1. Call to Order – 9:09 am

2. Consent Calendar – An increase of $30.00 to AVLT bill to cover internet usage by the River Center was reported. Craig motioned to approve the consent calendar as amended, Peter seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.

3. New Business – Long range pre-planning
   - Education activities include road workshops and updating the Forest & Roads Handbook. A biomass workshop was held in the past. Jerome likes the idea of bringing environmental education to K-12. A bare bones program would run $10,000.00 and funding is difficult to obtain. Larry would like to expand to other school systems. NRCS has education opportunities upcoming. Linda would like to be able to provide schools with a list of resources.
   - The Operational Agreement with NRCS needs to be reviewed and possibly updated.
   - The creation of some type of electronic bulletin information passing system was expressed as an RCD goal.
   - Other goals included expanding the RCD’s boundaries, expanding the RCD’s capabilities and possibly taking on the Open Space district if the need arises.
   - Increasing the RCD visibility with high profile projects such as “Rails to Trails”, a national organization. Larry suggested that a link to them should be put on the website. Staff was directed to look into sponsoring the ecology hour on KZYX.

4. Administration
   a. Approval to pay staff members who decline health coverage $250/month as recommended by personnel committee – Peter and Tyler were the subcommittee. Craig motions to approve paying staff member $250 per month in lieu of health coverage, Larry seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.
   b. Discussion and possible approval to hire a temporary employee for CEQA development- CEQA development funding requires 75% of funds be spent in house. The RCD needs to hire a temporary employee to work on this project. Craig motions that the RCD accept the CEQA development
funding and hire a temporary parttime employee, Larry seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.

c. Recruiting for Associate Directors- Anderson Valley area residents in particular.

d. Craig motioned to approve two days off for holiday benefit/gift, Larry seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.

5. Director Items
   a. North Coast RC&D – “Visit Mendocino” has joined the council. Biochar grant was assisted by staff, Phil Giles provided expertise. The group will work with the Hopland Tribe to develop trials for Biochar benefits for marketing. The RC&D has experience working with the tribe through other projects. Darcy Mahoney also joined the RC&D council. The Jackson Advisory Group unanimously bought in to the report of financial recommendations for the forest. The goal is to maintain employees.
   b. Outlet Creek Watershed Group – Park Steiner of DFG will be giving a report on salmonids. Larry will be giving a water resources presentation to WELL. The group will be electing new officers. The meetings average 30-35 attendees at the regular meetings.
   c. Biomass Update- The group will meet next week with representatives from the company Iderdiola. The company is building a biomass facility using juniper and dead pine as fuel. The company would like to start a biomass facility in California with Fort Bragg being top on their list. Juniper grows very fast and is becoming invasive. The RCD’s name is being linked to this project regularly.

6. Public Comment – None

7. Partner Reports
   a. Dept of Fish & Game- Rick Macedo gave a presentation on the status and life cycle of listed salmonids in Mendocino County. He highlighted causes for the population decline and efforts being made to assist the populations.

8. Partner/Project Reports
   a. NRCS- EQIP plans are being finalized and has received $430,000 in funding with $700,000 worth of work to be done. EQIP may receive more funding due to one project involving a coastal dairy operation that is using up much of the available funding. The soil conservationist selected to replace Mindy has declined the position and a new selection will need to be made. The organic initiative application deadline is March 1st. AWEP funding is a third lower than requested. CCPI deadline is March 1st and the funding for this program has been cut. Trinity County is receiving $1 million in funding and may not need the additional CCPI funds. Bakers Meadowfoam is declining on Nature Conservancy property because grazing has ceased. NRCS and UC Davis are designing grazing trials.
   b. Navarro/Garcia- Prop 84 proposal submittal is complete. We are currently working towards resubmitting Navarro and Garcia 319(h) proposals. The watershed coordinator grant awards are to be announced at the end of the month.
c. **Forsythe Creek**- Mill Creek bridge project is in the bid development process using qualification based selections. The bid process is complex. The annual monitoring report for the Caltrans Russian River Bridge Mitigation project has been completed. Joe has taken the lead on the DFG Upper Russian River Invasive Removal project, also known as Parsons Creek. All contracts with the Mendocino Water Agency have been cancelled. Joe has brought to the RCD spawning surveys for the Coyote Valley Indian tribe.

d. **Caltrans updates**-
   i. **Willits**- The RCD will submit a letter regarding the grazing plan. Dave Kelly informed Jan that Caltrans did not approve of the RCD contacting USACE. Dave Kelly is on the next Farm Bureau meeting agenda regarding grazing in Little Lake Valley.
   ii. **Geyserville**- Feliz Creek dam removal is a County mitigation project. $360,000 is allocated for removal through Caltrans funds. DFG has designed the project but needs certification. CEQA needs to be done. RCD, County, and DFG meeting is scheduled in early Feb to discuss project tasks.
   iii. **Robinson Creek**- The RCD is waiting for the contract.

9. **Adjourn 2:30pm**

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Larry Desmond  
Board Chair
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 9, 2011

Directors Present: Larry Desmond; Peter Braudrick; Jerome Dix; Tyler Nelson at 9:36am; Craig Blencowe at 9:40am
Directors Absent: None
Associate Directors Present: None
Associate Directors Absent: Geri Hulse-Stephens
Staff Present: Jan Olave; Ursula Butler; Joe Scriven; Linda MacElwee
NRCS Staff Present: Carol Mandel
Other: Paul Zellman

1. Call to Order – 9:03 am

2. Consent Calendar – Additions to the agenda include an RVOEP sponsorship request and transferring management of the DWR Noyo/Big planning grant from the County to the RCD. Larry noted an error in the minutes regarding the number of attendees for the regular meetings of the Outlet Creek Watershed Group. The sentence should have read 8-10 instead of 30-35. Peter motions to approve the consent calendar with the amendments, Jerome seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays.

