

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Director

Laurie Price
Director

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

EIGHT-HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Monday March 28, 2022—6:00 P.M.
Resource Conservation District Office
540 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd, Topanga, CA 90290

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Clark Stevens

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** the meeting was called to order by President R.C. Brody at 6:08 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 Dennis Washburn and Deborah Klein Lopez (on Zoom), Executive Officer Clark Stevens, Senior Conservation Biologist Rosi Dagit (left at 7:10 p.m.) and Finance & Operations Officer John Hendra (on Zoom).

The Board voted to add an emergency item to the agenda: Resolution 2022-03-01 to approve California Department of Fish and Wildlife SB 129 Recovery of Southern Steelhead Trout in the Santa Monica Mountains Grant Agreement Q2150302: Topanga Creek and Lagoon Restoration Environmental Review and Permit Coordination, and designate authorized representatives. Staff became aware of the requirement for this Resolution this morning and the grant funds are needed immediately to continue work on other grants for this project. This will be Agenda item 6.F. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Burnam; approved 5-0.**

2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Alisa Land Hill, Topanga Elementary School and Topanga Town Council.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
 - Ms. Land Hill described the situation at Topanga Elementary School to remedy vegetation removal in violation of ordinances. Parents are pressing LA Unified School District (LAUSD) to fully restore the areas and are requesting access to the report completed by the RCD for Architerra, which was a contractor of LAUSD for this project. Ms. Land Hill asked the RCD to support their efforts to hold LAUSD accountable to restore the improperly removed vegetation. The Board took this under advisement and discussed possible responses, including writing a letter to LAUSD. The Board directed staff to look into the situation and potentially write a letter for Board approval at the next meeting.

4. **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for meeting of February 28, 2022: the Board voted to approve the minutes as presented. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Helsley; approved 4-0; Ms. Price abstained.**

5. **MONTHLY CLAIMS AND FINANCIALS:** Approval of Claims for February 2022 and review of financial reports through February 28, 2022: after reviewing the claims and financial reports, the Board voted to approve both. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Price/Ms. Burnam; approved 5-0.**

6. **REGULAR CALENDAR**
 - A. Update on turtle water project from Senior Conservation Biologist Rosi Dagit: Ms. Dagit described the turtle water project that will be funded by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and supported by local landowners. This is an effort to keep turtles in their natural habitat.
 - B. Discuss Las Virgenes Water District Lease proposal and instruct ad hoc committee on negotiation of final lease: Ms. Burnam reported that she and Mr. Stevens spent two hours with the broker discussing how to respond to the LVMWD proposed Letter of Intent. They updated the Board on the various terms under negotiation, including rent, tenant improvements, utility costs, length of lease, etc. It is too early in negotiations to give final numbers and terms, but they will keep the Board updated on the negotiations.
 - C. Discussion of RCD work in Ventura County portions of the district: Mr. Stevens has encountered issues with Ventura County RCD soliciting work in our district. This has happened in Bell Canyon and Oak Park. He has had meetings with the Conejo Open Space Conservation Authority and some other stakeholders as well as LAFCO. He also suggested to VCRCO that the RCDSMM be included on their fire grant. Mr. Stevens asked the Board to authorize a letter to VCRCO with a potential copy to Ventura County LAFCO demanding they cease working in our district. The Board directed staff to produce a letter and hold it in case it is needed.
 - D. Update from Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee: Ms. Price reported that there is a meeting with DoGoodery tomorrow to finalize our JEDI mission statement. She then presented some questions from DoGoodery's evaluation form for discussion.
 - E. Discussion of CA Public Records Act requests for contracted documents: Directors discussed this issue in regards to the Public Comment above about Topanga Elementary School vegetation removal.
 - F. Resolution 2022-03-01: approval of California Department Of Fish And Wildlife SB 129 Recovery of Southern Steelhead Trout in the Santa Monica Mountains Grant Agreement Q2150302: Topanga Creek and Lagoon

Restoration Environmental Review and Permit Coordination, and designate authorized representatives: Ms. Dagit described the project and pointed out that the Board had approved the agreement at a prior meeting but CDFW needs a Resolution to make it official. The Board discussed the project briefly then voted to approve the resolution. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Burnam; approved 5-0.**

8. USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
REPORT: There was no report.

9. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

A. Staff Reports for February 2022:

- i. Clark Stevens, Executive Officer
- ii. John Hendra, Finance & Operations Officer
- iii. Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist
- iv. Marilyn Brody French, Education Supervisor
- v. Antoine Kunsch, Community Resilience Coordinator

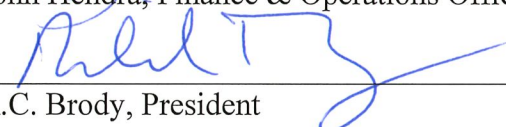
10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Helsley reported that the 2nd round of Envirothon is Saturday 4/2 and Mr. Brody will be a judge. The topic is Waste to Resources.
- Ms. Lopez reported that on April 22 at 10 a.m. there will be a ribbon cutting for the wildlife crossing.
- Mr. Brody asked that the next meeting be through Zoom and that the resolution for Zoom meeting returns on a regular basis.

11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Ms. Price; approved 5-0.**

Submitted by: 
John Hendra, Finance & Operations Officer

Date: 3/28/2022

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

Date: 4/29/2022