

CARCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2019

Attending:

- In Person:
 - Board Members:
 - Brent Plemmons, Central Coast Regional Chair (RCD of Monterey County)
 - Colleen Hatfield, Sacramento Valley Regional Chair (Butte County RCD)
 - Tom Wehri, NACD Rep (Placer County RCD)
 - Paul Williams, President (Inland Empire RCD)
 - Phil Schoefer, Secretary Treasurer (Western Shasta RCD)
 - CARCD Staff:
 - Emily Sutherland, Office Manager
 - Karen Buhr, Executive Director
 - Kiko Barr, Outreach Coordinator
 - Kristen Murphy, Project Coordinator
 - Partners and Guests:
 - Gayle Berry, State Soil Conservationist, NRCS
 - Jacob Moss, Pacific Policy Group
 - Jenny DiStefano, Department of Conservation
 - Mark Fenstermaker, Pacific Policy Group
 - Mandy Latzen, Department of Conservation
 - Mandy Parkes, Inland Empire RCD
 - Sheryl Landrum, RCD of Greater San Diego County
 - Tasha Newman, Pacific Policy Group
- Video/Phone Conference:
 - Board Members:
 - Harold Singer, Central Sierra Regional Chair (Tahoe RCD)
 - Laurie Tippin, Modoc Plateau Regional Chair (Honey Lake Valley RCD)
 - Partners and Guests:
 - Ariel Rivers, Pacific Region Representative, NACD

9:45 AM **Opening** – Introductions, Rules of Order, Additions to the Agenda Williams

9:50 AM **Business Calendar**
Approval of the Past Meeting Minutes – DiStefano proposed a correction to add that the North and Central Coasts eligible for Watershed Coordinator Program in DOC Report portion of the November Business Meeting Minutes.
ACTION: Approve the Past Meeting Minutes (after correction); MOTION, Wehri; SECONDED, Schofer; AYES, Unanimous (Plemmons, Hatfield, William, Singer, Tippin)

Budget Report for 2018 – Budget Approval for 2019, 2019-2020 Buhr/Sutherland
Sutherland explained that in with the proposed switch to a fiscal year that matches the RCDs and other state agencies, CARCD will need to file taxes for a short year (Jan-June 2019) and then start the new fiscal year for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. The tax filings and association audit/paperwork will be done by our regular CPA/Auditing firm and they requested a formal resolution approved by the Board to move forward.
ACTION: Approve Resolution 19-01 ; MOTION, Schofer; SECONDED, Hatfield; AYES, Unanimous (Plemmons, Williams, Singer, Tippin, Wehri)

The proposed budget for January 2019-June 30, 2020 was discussed and payroll raises for Kiko Barr and Emily Sutherland were incorporated into the budget.
ACTION: Approve 2019-2020 Budget ; MOTION, Wheri; SECONDED, Williams; AYES, Unanimous (Plemmons, Hatfield, Williams, Singer, Tippin, Schofer)

10:05 AM

Future Board Structure- Recap of resolutions

Singer/Sutherland

Sutherland reviewed the five resolutions that were up for a vote at the conference in November 2018.

- Resolution 18-01: Discussion was had about what skill set CARCD needs to add to the Board that would be found from outside the RCD network . The main areas that were identified were: Fundraising, Agriculture, Finances, Science/Biology. Organizations that were mentioned were: Farm Bureau, Sustainable Conservation, Environmental Defense Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Point Blue, Patagonia, CSDA. Karen will work on finding specific names from the categories/organizations and start talks with them. She will then forward on the names/organizations to the Board for their approval.
- Resolution 18-02: Williams appointed Mandy Parkes to revive the previous District Managers Committee from the past few years to vote on who the 3 RCD Staff Members should be.
- Resolution 18-03: RCD DM/ED can serve as ex-officio Regional Chair/Vice-Chairs
- Resolution 18-04: CARCD ED to sit on the Executive Committee
- Resolution 18-05: Not passed – no changes to Regional Structure

10:35 AM

2019 Legislative Agenda

Mark F, Tasha, Jacob Moss, Pacific Policy Group

- Newman thanked CARCD for their support with the transition from Conservation Strategies Group to Pacific Policy Group. She introduced Jacob Moss to the group, as he is a new member of the PPG team.
- Fenstermaker gave an overview of the political climate for the State in 2019. The biggest change is the new Governor. Newsom is continuing to build out a new team for some major agencies. Some of the agencies include keeping people on from the Brown administration (ex: Karen Ross, CDFA) and a few that haven't been decided yet. Newsom isn't as focused on Natural Resources issues as Governor Brown was. Newsom's focus is more on homelessness, technology, housing crisis, healthcare, etc. Newsom is focused on Healthy Soils and also Disaster Preparedness/Recovery when it comes to Fires, Flooding, etc.
- Kevin DeLeon has termed out from the State Senate, but much of the other leadership has stayed the same.
- Newman said the focus of the bills from the legislature will be mostly on Forests/Fires and Watershed Health. The legislative session has just started and many of the 3,000 bills that were introduced were just recently made public, so PPG hasn't made an official list for CARCD and RCDs to follow just yet.
- Fenstermaker and Newman talked about how many legislators and their staff in Capitol know of RCDs now, little introduction is needed and many times the RCDs are already put into bills ahead of time. There has been lots of progress in that arena over the past 5 years.
- Buhr talked about CARCDs efforts for the California Farm Bill that they have been working on with The Nature Conservancy. The bill would give more funding for Technical Assistance efforts to support SWEEP, EQIP and Healthy Soils programs. SB253, Senator Dodd from Yolo is the author. Committee hearing will happen next month. AB933 – Watershed Coordinator program into statute rather than from a Bond effort that it was originally created from. The PPG team has also been thinking about Division 9 at a high level. PPG sees opening it up as an opportunity, but it does need to be done very carefully.
- PPG has also been looking at the issues of prompt payments from grants from state agencies.
- PPG can set up legislative appointments for RCDs and also come to regional meetings across the state.