3. Administration
   a. Resolution to enter into agreement with SWRCB – Peter motions to accept the resolution, Jerome seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays.
   b. Approve letter to Caltrans – postponed until remaining board members arrive.
   c. Approve request to be CEQA lead agency for TCF – this would be a courtesy service. The Conservation Fund cannot file the CEQA documents, they must be filed by a government agency. Tyler motioned that the RCD be the lead agency for TCF’s CEQA, Craig seconded. The board instructed staff to check with county counsel and provide more information to the board regarding risks to the RCD. The motion and second was withdrawn.
   d. RVOEP sponsorship – Jan would like to increase our sponsorship from $100.00 to $500.00 this year. Jerome motioned to sponsor RVOEP in the amount of $500.00, Peter seconded, 5 ayes 0 nays.
   e. Management of Noyo/Big Planning Grant – the project has stalled since Roland Sanford was removed from the project. There is little remaining to be done. West Coast Watershed was doing most of the work but stopped when their contract with the water agency expired. The county will entertain the idea of the RCD taking over the project. DWR approves of the RCD finishing the project with an extension. Jan proposes that the county cover the RCD expenses through the retention funds. This grant will be audited next week. If the county defaults on this contract the RCD as lead on the contract will also look bad. The RCD would hire WCW to complete the project with Roland. Peter motions that
the executive director negotiate and enter into an agreement with the county to take over management of the Noyo/Big planning grant, Jerome seconded, 5 ayes 0 nays. Larry asked to be kept apprised of the discussions with the county.

Jan reported to the board on the power failure and equipment loss of the previous week. The insurance company advised the RCD to file a claim with them and then they will file a claim with the city.

4. Partner/Staff Reports
   a. NRCS – The report contains a table that demonstrates where EQIP is going. NRCS hired a new Soil Conservationist to replace the Range Conservationist that transferred. (A Range Conservationist position will be requested to replace a retiring staff member in September.) The new employee is new to NRCS and will have a lot of training to complete. CCPI funds are for forest projects and AWEP is for water. Rangeland projects are now ranking higher due to available programs. AWEP funds projects that have a net savings to stream flows. Sonoma County has funding for wind machines. Mendocino Cty has weather station applications. Mendocino Cty needs more site specific data collection from weather stations. Carol is working towards a demonstration project with waste water. Carol asked the board members to keep in mind wind machine engine replacement in EQIP rankings. Carol and Patty attended a meeting with Calfire that discussed permitting large woody debris projects. Permitting is difficult due to incidental take involvement. NRCS could be a nexus if the property is under one of their programs.

   b. Calfire and CCC’s crews have been working on the DFG Upper Russian Invasive Removal project. Joe is impressed with their work and their attention to detail. The crews are removing tamarisk and arundo. Joe reviewed a possible project at the Eel River Bridge to block vehicle access to a sand bar in the river. The project should not involve a lot of money but is environmentally valuable. The Mill Creek Bridge project can use qualification based bid process except for the actual construction work, which must use lowest bid. The RCD will be working closely with the county on this project.

5. Administration - Continued
   a. Approve letter to Caltrans – Jan, Geri and Tyler worked to compose the letter. Other agencies are not happy with the direction the Army Corps is taking. Current science indicates grazing is a valuable tool that the Army Corps is discounting in its evaluation. Peter motions to approve the letter, Jerome seconded, 5 ayes 0 nays.

6. Public Comment – Paul Zellman introduced himself. He is affiliated with the Russian River Flood Control District. He lives locally and is interested in the RCD. Jan informed him that the RCD is always looking for associate directors.
7. **Director Reports**  
   a. Larry has been looking into a project to open 4,800 feet of spawning environment. He is looking for funding opportunities and has been reaching out to landowners. The fish are no longer spawning in the area.  
   b. Craig noted an error on the minutes with regards to Fort Bragg being the top consideration for Iderdiola to build a biomass facility. The minutes should state that Fort Bragg is one of several areas of consideration. Jan reported that she has emailed and is awaiting a response from Tamara regarding the Rare Plants guide book and budgeting to complete the project.

8. **New Business**  
   a. Long-range planning continued from January.  
   b. Tyler asked what the process is to get assistance from the RCD. Jan replied that there should be a property assessment first, and then a search for appropriate funding sources. The NRCS has a planning schedule. The Farm Bureau wants to get information about NRCS and the RCD out to their members.

9. **Adjourn 12:03pm**

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Larry Desmond  
Board Chair
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 9, 2011

Directors Present: Larry Desmond; Peter Braudrick; Tyler Nelson; Craig Blencowe; Jerome Dix at 9:07
Directors Absent: None
Associate Directors Present: Geri Hulse-Stephens
Associate Directors Absent: None
Staff Present: Jan Olave; Patty Madigan; Ursula Butler; Joe Scriven; Linda MacElwee
NRCS Staff Present: Carol Mandel
Other: Dave Kelley & Jeremy Ketchum of Caltrans

1. Call to Order – 9:02 am

2. Consent Calendar – Additions to the agenda include an approval to submit a proposal to DFG. A change to the Administration report from no DFG proposal submittal to one submittal. There are two invoice additions to the bills list from Mendocino Redwood Co. for the Camp Creek project. One invoice is for submittal to DFG in the amount of $73,696.00 and the other is for SWRCB in the amount of $206,950.00. Craig motions to approve the consent calendar with the amendments, Peter seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.

3. Closed Session

4. Report on Closed Session

a. A request for an immediate salary increase for the Navarro River Coordinator’s new position as Navarro Watershed Coordinator was approved.

b. A request for the removal of the employment guarantee period on new hires was not approved.

