



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

R.C. Brody
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Steve Rosentsweig
Vice President

Nancy Helsley
Treasurer

Beth Burnam
Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Clark Stevens

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHTH MEETING

Monday August 26, 2019—6:00 P.M.
Resource Conservation District Office
540 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd, Topanga, CA 90290

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** the meeting was called to order by President R.C. Brody at 6:06 p.m. A quorum was established with Directors Beth Burnam and Nancy Helsley in attendance. Director Steve Rosentsweig was absent. Also in attendance were Associate Directors Dennis Washburn and Deborah Klein Lopez (via telephone), Executive Officer Clark Stevens and Finance & Operations Officer John Hendra.
2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Laurie Price, District resident; Sherry Ferber, District resident; Curtis Tarver, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist/Area 4 Supervisor; Dawn Afman, NRCS District Conservationist.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
 - Ms. Ferber introduced herself and mentioned that she was part of the SaveLACougars, Arson Watch and Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, among other affiliations.
 - Mr. Tarver introduced himself and will provide more information under the NRCS report.
 - Ms. Price introduced herself and said she is applying for the vacant Director seat on the Board.
4. **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for meetings of July 3 and August 6, 2019:
Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Helsley; approved 3-0.
5. **MONTHLY CLAIMS AND FINANCIALS:** Approval of Claims for June and July 2019 and review of financial reports through June 30 and July 31, 2019: the Board reviewed the financial statements and asked staff about various claims and account balances, then voted to approve the statements. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Helsley/Ms. Burnam; approved 3-0.**
6. **REGULAR CALENDAR**



- A. Approval of California Department of Parks and Recreation Agreement Number C1941012 to assist w/ natural resource monitoring, protection, training and standards regarding filming in the parks: the Board inquired as to the work required from this agreement, who would perform that work and what funds were budgeted, then voted to approve the agreement. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Helsley; approved 3-0.**
- B. Staff update: Director appointments: Mr. Hendra reported that the application period for the vacant Director seat is now open. The LA County Board of Supervisors will appoint a new Director from the applicants at their meeting in late September. In addition, after correspondence with LA County and our attorney, it was determined that the regular Board of Directors appointments will be moved back one year to 2020 in order to align with State and Federal elections. This will also apply to the appointments scheduled for November 2021, which will be moved to 2022.
- C. Final review of Annual Plan responsibilities matrix for 2018-19: the Directors reviewed the matrix and asked about some of the tasks. They asked staff to begin the process of creating a new annual plan for the current fiscal year and discussed what form it should take.

7. USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

REPORT: Ms. Afman reviewed her tenure at NRCS in California. She is excited to continue working with the RCD on our many different projects. Ms. Afman is still working with people affected by the Thomas Fire. She is interviewing to hire a full-time member of her staff. Finally, she has a contract to work with a farmer in the Sepulveda Basin area in exchange for use of his farm as an Envirothon and educational site.

Mr. Tarver reported that he started in the NRCS in 1988, working in various places around California. His current post is supervising the area from Bakersfield south to the border. He is focused on expanding staffing in Area 4, especially engineering positions, and will begin hiring within a week. He is also interested in growing local technical capabilities through educational opportunities for young people. Mr. Tarver said he likes to get to know the Districts in his area in order to find areas where NRCS can form an agreement to provide funding and services. He requested that we include NRCS engineering support in our next annual plan, which he can use to show need in this area.

8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

- A. Staff Reports for June/July:
 - i. Clark Stevens, Executive Officer: Mr. Stevens reported that an article written by the AP about the wildlife overcrossing has gone viral worldwide and has had over 1 billion impressions. He has been getting



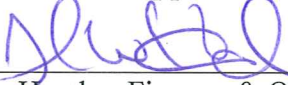
daily inquires which may lead to more potential work out of the exposure. He also reported that the LA County Fire Safe Demonstration House is mostly done; he circulated pictures of the structure.

- ii. John Hendra, Operations Manager
- iii. Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist
- iv. Kelly Kazmirchuk, Education Supervisor


9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Burnam reported that the Edison Foundation/CA Fire Safe Council grant to bring NFPA experts to the Santa Monica Mountains is essentially complete. Classes were held in the Pacific Palisades, Westlake Village and Malibu with approximately 120 attendees. The goal is to replicate NTCFSC's Home Ignition Zone Evaluation Program in communities across the Santa Monica Mountains and nearby Extremely High Fire Zones.
- Ms. Helsley reported that the CA Envirothon Team from Granada Hills High School competed in the national competition held in Raleigh, North Carolina. They came in 26th, but they had the highest score in oral presentation. The Envirothon committee is doing well and has a number of new sources of funding.
- Ms. Helsley reported that the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District is presenting a plaque to honor Hal Helsley's contributions to creating their composting facility. The event will be held Oct. 5 sometime between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.
- Mr. Washburn reported that folks should check out Atrasytems.com, which has a fire/ember suppression system. He also reported that we should invite someone from the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District to discuss the Pure Water project that will be breaking ground soon.

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Helsley; approved 3-0.**

Submitted by: 
 John Hendra, Finance & Operations Officer

Date: 9/23/19

Approved by: 
 R. C. Brody, President
 Board of Directors

Date: 9/23/19