11:10 AM

Partner updates

Department of Conservation – DiStefano and Lazen gave an update on behalf of DOC:

For assistance, please contact Emily Sutherland 916-457-7904 or Emily-sutherland@carcd.org

- Watershed Coordinator program – received 17 applications, many from RCDs and grants will be awarded within the next few weeks.
- The Sierra Institute study has been released and is on the DOC website.
- DOC is working on doing more aggressive research outreach to the Tribal RCDs.
- Today is the last day of the DOC FAP grant program. DiStefano has loved seeing all the great work coming out of those programs. Some of the funding also went to Solid Ground to create an RCD consolidation Guide and Plan that will be posted on the DOC website. Some consolidations that has come out of those funds are: Madera/Chowchilla Red Top & North West Kern/Rosedale Rio Bravo.

Natural Resource Conservation Service – Barry gave an update on behalf of NRCS

- Carlos Suarez couldn't be here, he's in DC doing his annual congressional rounds.
- NRCS thanks RCDs for working with NRCS during their hiring freeze that took over most of the past few years. NRCS is looking to adding more funding into their current agreements with CARCD for both Capacity Building and Soil Health. The National Farm Bill passed back in late in 2018. They can't give their opinions on how things are going to affect things on the state level until the next fiscal year on Oct 2019.
- The Hugh Hammend Award was just awarded to a CA farm, so they've been doing a big PR push to showcase how it's an example of how the partnership works.
- NRCS is also trying to boost up the Conservation Stewardship Program in California this year. It hasn't been as big in CA as it has been nation-wide. Gayle stressed the importance of the local-federal partnership.
- NRCS is working on a WorkCycle Time Study program that tracks very nitty-gritty tracking of how Technical Assistance time is working. They want to open it up to RCDs to participate of it. The data that comes out of the 12-week program will be really helpful for funders, reports, etc.

11:50 AM

Division 9 Discussion

Singer, Braudrick and Buhr have been working closely with DOC to work on reviewing Division 9. There are definitely parts that need to be updated, but it's also scary to open up and make changes to the document that makes it able for districts to function. CARCD has pulled in folks from a diverse set of RCDs onto a committee/group to review Division 9. So far the first meeting has been about big picture items. But it'll also be getting into details. Singer reminded folks that once it's gets opened to the legislative process it's out of our control and anything can happen. Singer wants people to think about who might want to attack or hurt RCDs once it's opened up to the legislative process and how we can justify and rationalize any issues that might come up. The other key issue is the possibility of addressing the baseline funding issue and thinking about where that funding might come from and what oversight would come with that. Newman offered Fenstermaker from PPG to sit on meetings with RCDs and bring in the political perspective.

12:15 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM

Dues Committee

1:20 PM

NACD Update

- Wehri was recognized at the NACD Annual Meeting last month in San Antonio.
- Ariel Rivers has recently been hired as the full-time Pacific Regional Representative for NACD. It's the first time there has been a full time person in this position for a long time.
- Wehri has been elected to the Executive Committee for NACD. He'll also be the Vice-Chair on the Stewardship Committee and serve on the Communications Committee as well. He'll be in Washington DC next month their Annual Fly-In to DC.

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- Many CA RCDs will be applying for Technical Assistance grants this year and last year many CA RCDs received them. NACD also supports the Conservation Planner Bootcamp Program that districts are eligible to participate in.
- Buhr summarized the Capacity Building presentation that Buhr, CARCD and Solid Ground gave at the Annual Conference last month.
- CARCD is also going to host the State-wide Association Executive Directors Meeting later this year. The theme will be translating the state Capacity Building program up to a national level.

1:35 PM

Diversity Resolution

This resolution was required for a grant for the Diversity program through the Betchel Foundation for Karen Buhr (CARCD Staff), Peter Braudrick (CARCD Board Member) and Sheryl Landrum (RCD Staff) to participate in their program over the next few months.

ACTION: Approve Resolution 19-02 ; MOTION, Wheri; SECONDED, Williams; AYES, Unanimous (Plemmons, Hatfield, Williams, Singer, Tippin, Schofer)

1:40 PM

Conference

Murphy

- The conference will be in Redding this year. The hotel is smaller venue than normal, so we might have to cap registration and therefore would not have the same revenue.
- It was also discussed to move the dates from Wed-Saturday to Tuesday-Friday.
- The feedback was that most Sponsorship fundraising will be more important this year and we might have to change some of the sponsorship options to make accommodations work for sponsors and the space.
- The theme options were discussed. Two options were “Locally-Led” and “Earth, Water, Fire: The Elementals of Conference”. The board really liked the two themes and want to work on combining them.

2:00 PM

Forestry Committee

Tippin

- Williams appointed Mark Egbert from the El Dorado County RCD as the Vice Chair of the Forestry Committee.

2:10 PM

New Business/ Announcements

- Wehri suggested that within the next two years looking at the committee structure within the by-laws. While volunteers and board members are great for leadership, there needs to be CARCD staff behind them for support, setting the agenda, making state-wide connections and working on the follow-up.

2:20 PM

Adjourn