5. Administration

a. Resolution to enter into agreement with DFG for Dunn Creek project – The item is standard language. It is the Soper-Wheeler project. Tyler motions to approve the resolution. Peter seconded, 5 ayes 0 nays.

b. Update on TCF request for MCRCD to be CEQA lead and request for approval – County Counsel stated that the document is fine since work is being performed on TCF property, but recommended that a policy be developed that indemnifies the RCD if we become a CEQA lead for other entities in the future. Craig motioned to approve the RCD becoming the CEQA lead for TCF. Tyler seconded, 5 ayes 0 nays.

c. Discussion and request for approval to move funds into insured CD accounts – The mitigation funds on deposit with the county is earning very little interest. Redwood Credit Union is paying 1% interest. The amount moved into another institution would not exceed the maximum insured. Craig would like to keep the funds local. Possibly three accounts with staggered maturity dates. Craig motioned to approve that the staff has the discretion to move the funds. Tyler seconded, 5 ayes 0 nays.
6. New Business

a. Caltrans presentation on proposed wetland enhancements – The Willits Bypass project would be impacting 86 acres of wetland – 56 permanent and the rest temporary. The Army Corps had serious reservations with the fill for the second phase of the bypass and that has been eliminated from the project. Due to that change the wetland loss was reduced to 54 acres. In order to achieve no net loss of wetlands, Caltrans has conducted extensive research to come up with 23 acres of wetland creation. Caltrans and the regulatory agencies are using a watershed approach, rather than following strict mitigation ratios. They have asked to get a no net loss determination from a combination of creation, enhancement and preservation, and have purchased or are purchasing approximately 1800 acres.

Dan Martel of the Army Corps is coming up with recommendations of what Caltrans can do to meet no net loss. The Corps is requiring that a significant portion of currently grazed land not be grazed in the future with the exception of special status plant species. There are 350-370 acres of proposed grazing plus grazing in areas outside of the valley. Approximately 1350 acres of grazing will be eliminated. The Army Corps is looking for a more natural set of species that would come up without grazing pressures. Jane Hicks of the Army Corps fully supports the plan to reduce grazing.

Caltrans is aware of the impacts to the local community and ranchers and will be doing an evaluation of those impacts with an environmental document. How that will be delt with will be determined later this spring. Caltrans requires a permit from the Army Corps and this is the plan that will allow the permit to be issued. Caltrans will try to get as many mitigation credits as they can from the property. The mitigation credits may only cover Phase I but are hoping for enough credits for the entire four lane bypass.

Geri stated that she was disappointed that we don’t have the science behind this decision available and at this point it feels like an unsubstantiated opinion. Mendocino County is the only place in the world that Baker’s meadowfoam grows. Semaphore grass grows in three counties. The mitigation property has a lot of potential Baker’s meadowfoam habitat as well as existing habitat. There has been planting of non-native pasture grasses many years ago and they continue to persist because they are well adapted to these areas. These grasses will not go away with a change of management strategies and will out compete and destroy Baker’s meadowfoam habitat. If Oregon ash is allowed to come in, it will change the habitat from wet meadow to riparian woodland wetland. Jeremy responded that the MMP updates have not been completed to include the changes the Army Corps is instituting and is expected sometime in July or August.

Caltrans would like the RCD to continue as a partner in the project and would like to know as soon as possible the if the RCD decides to remove themselves from the project. Caltrans reported that they had no control
over the grazing issue and that they have not been given the analysis for
the decision to end grazing on the mitigation property.
Dan Martel has not identified any reference sites as of yet. EPA has
requested reference sites that have never been grazed. The Army Corps
feels that the grazing has made the current wetland low quality.
Water quality monitoring is taking place on 22 sites for baseline data.
Caltrans must show an improvement in water quality for the watershed
approach.
Tyler feels that the RCD staff and directors would be better able to relay
the concerns brought up in this meeting to the Army Corps than Caltrans.
Jan feels that the RCD board should request the scientific data directly
form Jane Hicks of the Army Corps.
Larry stated that he appreciated the support from the community for the
RCD to continue staying involved in this project.
The long term management of this property is going to be complex. Some
of the management requirements seem conflicting. The Center for Natural
Lands Management are developing the endowment. DFG has approved the
RCD to be the land managers.
Craig is surprised by the support for the RCD to continue its involvment.
Craig would like NRCS or someone else to review the Army Corps
conclusions.
The economic impacts will be reviewed.

7. Public Comment

Heidi Dickerson – Representative from Congressman Mike Thompson’s office:
Previously asked the Army Corps for successful examples of where this has worked
was told the Brooks property. The Brooks property became an Oregon ash
woodland. What weeds could possibly take over – pasture grasses, thistles, black
berry and Poison hemlock.

Phil Dow – Executive Director of MCOG: two concerns with one being that a
single person is making these decisions and appears not to be looking at the whole
picture. And second is that perpetuity is a long time and we have the opportunity to
make the science. He recommended requesting information of the science
documentation that supports the Army Corps position.

Cheryl Dennis —Rancher: stated that the elimination of grazing will ruin her
business.

Mike Fonsan—Rancher: stated that he would lose his summer pasture. He would
like to know if anyone will be getting restitution if they are taken out of business.

John Ford – Rancher: stated that it would put a big dent in what he currently has
under lease.

John Pinches – Mendocino County 3rd District Supervisor: these properties have
been grazed for 150 years. Personally would like the RCD to continue to be
involved because it would be better to deal with a local entity than a state agency.
The county is losing the property tax revenue and now losing agriculture business
benefits and still has to maintain county services. There is a concern about pot
gardens coming into the properties.

Devon Jones – Mendocino County Farm Bureau Executive Director: feels that we
should find out who is truly making or influencing these decisions. There is a
human factor to consider. After 150 years of human management you cannot know
what the natural state would be. Agriculture is a strong component of this county and when that is in jeopardy it is a concern.

David Drell- Willits Environmental Center: from the beginning there was always going to be a reduction in grazing practices. The grazing damage to wetlands is well documented. Baker’s meadowfoam is a state special plant and not the Army Corps responsibility to protect and does not indicate the health of wetlands.

