

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

EIGHT-HUNDRED SIXTEENTH MEETING

Monday March 22, 2021—6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** the meeting was called to order via Zoom videoconference by President R.C. Brody at 6:02 p.m. A quorum was established with Directors Beth Burnam, Nancy Helsley, Laurie Price and Steve Rosentsweig on the videoconference. Also on the videoconference were Associate Director Dennis Washburn, Executive Officer Clark Stevens, Finance & Operations Officer John Hendra and Community Resilience Coordinator Antoine Kunsch.
2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Dawn Afman, NRCS District Conservationist; Diana Orozco, NRCS Soil Conservationist; Jamie Quarfeld, NRCS Soil Conservationist; Max Ogden, private citizen; Jamiah Hargins, Crop Swap LA Leader; Glenn Bailey, Past Director and RCD representative to the SBWASC.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
 - Each of the guests introduced themselves and gave a brief bio.
 - Mr. Bailey announced that the Earth Day Open House at Chatsworth Nature Preserve is not happening this year but will return next year.
4. **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for meeting of January 25, 2021: the Board approved the minutes without changes. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Price/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 5-0.**
5. **MONTHLY CLAIMS AND FINANCIALS:** the Board reviewed and approved the Claims report and monthly financials. Approval of Claims for January and February 2021 and review of financial reports through February 28, 2021: **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Price; approved 5-0.**
6. **REGULAR CALENDAR**
 - A. Informational presentation by Community Resilience Coordinator on departmental work and funding: Mr. Kunsch reviewed his department's grants and projects, including the CalFire grant for the Defensible Space website, the Conservation Biology Institute/National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Woolsey Fire Adaptation and Recovery program grant, and the CA Fire Safe

Council/CalFire grant, which is in the contracting stage. The Board congratulated Mr. Kunsch and thanked him for his good work.

- B. Report from Ad Hoc Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Committee on the March 16 meeting: Ms. Price reported that the committee decided to seek proposals from groups that do training to see what is out there. Mr. Hendra and Angelica Kahler, Education and Communications Specialist, will draft a request for proposals from potential training organizations. Mr. Washburn suggested reaching out to the Southern California Association of Governments and Metro. Mr. Brody suggested that we have a short “mantra” that reminds us of what we want to achieve through our work in this field. Mr. Bailey suggested checking with the City of LA as well.
- C. Approval to receive \$40,000 from CA Department of Parks & Recreation, Angeles District, to remove crayfish from Las Virgenes and Topanga Creeks: the Board reviewed the proposal and budget, then voted to approve the grant.
Moved/Seconded: Ms. Price/Ms. Burnam; approved 5-0.
- D. Approval of donation to the Richard Lee Campbell Envirothon Scholarship Fund: Ms. Helsley described the purpose and administration of the scholarship fund. The Board discussed what the rules allow for RCDs regarding donations. The motion was tabled for further research and will be brought to the Finance & Administration Committee, with Ms. Burnam replacing Ms. Helsley on the committee for this topic to avoid conflict of interest issues.
- E. Update on the Topanga Lagoon restoration planning and funding: Mr. Stevens reported that the second public design meeting was held on February 27, with some good public feedback received. In discussing the alternatives, Mr. Brody suggested that southern steelhead trout might persist without intervention but that east beach would not, to which Mr. Stevens responded that this isn’t necessarily the case and he will have Rosi Dagit, the RCDs senior conservation biologist, attend a future meeting to discuss steelhead and restoration. In addition, the RCD is working with the Coastal Conservancy for outreach to the visiting public to ascertain their needs, since local residents have been the majority of meeting attendees.

7. USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

REPORT: Ms. Afman introduced Ms. Orozco, her new Soil Conservationist, and Ms. Quarfeld, Soil Conservationist in the Lancaster office. She suggested having a meeting to introduce RCDs to local residents per direction of the State NRCS office. Ms. Afman has funding for air quality work.

8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

- A. Staff Reports for January & February 2021:
 - i. Clark Stevens, Executive Officer

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

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Price may miss the next meeting due to travel. She will attempt to connect but may not have internet access.

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 5-0.**

Submitted by: John W Hendra
John Hendra, Finance & Operations Officer

Date: April 27, 2021

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

Date: April 27, 2021