

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard C. Brody
President

Steven Rosentsweig
Vice President

Nancy Helsley
Treasurer

Beth Burnam
Director

Laurie Price
Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Clark Stevens

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

EIGHT-HUNDRED SECOND MEETING

Monday January 27, 2020—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, Nancy Helsley, Laurie Price and Steve Rosentsweig in attendance. Also in attendance were Associate Directors Deborah Klein Lopez and Dennis Washburn, Executive Officer Clark Stevens and Finance & Operations Officer John Hendra.
2. **ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS:**
 - **President:** Ms. Burnam nominated Mr. Brody as President. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Helsley; approved 5-0.**
 - **Vice President:** Mr. Brody nominated Mr. Rosentsweig as Vice President. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Ms. Burnam; approved 5-0.**
 - **President:** Mr. Brody nominated Ms. Helsley as Treasurer. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 5-0.**
3. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Debra Gillis, District Manager, Ventura County (VC) RCD; Jamie Whiteford, District Scientist, VCRCD; Kevin Cannon, Director, VCRCD; David Ecklund, District resident; Dawn Afman, NRCS District Conservationist.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
 - Mr. Cannon is a Director of the VCRCD appointed by Supervisor Linda Parks and is here to support the VCRCD staff. They are moving into watershed protection and other areas that are non-agriculture and will oppose RCDSMM's expansion into Ventura County.
5. **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for meeting of December 16, 2019: the minutes were approved without changes. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Price/Ms. Burnam; approved 5-0.**

6. **MONTHLY CLAIMS AND FINANCIALS:** Approval of Claims for December 2019 and review of financial reports through December 31, 2019: **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Helsley; approved 4-0, Mr. Brody was out of the room.**

7. **REGULAR CALENDAR**
 - A. Ventura County RCD visit to discuss collaboration opportunities: Ms. Gillis recounted the different types of projects and services that VCRCO is currently doing or is planning to offer. Mr. Whiteford discussed in more detail specific projects VCRCO is working on, such as agricultural carbon sequestration, water quality, watershed coordination and fire recovery. Possible areas of collaboration were discussed and Directors for both RCDs expressed interest in further talks.
 - B. Update: Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) Municipal Services Review and change of Sphere of Influence: Mr. Stevens reviewed the process and discussions to date. Directors inquired as to next steps. LAFCo is moving forward on their Municipal Services Review and staff are talking to the various jurisdictions that will be impacted. The Board appointed Ms. Burnam, Ms. Price and Ms. Lopez to serve on an ad hoc committee to review boundary adjustments. There was also discussion of a meeting with both county LAFCos and VCRCO to get clarification on some rules of working across boundaries. (Mr. Washburn and the VCRCO guests left the meeting at this point)
 - C. Review and approval of mid-year budget revision: the Board reviewed the budget changes and inquired about the larger changes, then voted to approve the revised budget as presented. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Price; approved 5-0.**
 - D. Consideration of membership in the National Association of Conservation Districts: the Board discussed the benefits of membership and the positions taken by the national organization, then decided to forego membership at this time.
 - E. Selection of Special District Representative for Los Angeles County LAFCo: Mr. Brody called the West Basin Municipal Water District to research candidate Donald Dear. After discussion, the Board voted to approve Mr. Dear. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Helsley; approved 5-0.**

8. **USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT:** Ms. Afman reported that she has been teaching civil rights and learned that LAFCo doesn't like holes in the map because this used to be a way for jurisdictions to exclude certain populations or socioeconomic strata. She has a forester that we are welcome to utilize if we need.

9. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:**
 - A. Staff Reports for December 2019:

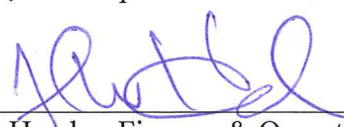
- i. Clark Stevens, Executive Officer
- ii. John Hendra, Operations Manager
- iii. Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist
- iv. Kelly Kazmirchuk, Education Supervisor

10. **CLOSED SESSION:** the Board began at 8:25 p.m. Directors discussed lease renewal negotiations for 540 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd. with Clark Stevens, Executive Officer and John Hendra, Finance & Operations Officer (Government Code Section 54956.8). The Board reopened Regular Session at 8:41. They directed Mr. Stevens to continue negotiations with terms discussed at this meeting and get an offer in writing.


11. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Washburn requested that the meeting be adjourned in honor of former Director David Gottlieb, who passed way recently. Mr. Washburn recounted some of the good Mr. Gottlieb did for the District and the environment.

12. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned in honor of David Gottlieb, past RCD Director, at 8:41 p.m. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Helsley; approved 5-0.**

Submitted by: 
John Hendra, Finance & Operations Officer

Date: 2/24/2020

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

Date: 2/24/2020