Jan Olave- grazing was supposed to be a management tool and was expected to be reduced. The RCD is concerned with all aspects unlike the individual agencies that are concerned with their own mandates.

Rosamund Crowd- Would like to recognize the cost to the community, county and the environment.

John Ford- wants to see the success stories. The Brooks property is not pristine. The elk will not utilize the real coarse feed.

Paul Zellman- would like to see the RCD remain a partner in this project.

Linda MacElwee- What are the avenues of discourse other than through Caltrans for this board to address these issues? Jeremy stated that they could be contacted through their public affairs department. Dave Kelly stated that there will be a public informational meeting where the Corps can be directly addressed in Willits in late summer.

8. New Business Continued

a. Caltrans presentation on proposed wetland enhancements – Board, NRCS and staff continue discussion of Caltrans presentation. Jan stated that the EPA requested that the RCD stay involved until the MMP is complete. EPA will be looking for performance standards from the Army Corps methodology. DFG is estimating 29 acres of Baker’s meadowfoam being lost with the current Army Corps grazing plan and will require Caltrans to mitigate for the loss of Baker’s meadowfoam. Jan asked the board if they would like the EPA, Regional Board and DFG to come to a meeting to discuss what they are requiring from Caltrans. DFG informed the RCD that if the Corps’ current plan goes through they will not hold the easements.

Craig feels that we need to have science to back up our position with regards to grazing the mitigation properties. Craig would like to have NRCS review the plan. They have wetland and grazing specialists. Patty feels that we could conduct a peer review if we had the assessment available to us. Carol stated that NRCS could have a field visit for a preliminary brief recommendation. NRCS has wetland experts that design grazing plans on wetland areas.

Linda feels that the RCD could be an advocate for restitution to the ranchers whose business will be hurt by this plan.

Tyler made a motion that the RCD write a letter to Congressman Mike Thompson requesting assistance with acquiring the scientific data from the Army Corps in order to have it assessed and peer reviewed. Craig seconded, 5 ayes 0 nays.

Carol will speak with her boss regarding NRCS doing a preliminary recommendation.

Patty feels that we may be able to revisit the plan when the prescriptions aren’t working.
9. Partner / Staff Reports
   a. Carol – NRCS will be doing a workshop in the next few months on holistic resource management. The end result of the workshop would be that each participant will have a grazing plan based on the HRM model. Ridgewood Ranch offered their facility for the workshop. NRCS is in the process of finalizing the AWEP signups. There is a feasibility study underway on water recycling through the city for municipal uses. Carol has been talking with Sean White and the Farm Bureau about the potential for using this water for agriculture and tying retention ponds into the recycle water system. This could have a potential impact on water conservation.
   b. Joe – biomass removal took place on Parson’s Creek by the Chamberlain Creek & CCC’s crews. The Mill Creek bridge statement of qualifications submittal deadline is 3/11. The scoring matrix is in development the county department of transportation. The project is scheduled for the 2012 season. The Feliz Creek dam modification project is waiting on the county engineering and will be scheduled for the 2012 season. Interviews are being conducted for the RRWAMP project in Sonoma & Mendocino counties. Joe feels that there are project development opportunities on upslope Bachtel Creek.
   c. Patty – The Community Foundation awarded a grant for the Connecting to Creeks trail at the elementary school. A fund raiser for the River Center is being held at Laurens on 3/26 at 9pm. The River Center is looking for volunteers for the brew festival on May 14th, respond to Linda or Patty if interested.

10. Director Reports
   a. NC RC&D – Peter reported that they have lost their office space and their staff member has been shipped to the NRCS office in Petaluma. All of the files are being put into storage. Ed Burton feels that the program will be ended.
   b. Fort Bragg Biomass Project – Met with a new developer out of Palo Alto. Bill Carlson is on their board of directors. They are looking at Fort Bragg as their number one site. There have been two commitments to construct sawmills in conjunction with the biomass facility.
   c. Willits Watershed Group – Evan from Biomass Engineering will be in to speak to the group.

11. Adjourn – 12:44 pm
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 13, 2011

Directors Present: Larry Desmond; Peter Braudrick; Craig Blencowe; Jerome Dix
Directors Absent: Tyler Nelson
Associate Directors Present: None
Associate Directors Absent: Geri Hulse-Stephens
Staff Present: Jan Olave; Patty Madigan; Ursula Butler; Joe Scriven; Linda MacElwee
NRCS Staff Present: Carol Mandel; Richard King
Others: Jeremiah Puget, Heidi Dickerson, Larry Stranske, John and Charline Ford, Rosamund Crowder, Mike Fonsun, Trevor Williams, Cheryl Dennis, John Harper, John Green, Ron Orenstein, and other members of the public

1. Call to Order – 9:02 am
2. Calendar - There are two invoice additions to the bills list from Elkhorn Slough Foundation in the amount of $375.00 and Geri Hulse-Stephens in the amount of $191.16. Craig motions to approve the consent calendar with the amendments, Peter seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.

2. Administration
   a. Adopt Garcia CEQA Addendum - remove from agenda. We are not ready to proceed with this item.
   b. North Coast CARCD meeting — is scheduled for the end of the month. Discussion of a pilot program for coordinated permitting for the north coast is on the agenda. Kat Kuhlman will be discussing ag waivers. Jerome and Peter have agreed to attend the meeting. Possibly Larry and Craig to attend.
   c. Interview Schedule for RR Coordinator candidates – We have received four to five good resumes. Peter and Jerome will be on the committee.

