methodology. Executive Director Crabb indicated that staff uses a similar method for cost allocation planning derived from the San Mateo RCD. They discussed comparisons with other RCDs and noted that the Districts process has improved over the years. Staff noted that they will be refining the formula in the future. It was noted that the grant rate is higher than the Districts fully burdened rate. They will use the current fully burdened rate in the new budget. District Engineer Murphy noted that grant proposals typically include inflationary cost projections to address these issues.

Director Wolff had a question regarding how the budget reflects project statuses and new projects that come through mid-year. Staff responded that the budget is amended as needed to add new projects going forward.

There was additional discussion of a projected budget surplus this coming year. There was discussion regarding staff compensation increases of five percent, and that compensation rates are generally comparable (although still somewhat low), relative to the size and scope of projects for the District.

Director Chipping noted that the budget surplus of approximately \$29,000 is only about 1.5 percent of total income. Director Wolff suggested that it is appropriate to have modest funds available as a cushion for unforeseen issues and potential contingencies. It was noted that the District works to be cost effective. Conservationist Phillips also commented on this point.

There was general discussion of potential reserve policy and budgeting for vehicle replacements. Staff will research options to implement a vehicle replacement fund. There was support to create a subcommittee to aid future budget preparations.

Action: On motion by Director Chipping and seconded by Director Munds, the FY 2022/2023 Budget was approved, incorporating a five percent employee compensation increase.

Discussion on the motion: Director Munds suggested looking at District reserves and needs.

Ayes: Directors Chipping, Munds, Wolff, and President Havlik  
Noes: None

Abstain: None  
Absent: Directors Alford and Crutchfield

## **VI. Discussion and/or Board Action**

### **A. Discussion of Future Grant Opportunities and Updates:**

- Diablo Canyon – President Havlik and Director Wolff noted that it is still undetermined if Diablo Canyon’s lease to operate will be extended.
- Cal Poly – No report
- PECHO Energy Storage Center –It was reiterated that the District sent a comment letter to the DOE, and that the applicant is not looking at alternative site locations. Director Chipping noted that there are no new postings to the County docket log posted.

### **B. Future Regular Board Meetings: August 26, 2022 and September 23, 2022 at the UC Co-Op Extension 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo, CA, both at noon.**

## **VII. Report Items**

### **A. Staff Report – Programs Manager, Richard.**

- Escuela Ranch Water Reservoir and Flow Enhancement Planning Project. A special report was presented by District Engineer Murphy. He presented a detailed report on the Escuela Ranch Water Reservoir and Flow Enhancement Planning Project. He presented the project background, technical hydrologic issues, project scope, goals, and solutions for the project. Board members had questions regarding the potential for dual use of water tanks for fire suppression, and other questions. Staff responded to questions. Mr. Murphy indicated the tank design and engineering, plus an alternatives analysis should be complete by March 2024 for the planning grant.

Ms. Richard provided a summary of other projects listed in the staff report:

- The Oceano Dunes project is halfway through program seed collection and planting.
- Oso Flaco – Staff is working on an extension.
- NRCS NWQI – Staff met with Texiera farms to address practices, they may get grant funds.
- Tally Ho – Staff is executing a contract, may receive funds soon.
- Los Osos Wetland Restoration Project– The site tour was well attended and overall it went well. Staff shared photos of water flows within the floodplain. Next step is to remove cape

ivy in August and PGE coordination. Staff met with SLO County water plant staff and they will provide water for free to establish upland plants.

- Morro Bay Watershed – The project is moving ahead well. The NEP will provide extra funds (\$35,000) to do more on-farm Best Management Practices.
- MIL – Received additional funding for staff trainings.
- Stenner Creek Enhancement – Conducted a good site visit with Cal Poly, identified priority locations, noted that the project is moving fast.
- Carbon Farm Plan – Project is going forward. Next month staff will provide a more detailed report.
- Demo projects – Staff provided a brief overview.
- HSP/SWEEP – Staff is working with vineyards on applications. Will start up Compost Month demos for kitchen waste. SLO County provided additional funds of \$30,000.
- Cuesta Inlet – Noted the property listed for \$1 million, the Save the Cuesta Inlet group is raising funds to purchase the properties, and that the RCD is available for future restoration projects. SLO County may obtain it in the future as a recreation site.
- The City of SLO will be hosting a Climate Party on Saturday, August 13, 2022. The RCD will have a table/booth, etc. All are invited to attend.
- Staff will be working on a coastal conservancy plan for fuels management with Upper Salinas Las Tablas RCD. The NEP is earmarking funds for RCD projects.
- Staff has been looking at obtaining engineering assistance on a contract or project basis instead of full time as not much staffing is currently available.
- Staff will be interviewing for an Environmental Restoration Specialist position soon, (aka Conservation Coordinator) discussed scope of new position.

