

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Beth Burnam  
Director

Laurie Price  
Director

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Clark Stevens

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

EIGHT-HUNDRED THIRD MEETING  
**Monday February 24, 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 6:05 p.m. A quorum was established with Directors Beth Burnam, Laurie Price and Steve Rosentsweig in attendance. Director Nancy Helsley was absent. Also in attendance were Associate Directors Deborah Klein Lopez and Dennis Washburn, Executive Officer Clark Stevens and Finance & Operations Officer John Hendra.
2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** there were no guests.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** there were no public comments.
4. **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for meeting of January 27, 2020: the minutes were approved without change. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Burnam; approved 4-0.**
5. **MONTHLY CLAIMS AND FINANCIALS:** Approval of Claims for January 2020 and review of financial reports through January 31, 2020: after review and discussion, the Board voted to approve the January Claims and financial reports. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Price; approved 4-0.**
6. **REGULAR CALENDAR**
  - A. Report from ad hoc committee and possible approval of proposal: Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) Municipal Services Review and change of Sphere of Influence: Ms. Burnam reported that the committee deliberated on the factors compelling boundary expansion. These include the ability to work in all of the Santa Monica Mountains and adjacent areas that impact the resources and wildlife thereof; the desire to provide services to areas not currently benefitting from an RCD; and the appropriateness of the services we offer in natural resource protection and education to the adjacent

unserved regions. Proposed boundary changes would make the RCD more consistent and compatible with major partners like the National Park Service's Rim of the Valley plan, California State Parks and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's holdings.

The committee recommended that the Board adopt a plan to request expansion in Los Angeles County east to the Verdugo Hills and north to the Antelope Valley RCD border, including the San Fernando Valley, and in Ventura County expand west to Point Mugu and into the cities of Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, Moorpark and Simi. The RCDSMM would negotiate with Ventura County RCD to transfer some "donut hole" or "peninsula" open spaces between cities within the Santa Monica Mountains. The expansion would include portions of the City of LA and the cities of Burbank, Glendale and San Fernando. The Board reviewed various maps and deliberated the feasibility and opportunities of each area, then voted to approve the committee recommendation. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Price; approved 4-0.**

- B. Approval of Interagency Agreement C1941021 with CA Department of Parks & Recreation for the Trippet Oak Restoration Project: Mr. Hendra described the work this agreement will fund, including planting 100 oak seedlings and 100 acorns at Trippet Ranch. The Board discussed the project and voted to approve. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Price/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 4-0.**
- C. Approval of Funding Enhancement of up to \$220,000 to National Park Service Task Agreement P19AC01161: Post Woolsey Fire Control of Invasive Plants: Mr. Hendra explained that NPS has requested to enhance the funding for this project, which was approved by the Board in September of 2019. The Board voted to approve the funding enhancement. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Price; approved 4-0.**
- D. Approval of National Park Service Task Agreement P19AC00846 and Funding Enhancement of \$40,000: Implement Recovery Actions for Endangered Lyon's Pentachaeta at Four Locations in the SMMNRA: this Task Agreement was approved by staff because it fell below the threshold for Board approval, but NPS has requested to add funds that will bring it above the threshold needing Board approval. Mr. Hendra discussed the agreement and RCD's administrative role, after which the Board voted to approve. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Burnam; approved 4-0.**
- E. Approval of National Park Service Task Agreement P19AC01181 and Funding Enhancement of up to \$30,300: Develop and Assess a Long-term Vegetation and Post-fire Monitoring Program for the SMMNRA: as with the last TA, this Task Agreement was approved by staff because it fell below the threshold for Board approval, but NPS has requested to add funds that will bring it above the



threshold needing Board approval. Mr. Hendra discussed the agreement and RCD's administrative role, after which the Board voted to approve.

**Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Burnam; approved 4-0.**

- F. Approval of Revised Natural Resources Conservation Service Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the RCD: the final MOA added appendices and some references but is otherwise not substantively changed from the version approved in September 2019. The Board reviewed the MOA and voted to approve.

**Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Price; approved 4-0.**

7. **USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT**: no report.

8. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**:

A. Staff Reports for January 2020:


- i. Clark Stevens, Executive Officer: Mr. Stevens reviewed his written report of the projects he is working on.
- ii. John Hendra, Operations Manager
- iii. Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist
- iv. Kelly Kazmirchuk, Education Supervisor

9. **DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

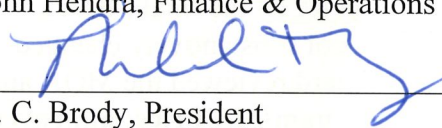
- Mr. Rosentsweig reported that the Education Subcommittee met on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Kelly is doing a great job and the programs are going well.
- Mr. Rosentsweig also asked about the Topanga Lagoon Restoration public meeting Saturday 2/29 and how Directors should participate. Mr. Stevens discussed the meeting format and audience participation.
- Ms. Lopez and Ms. Price visited an RCD Sepulveda Basin Education program a few weeks ago and were very impressed.
- Ms. Burnam, as a representative of the North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council, presented in the City of Los Angeles in Fryman Canyon to a group of homeowners regarding fire safety and defensible space.

10. **CLOSED SESSION**: the Board will discuss 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 entered Closed Session at 7:31 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 7:52 p.m. The Board directed staff to continue negotiations with the landlord per their direction.

11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Price/Ms. Burnam; approved 4-0.**

Submitted by:   
John Hendra, Finance & Operations Officer

Date: 5/1/2020

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

Date: 5/1/2020