3. Partner / Staff Reports
   a. NRCS – The office has been busy finalizing plans. European Grapevine Moth cost sharing funding is available. NRCS will assist with soft spraying for the pest. The RCD is co-sponsoring a holistic management workshop with NRCS. Richard King, NRCS range management specialist, ecologist and certified HRM educator will provide instruction. The workshop flyer is on the website and was sent to the Farm Bureau. The HRM model is a really good scientifically based tool. Richard stated that it links land, people and money. Jan sent the flyer to Caltrans and received no response. Carol asked the RCD to provide the grazing calendars for the class. Carol attended a meeting regarding a local mobile slaughter house. It will be on a very small scale. Currently there is a lot of cost associated with taking animals out of the area for slaughtering. It is going to be a USDA inspected facility. Carol feels that permitting will be their biggest hurdle. Joe feels that the area will be able to handle a facility of this size with regards to the water and waste.
   b. Jan Olave – Jerome asked about the current status of the power surge damage. The city stated that the issue is not their problem. AT&T had a meeting with the
landlord. The city stated that AT&T should tie into the ground and AT&T said that they never tie into the ground that they have their own. Jerome suggested that we check into whether a permit was issued for the original installation. The city should have inspected the work if a permit was issued and should then be responsible. If the work was done without a permit then AT&T should be responsible. Jan asked Jerome to assist with this issue. Jerome included that AT&T doesn't produce power to cause the problem.

c. Joe Scriven – A recent discovery is that CA Red Legged frog surveys are required in the Russian River Watershed. Joe will be attending a workshop to begin the certification program for Red Legged frogs. A new group has formed – Mendocino Tribal Environmental Program – Joe has been invited to attend. He and Linda visited the Yokayo Rancheria for exotic invasive removal project funded by Caltrans Geyserville mitigation. Joe visited Mill and McDowell Creeks fish passage projects. The projects involve removing large culverts and installing bridges. The RCD will be managing the design implementation. An assessment done by Ross Taylor for fish passage issues these sites were listed as #’s 1 and 2 in the Russian River watershed. The Mill Creek bridge request for qualifications, have been narrowed down to three candidates. Those candidates will be interviewed soon and one chosen. The botanist is currently surveying for rare and endangered plants.

d. Patty Madigan – has been working with Carol, Sustainable Conservation, Cal/ fire, DFG, USFS and the Regional Board towards permitting for large woody debris projects. Currently these projects are difficult to permit. Sustainable Conservation is working on the state level to reform restoration permitting. The group is working on three levels – short term, long term with the county wide permitting and state wide for permitting reform. Sustainable Conservation is assisting the RCD with working with USACE to obtain a federal nexus for the county wide permit. A tour of six 319(h) Navarro projects with Matt St. John, Jonathan Warmerdam and Bernadette Reed along with our consultants for those projects was held March 21st.

e. Linda MacElwee – The Prop 84 funded CCC’s have been working on invasive removal at the high school. The invasives are mainly Vinca and Himalayan Blackberry. We received a $3,000.00 award from the Community Foundation to assist with replicating the trail project at the elementary school.

4. New Business
   a. Willits Bypass Mitigation Plan Update
      i. Jeremiah Puget, NCRWQCB – Caltrans was unable to meet the original mitigation goals and went to a watershed approach alternative plan. The issue then was how to demonstrate enhancement of the property. The plan fell short on long term management, baseline conditions and the monitoring program. Several focus meetings were held last year and it was determined by the Regional Board that the amount of mitigation is appropriate. Caltrans needed assistance with demonstrating scientifically their enhancement proposal. The Regional Board gave them a monitoring reporting program in conjunction with water quality certification that would give them a trajectory to obtain baseline data. The EPA assisted by building a framework that would quantify the project impacts and how to measure lift. All of the agencies
involved were meeting together to help make this project a success. The Corps unexpectedly withdrew from those meetings. The Regional Board is neutral with regards to grazing. The permit includes language with regards to a grazing management plan. The baseline data report from Caltrans is due in July. Peter reported that Heidi Dickerson of Congressman Thompson’s office stated that the Corps is not imposing the current grazing plan onto Caltrans.

ii. Richard King, NRCS - Evaluated John Ford’s property. Livestock mimics natural grazing animals. A functioning wetland cannot exist without grazing animals. A flexible grazing plan could be developed. Ungrazed land is unnatural.

5. Old Business
   Long-range Planning – tabled until next meeting

6. Public Comment
   a. Several landowners and members of the public expressed their concerns about a “no-grazing” policy on the Willits bypass mitigation properties

7. Director Reports
   a. Fort Bragg Biomass Project – A company came to Ft Bragg and lunched with Jerry Melo. They are putting money into the project and have met with the planning department.

8. Adjourn – 12:40 pm

Larry Desmond
Board Chair
Directors Present: Larry Desmond; Peter Braudrick; Tyler Nelson; Craig Blencowe at 9:05am; Jerome Dix at 9:17am
Directors Absent: None
Associate Directors Present: None
Associate Directors Absent: Geri Hulse-Stephens
Staff Present: Jan Olave; Patty Madigan; Ursula Butler; Linda MacElwee
NRCS Staff Present: Carol Mandel
Other: None

1. Call to Order – 9:00 am
2. Calendar - An addition to the agenda for Resolution 2011-176. Tyler motioned to approve the consent calendar with the amendment, Peter seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays.