B. Natural Resources Conservation Service – Representative Phillips – No report.

### **VIII. Meeting Updates**

- A. CARCD – No report.
- B. ALAB, Edna/Pismo Watershed, RWQCB – Director Wolff provided a summary of organization activities.

ALAB – Pecho storage facility – Director Wolff gave an overview, noted that comments were discussed with the Agricultural Commissioner’s office. Reported that the Paso Robles

water basin water offset plan is contentious due to new County regulations on agricultural planting. He indicated the EIR didn't account for potential economic impacts. He also discussed a new project at J Lohr on a CIMIS station.

RWCB – No meeting. The next meeting will be in Santa Barbara.

Edna – Provided detailed review of the pipeline project. It's making progress, SIGMA looking to get Edna water in balance (deficit 1k ac/y), using surface water and groundwater recharge. The new project in Edna may request RCD become partner, and he discussed updating the MOU for this project with RCD becoming lead role in it. SLO County is pursuing grant funding.

- C. Water Resources Advisory Committee – No meeting. The next meeting will be in September.
- D. Zone 9 Flood Control, LAFCO, CSDA – No reports.

#### **IX. Other Business**

- A. Request Letter of Interest to Re-Appoint RCD Board Members whose terms expire November 2022 – (Neil Havlik, Jean-Pierre Wolff and Jessica Crutchfield). Those board members need to submit a letter of interest to the RCD who will pass along to the Board of Supervisors.
- B. Consideration of options for short-term loan for Oso Flaco Project construction expenses. Executive Director Crabb shared information on the potential to work with the SLO County Community Foundation for a short-term loan program. She will report back at a future date on findings.
- C. Staff and Board training on Ethics and Harassment – Board Secretary DeCarli reported that an email will be sent with details for staff and the Board to complete an online Ethics training Course. She reported that she is still researching options for Harassment Prevention training.

#### **X. Adjournment: 2:40 pm**

**Coastal San Luis RCE Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
August 26, 2022 at 12:00 pm  
UCE Auditorium, 2156 Sierra Way  
San Luis Obispo, CA**

- I. Call to Order and Introductions:** President Havlik called the meeting to order at at 12:01 pm.
- A. Directors Present: President Havlik, Director Chipping.
- B. Directors Absent: Directors Alford, Crutchfield, Wolff and Munds, and Associate Director Berbach.
- C. Associate Directors, Staff, and Guests: Associate Director Jeana Cadby, RCD staff members Executive Director Crabb, Accounting and Grants Manager Rachels, Project Manager Barnes, Board Secretary DeCarli, NRCS staff member Cheryl Zelus, and Guest Dan Cresini.
- II. Public Comment:** President Havlik made comments on the Los Padres National Forest management techniques. He noted that while it is not specifically in purview of the District, he would like to submit a letter to the USFS on forest management practices.
- III. Consent Agenda:** Any item from the Consent Agenda can be removed by a member of the Board of Directors for separate consideration. Consent Items are considered routine and do not require separate discussion. Individual items on the Consent Agenda are approved with the same vote that approves the Consent Agenda except for any items that have been pulled for separate consideration. Pulled Consent Agenda items will be discussed following the Consent Agenda.

A. Approval of Minutes of July 22, 2022 (see Attachment A)

A. Approval of Minutes of July 22, 2022.

Action: No action was taken on the Consent Agenda, Approval of Minutes due to lack of quorum of the Board of Directors. This item will be on the District's Board of Directors meeting agenda for consideration in September.

**IV. Discussion of Pulled Consent Items:**

Action: No items were pulled for discussion from the Consent Agenda.

**V. Financial Report:**

A. Ratification of Disbursements of July 20, 2022 to August 19, 2022 - Accounting and Grants Manager Rachels

Action: No action was taken on the Ratification of Disbursements due to lack of quorum of the Board of Directors. This item will be on the District's Board of Directors meeting agenda for consideration in September.

B. July 2022 Financial Reports – Accounting and Grants Manager Rachels provided a brief overview of financial reports.

- Account Receivable Aging Accounts– Accounting Manager Rachels provided a summary of notable accounts and indicated the District will be receiving funds shortly from the HSP Demo, SLO Climate, Monarch, and Escuela projects. She noted that it takes longer for WCB funds.
- Balances of Grants Retention Receivable - Ms. Rachels reported that for Balances of Grants Retention Receivable that a payment of \$7747.47 was finalized. Deferred accounts, including the cannabis project is negative until finalized, as well as the San Luis Obispo General Fund support account until they submit payments later this year.
- Surplus and Loss – Ms. Rachels indicated the first month of the fiscal years shows low amounts, which is typical for this time of year.
- Active Awarded Grants – Grants are shown as straight forward on grant balances. It was noted that San Luis Obispo Community funds are almost depleted (received the last check).

**VI. Discussion and/or Board Action:**

A. Discussion of Future Grant Opportunities and Updates:

- Diablo Canyon – President Havlik indicated that this item is not in local hands at this time and that there is competing legislation at the State Capital on the status of whether to keep Diablo Canyon open or to close it. Therefore, the disposition of open space lands is still undetermined.
- Cal Poly – President Havlik noted that the District had been looking forward to partnering with Cal Poly and Diablo on projects. No action at this point.
- Dana Reserve (See Attachment B) – The public review period for the environmental document is coming to a close, with potential Planning Commission hearings in November 2022, and the Board of Supervisors in February or March 2023.

B. Future Regular Board Meetings: September 23, 2022 and October 28, 2022 at the UC Co-Op Extension 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo, CA, both at noon.

## VII. Report Items:

A. **Staff Report** – Project Manager Barnes provided an overview of the report and presented a special report on Carbon Farm projects. Projects discussed include:

- Oceano Dunes – Management of invasives, restoration, and dust control for the Oceano Dunes SVRA – Ms. Barnes provided a brief report.
- Remediation of Pesticides in Oso Flaco Creek – Seeking additional funding.
- NRCS NWQI funding for Oso Flaco Watershed – Project is moving ahead, expect it to be complete November 1, 2022.
- Tally Ho Stream Restoration Project – Moving ahead on schedule.
- Los Osos Wetland Restoration Project: Implementation – PG&E power lines are scheduled but staff is still going back and forth with them. Staff anticipates work in September after lines are down. Cape ivy removal also starting in September. Continuing to water, using goats, etc.
- Talley Farms Restoration Planning – Staff is working on the scope and budget, engineering is busy on this and may contract services out. Tally supports this direction.
- Morro Bay Watershed On-farm Water Quality Enhancement Project - Budget and scope are approved. After access agreements are signed staff will start topographic surveys.
- Windset – A Cal Poly student is volunteering on the project working with staff to conduct monitoring.
- SLO Co MIL - Mobile irrigation evaluation program funded by SLO County – New staff person Megan Widle will assist with this project.
- AG Creek Watershed Coordination – President Havlik discussed the District bringing this project back to the forefront, especially with potential storms that may affect the creek and upland areas.
- Stenner Creek Watershed Enhancement - Good first week of kick off with PACT watershed associates.
- Cannabis Outreach, Round II - Wrapping up the Guide working with partners, good input, yet hard to communicate with SLO county staff due to staff shortages. Cultivation projects slowed due to lawsuits, but if more goes forward Guide will be helpful.
- Streamflow Enhancement on Escuela Ranch - Continuing on schedule. Engineering staff working on it.
- Carbon Farm Plan for the City of San Luis Obispo - Plan and Demonstration for Johnson Ranch and the City Farm – Continuing on schedule.
- HSP Demo at Avila Valley Barn - CDFG failed to file our extension so it expired, we closed out and now awaiting a final letter.
- HSP/SWEEP - Technical Assistance – Staff will be doing pollinator work with them.
- Cuesta Inlet – Executive Director Crabb gave brief update. President Havlik noted that owners are firm on price but that it still needs an appraisal for acquisition for use of public money. Staff indicated they are working with the local community group involved.