2. Administration
   a. Resolution 2011-176 authorizing the board to enter into an agreement with the CA Dept of Conservation and to designate a representative for the watershed coordinator grant. The grant funding is for $231,000.00. The grant will cover Linda for 16 hours and Shelly for 24 hours per week for three years. Tyler motioned to approve the resolution, Peter seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays.
   b. MOMU between NCRCD and NCIRWM - North Coast group is funding work in the Navarro and Forsythe. The updated version of the MOMU changed to include tribal representation. Tyler motioned to approve the MOMU, Peter seconded, Craig abstained due to his late arrival, 3 ayes 0 nays.
   c. Bank signer letter – The letter requests that Geri be removed as a signer on MCRCD accounts and Peter be added.
   d. MOA between Mendocino County and MCRCD for the Feliz Dam removal project – This project is a part of the Caltrans Geyserville Bridge Mitigation funds. The County is obligated to do the project. The project is the County’s responsibility and liability. DFG is pushing to get this project completed this year. County staff is currently working on the CEQA document. Tyler motions to approve the MOA, Larry seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.
   e. Request approval to spend $125k-$150k of RCD funds for summer construction in the event of a state shutdown – Peter feels that the change in the state budget approval requiring 51% instead of 2/3rds would result in a July passage. State agencies have been preparing the RCD for a state government shutdown. The RCD will be paid after the State budget passes. This action will be protecting our contractors and allowing the RCD to have a construction season. The funding is targeting Forsythe Creek. Peter motions to approve the request to spend the RCD funds up to $150,000, Tyler seconded, 5 ayes 0 nays.
f. Review and possible approval of proposed budget - Jan reported that she has been working on current billable rates. She has been working on budgeting billable and unbillable time per employee for the next fiscal year, and working towards project time equivalent to or better than expenses. This budget will have project development built in. The RCD is not losing money on projects but we are losing money on project development. Larry asked what our proposal success rate was and it was estimated at 75%. The current billable rates are inadequate. DFG contracts allow overhead and all other contracts have the overhead built into the billable rates. One obstacle is that older contracts are locked into low billable rates.

Jerome would like to see more fee for service and staff provided the education and certifications necessary to provide those services. Sotoyome RCD wants to come and train us on their mobile water lab, which could become a fee for service. Tyler suggested that the RCD consult with someone to establish billable rates. Peter suggested the West Company.

Craig motions to approve the proposed budget, Tyler seconded, 5 ayes 0 nays.

g. CARCD update – Report on the NC CARCD meeting – DOC representative feels that the RCD’s should make themselves more visible. The RCD’s should advertise themselves within their counties to garner public support. There was a presentation from RWQCB. Jim Spears from NRCS spoke on the federal budget. Conservation programs will be taking a large cut to their budgets. Peter feels that we should contact the newspapers regarding our projects.

3. Partner / Staff Reports

a. NRCS – Staff is winding down signups and plans. The next priority is to get the work on the ground. There is over a million dollars obligated this year. Large cuts are proposed for next year’s budget. Louise will be retiring in September and Carol is unsure if her position will be filled. NRCS vehicles are being considered for cuts. There could be some emerging opportunities for fee for service with the RCD’s. Carol reported that Jim Spears suggested that the RCD’s become Technical Service Providers. AWEP contracts are in finalization and two high priority projects dropped out due to the increase costs of the liners.

Peter extended a tentative invitation for a July 23rd BBQ at Susan Warner’s home for Phil Giles. Peter will send out an email when the plans are firmed up.

b. Grazing update – Caltrans had tried to push for more grazing and the Army Corps stated no grazing. There has been concern expressed from staff about the lack of protection for Baker’s Meadowfoam being restricted for perpetuity, and the potential for litigation. NRCS reported that Caltrans is consulting with them with regards to them removing grazing on those parcels. There will be 350 grazed acres for Baker’s Meadowfoam. We may want to wait until the end of the adaptive management period.
The board voted to move the meetings back to Tuesday. Next month will start the afternoon schedule.

4. **Old Business**  
   Long-range Planning – tabled until next meeting

5. **Public Comment** - None

6. **Adjourn** – 10:53 am

______________________________
Larry Desmond  
Board Chair
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 14, 2011

Directors Present: Jerome Dix; Tyler Nelson; Craig Blencowe
Directors Absent: Larry Desmond; Peter Braudrick
Associate Directors Present: None
Associate Directors Absent: Geri Hulse-Stephens
Staff Present: Jan Olave; Patty Madigan; Ursula Butler; Joe Scriven; Linda MacElwee, Shelley Janek
NRCS Staff Present: Carol Mandel
Other: Bob Whitney

1. Call to Order – 3:08 pm
2. Calendar - An addition to the district bills list for SDRMA Worker Comp coverage in the amount of $506.00. Tyler motioned to approve the consent calendar with the addition, Craig seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays. Tyler suggested that staff get competitors’ rates.
3. Administration
   a. Bank card signatures – signers need to be updated.
   b. Nominations and elections for FY 2011/12 – Craig nominates Jerome for Chair and Tyler for Vice Chair, Tyler seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays.
   c. Funding update – The State Water Resource Control Board notified the RCD that 319(h) for Navarro was approved for funding for $450,000. Patty submitted the proposal and it ranked number 1. Funding for Prop 84 for the Russian and Navarro was approved for $400,000. Garcia Assessment for Bewley, Alden & Wheeler properties was approved for $102,000. The DOC grant went into effect on the second and Shelley & Linda are currently in the field working.
   Caltrans update – Craig asked for an update on the Farm Bureau’s meeting held in Willits: The Army Corps was not present. Jerome stated that an elderly woman gave an interesting history of the area. She stated that when she was a little girl the river went dry and the bed was used as the road. The panel consisted of Caltrans’ Dave Kelley, Chris Collison, and Jeremy Ketchum; Craig Martz of DFG; and Jeremiah Puget of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The community is not happy about the no grazing policy. One mitigation property neighbor brought up concerns that the mitigation may damage his property and inquired what will be done if he suffers damages.
   Ensuing discussion: NRCS determines the amount of prime farmland conversion due and to Caltran’s projects 350+ acres have been converted by the Willits Bypass project. The properties will be taken out of Williamson Act. The EIR will have to be updated.

There was a major change with the Corps’ 2008 mitigation rule, which gave them the ability to use a watershed approach instead of the direct 2:1 ratio. It appears the project leader from the Corps doesn’t believe in
the watershed approach. Patty stated that the Corps it does not have to protect Baker’s meadowfoam or the Semaphore grass because they are not federally listed plant species and that the Corps feels that cattle degrade wetlands rather than enhance wetland habitat. Patty believes the Corps is not looking at the Ford’s holistic way of grazing but instead is looking at the other poor grazing practices within the valley and basing its requirements upon those examples. The Corps’ standard approach doesn’t address the invasives, the local culture, fish, or a holistic approach to managing the mitigation lands.

In a June, 2011 Ag Alert article the Corps stated that Caltrans bought property without consulting them first. In actuality, the agencies indicated to Caltrans they wanted the mitigation properties under Caltrans’ control before the MMP was written and permits issued. A new MMP is currently being developed and the Corps will hold a public meeting in Willits and a public comment period before issuing its permit. DFG will amend its permit and may require Caltrans to mitigate for limiting potential Baker’s meadowfoam habitat.

Caltrans has requested monthly meetings with Jan to keep the RCD updated on project developments.

4. Old Business
   a. Long Range Planning – Tabled until next month. Discussion: Changes in the makeup of the staff is changing how the RCD does business. The RCD will be doing more on the ground work inhouse. Jan feels that we will begin doing more work for the county. The RCD now has a line item in the proposed budget in the amount of $25,200.00. Tyler wants to make sure that the county funding is for project development and not a pre-payment for work that the county may ask of the RCD. Road funding is becoming less available due to forest roads now being considered point source pollution. Jan is targeting next year for retirement, and will inform the board well in advance.

5. Partner / Staff Reports
   a. NRCS – The table on the report represents the work being done per watershed. Audits are on going. The staff will be very busy this summer getting the planned work completed. The workshop feedback was positive. Carol felt that the workshop was too short. The organic program brought in small grape growers and few understand irrigation scheduling. Tyler asked about an irrigation workshop or a SIMUS data workshop. Jan stated that there is workshop funding available through the DOC grant. Carol suggested that she, Erica & Shelley go out to Tyler’s ranch to start putting together a workshop outline. Shelley and Erica could get acquainted with what growers are doing. Carol requested a meeting to work out the details for conducting an irrigation workshop. Hedgerow planting is part of the organic program. The plants attract beneficial insects and provide pollinator habitat. NRCS has learned a great deal through the organic program.
When Louise retires the indication is that her position will be backfilled. Carol is considering replacing her position with a forester. NRCS Trimble staff person will be in the office on the 22nd. Carol will have them take a look at the RCD Trimble unit and answer RCD staff questions.

6. New Business
   a. Strategic Path, Wetland Mitigation Management Plan presentation by Bob Whitney – Bob has been following the bypass project for the past 30 years. He feels that no one has contemplated the impacts of the mitigation until recently. Bob stated that the watershed approach doesn’t work for wetland mitigation. He stated that he’s come up with what he thought was a more rational alternative. He also stated “I’ve come up with a solution that meets the environmentally superior alternative. The enviromental superior alternative in CEQA jargon is something that you really have to take seriously. If you don’t do that you have to have an overriding consideration under CEQA not to do it”. He previously presented Caltrans with a plan that would have created 10 – 15 acres of wetlands through a conservation easement and that Caltrans turned down the proposal due to the fact that the landowner did not want to sell the property. He asked the RCD board to think about his plan. He feels that conservation easements are preferable to public land ownership. He suggests that Caltrans sell the property at the agricultural value back to the farmers with conservation easements in place to be managed by the RCD. Jan responded that the board decided against holding easements two years ago and preferred fee title to avoid placing the RCD in an enforcement position with landowners. DFG has agreed to hold the easements on the property that the RCD owns in fee title. Bob feels that the 90 acres of wetland creation is available in Little Lake Valley if Caltrans would consider conservation easements over fee title.

7. Public Comment - None

8. Directors Report - Craig stated that the Biomass group is still working with potential developers.

9. Adjourn – 5:04 pm

Jerome Dix
Board Chair
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
July 12, 2011

Directors Present: Jerome Dix; Craig Blencowe; Peter Braudrick
Directors Absent: Larry Desmond; Tyler Nelson
Associate Directors Present: None
Associate Directors Absent: Geri Hulse-Stephens
Staff Present: Jan Olave; Patty Madigan; Ursula Butler; Joe Scriven; Linda MacElwee, Shelley Janek
NRCS Staff Present: Emma Chow
Other: None

1. Call to Order – 3:12 pm
2. Calendar - Additions to the district bills list for John Foster Trucking in the amount of $3056.63 and Glen McGourty for $195.00 for the Yokayo Rancheria Invasives Removal and Revegetation project. Craig motioned to approve the consent calendar with the addition, Peter seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays.

3. Administration
   a. Election – Jerome motioned to elect Peter as Vice-Chair, Peter seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays. Craig motions to elect Jerome Dix as Chair, Jerome seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays.
   b. Craig motioned to adopt the Garcia CEQA addendum, Peter seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays.
   c. MOU with MCDoT for Mill Creek Bridge on Reeves Canyon Road – The MOU was reviewed and approved by County Counsel. Craig motioned to approve the MOU, Peter seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays.
   d. Mendocino County Water Agency meeting was postponed until August.

4. New Business
   a. MCRCD as CEQA lead for Feliz Dam removal – If MCRCD were to be the CEQA lead it would expedite the project. Jan reported that Howard Dashiell doesn’t feel that permits could be ready for implementation this year. Jan feels that since this is an agency driven project, that permits would not be a problem. Peter would like to wait on a decision until after the public meeting is held in Hopland. Shelley and Joe will be attending the meeting and can provide the board with their observations. Peter stated that he would like to have the County be the lead agency. No action was taken, thus the CEQA lead will be left with the County.

5. Partner / Staff Reports
   a. NRCS – An internal field audit was conducted. The project tour included bio-engineering, irrigation and road work projects. The Irrigation Water Management workshop series is targeted for April or May. NRCS will be hosting booths at upcoming fairs. An outreach plan is being
developed. NRCS will be advertising conservation planning services in
the local paper and with the Farm Bureau publication. Emma advises
that Carol is still interested in pursuing a Forester position after Louise
retires.