**B. Special Presentation on Carbon Farm Practices**, by Project Manager Barnes. An overview summary is provided below:

Carbon farm planning and practices uses a “whole farm approach” to improve carbon capture using soil as a carbon sink and use of plants. Ms. Barnes described practices, methodologies, and processes.

The objective is to increase on-farm carbon capture as biomass and soil carbon. Project identifies which practices would work for individual farms and identifies co-benefits. Carbon Sequestration models are used (e.g. COMET Planner).

Staff detailed City of San Luis Obispo (SLO) carbon farm plan efforts. The project is included in the City’s Climate Action Plan which has a goal of carbon on-farm neutrality by 2030 for sequestration (ie. 12 properties with 4,000 acres in SLO). Project is starting on small site first (City Farm SLO (CFSLO) and Johnson Ranch Open Space (JROS)).

Staff detailed the JROS project and processes. For instance, they fenced a significant riparian corridor and habitat rebounded well with reduced stressors. Staff identified other activities, (ie. compost on rangeland and that has two test pilot locations). This project went through similar processes as on CFSLO although more complicated with leased property on Calle Joaquin.

Staff is now working on a pilot project phase with Cal Poly to collect data and use of Cal Poly compost.

President Havlik discussed concern with use of wood chips to reduce carbon. Mr. Cresini indicated it is already composted and screened so that it does not create carbon, and will be more like soil amendment, with no chunks of tree chips will be put into soil.

Staff described that they developed a data base on plant types with Cal Poly and are integrating practices.

Associate Director Cadby had questions and comments on composting on rangeland and referred staff to a technical paper on compost soil respiration and noted that the sequestration is result of increased biological plants using the compost not the compost itself.

**C. Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Representative Zelus provided a brief report.

Ms. Zelus reported that the Inflation Reduction Act funds for 2023 are available. She indicated that there are \$20 billion worth of oversubscribed projects and that more funds are needed for agricultural conservation practices. She also discussed a memorandum regarding competitive funding application criteria.

## **VIII. Meeting Updates**

- A. **CARCD** – Executive Director Crabb – Ms. Crabb gave a report. She noted that the PRC, Division 9, bylaws were updated. They used to be focused primarily on soil and water resources, and now are expanded to include other issues/resources, such as climate, etc. They also added agricultural lands and property types such as dunes. She discussed the “interagency agreement”, and detailed new processes and reporting dates for the Annual Plan Report.

She also noted the Department of Conservation has new conservation grants, but they need a matching fund and other stiff criteria. They deleted preference language and added information regarding criteria that supports conservation districts. There is \$20 million now available for Districts. She contributed to a letter of support. Lastly, she noted that as of August 11, 2022 the act now penalizes districts for late payments.

- B. ALAB, Edna/Pismo Watershed, RWQCB – Ms. Crabb provided a brief update.
- C. Water Resources Advisory Committee – Director Chipping indicated there was no meeting and that the next one will be in September.
- D. Zone 9 Flood Control, LAFCO, CSDA – President Havlik reported there were no meetings.

## **IX. Other Business.**

- A. Consideration of options for short-term loan for Oso Flaco Project construction expenses.

Executive Director Crabb gave update on potential loan practices (e.g. San Mateo RCD). She noted that the Oso Flaco project will be a challenge coming up this Fall, and that she is still working with the local Community Foundation to seek loan financing. The foundation may be able to help with funding and she’s had positive feedback. She discussed use of RCD bank systems and loans if switched the Districts CD over to their bank for collateral. President Havlik still has concerns if the District uses commercial banks in that they may have expensive payback terms.

- B. Reserve Policy Update – Executive Director Crabb developed a draft reserve policy that will be formally presented at a future date. She gave a brief overview how it could work.

- X. Adjournment:** 1:25 pm.