6. Old Business
   a. Long-range planning – continued to next meeting.

7. Public Comment - None

8. Directors Report - Peter announced a going away barbecue for Phil Giles.

9. Adjourn – 4:35 pm

______________________________________________________________________

Jerome Dix
Board Chair
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
August 9, 2011

Directors Present: Jerome Dix; Craig Blencowe; Peter Braudrick; Larry Desmond  
Directors Absent: Tyler Nelson  
Associate Directors Present: None  
Associate Directors Absent: Geri Hulse-Stephens  
Staff Present: Jan Olave; Patty Madigan; Ursula Butler; Shelley Janek  
NRCS Staff Present: Carol Mandel  
Other: None

1. Call to Order – 3:11 pm
2. Calendar - Amend the July minutes to reflect Peter participating by telephone. The closed session of the agenda was moved to the Administration section of the agenda. Peter requested a legal opinion on the subject. Craig motioned to approve the consent calendar with the changes, Larry seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.

3. Administration  
a. Caltrans Update – the Corps is beginning to bend on the mitigation and more grazing may be allowed. The mitigation plan should be complete in September. Craig inquired as to why the Corps is now willing to change. Jan stated that the pressure on the Corps is coming from Rep. Thompson’s office. Jerome asked about the pending legislation that would preclude the RCD from holding the Willits mitigation land. SB436 was written to amend existing language to include land trusts and other entities in holding DFG mitigation lands. The language specifically included special districts that were entitled under Division 5 and excluded RCD’s from holding and managing DFG mitigation lands and endowments. They are currently discussing inserting language that will not preempt any previous legislation.

b. Follow up to discussion of MC Water Agency projects – Jan spoke with the Coastal Conservancy about funding a water study for the Navarro River which is a MCWA project. The Coastal Conservancy seems to be the only entity providing funding assisting landowners with AB2121 compliance, but they are doing it through Trout Unlimited (TU). TU has acted more likes a regulatory agency in that position by potesting water rights applications, but then help to provide funding to assist landowners to comply with the very things that they are protesting. The Coastal Conservancy has not responded as of yet. A verbal request to the Coastal Conservancy for funding to outreach to landowners to work with DFG prior to submitting a water rights application was turned down as the Coastal Conservancy is invested at this time with TU and prefers to work with one contract per project. TU

c. Resolution 2011-178 to enter into an agreement with SWRCB for the Navarro Headwaters TMDL Implementation Project – funding is for $450,000.00. This project includes the Galbreath (GWP) road implementation, fish passage on the Lawson property, and riparian reveg.
On GWP. Craig would like the board to have an opportunity to tour the project. Patty suggests sometime in early November. Carol suggested a joint tour of NRCS projects in the area as well.

d. Resolution 2011-179 to enter into an agreement with SWRCB for the Garcia River TMDL Road Assessment Project – funding is for $102,000.00. A planning grant for Alden, Bewely and Wheeler properties to assess road and streambank sediment control projects. Peter motioned to approve the resolutions 2011-178 and 179 to enter agreements on the Navarro and Garcia projects; Larry seconded; 4 ayes 0 nays.

e. Discuss the annual audit (2009-10) – Jan would like us to stay with Randolph Scott but would like to request a new auditor from their firm due to communication issues. Jan reported that there are no Labor Compliance Officers in this county and that my be something the board may consider a fee for service. The new 319(h) contracts require the RCD to have an adopted labor compliance program.

f. Board Chair address to the board – Jerome would like the board to do a review of some of the RCD documents, primarily insurance. Larry would be open to a review. Peter suggests that the insurance agent should address the board and Larry agreed. Jerome also wants to have a review of the RCD policies.

g. Determine percentage of annual wage increase - Jan reported that the approved annual budget included the staff rate increase of 4%. Jan is requesting a 4% rate increase. Some board members stated that in this economy that many employees are actually going backwards in compensation. Jan responded that the RCD staff has already gone backwards when the Workshare program was in force through EDD and staff hours were reduced up to 40% The increase is for four employess only; the watershed coordinators’ wages are tied to a contract. Peter motioned to give the staff a 3% pay increase; Craig seconded; no vote taken. Jan asked to have the discussion tabled until next meeting. The board would like to have Tyler’s input on the matter. The board decided to make the decision the following meeting in September and that if a raise is granted that it will be retroactive to July 1, 2011.

4. Partner / Staff Reports

a. Staff Reports - 

i. Shelley- The Ridgewood Ranch cattle are getting into the Forsythe Creek revegetation site. There was some damage to the irrigation system. The cows have been moved from the area and are not due back until the fall. Peter asked about the public meeting regarding the Feliz Creek dam removal. Shelley felt that the meeting was poorly attended. Mill Creek bridge project are drilling bore holes looking for solid rock for pilings.

ii. Joe’s report stated that the Garcia River Headwater project frog survey found an inordinate number of bull frogs and Jerome
wanted to know if the area was originally a California red-legged frog area.

iii. NRCS – Carol reported that they will be bringing on Tom Schott for 20 hours a week for a year by year contract. He will be providing forest land assistance. She is considering a range conservationist position to replace Louise but, it is a difficult position to fill. The open position level is being reduced from a GS11 to a GS9. NRCS is looking to implement a single GS11 in each office. A local work group meeting is due. EQIP has an opportunity for local ranking points. The Work Group meeting was scheduled for September 9th.

5. Public Comment - None

6. Directors Report –

7. Closed Session – Item moved to Administration section.


________________________________________
Jerome Dix
Board Chair
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 13, 2011

Directors Present: Jerome Dix; Larry Desmond, Tyler Nelson, Craig Blencowe @ 3:28, Peter Braudrick @ 3:30
Directors Absent: None
Associate Directors Present: None
Associate Directors Absent: Geri Hulse-Stephens
Staff Present: Jan Olave; Patty Madigan; Ursula Butler; Shelley Janek, Linda MacElwee
NRCS Staff Present: Emma Chow
Other: Dennis Slota

1. **Call to Order** – 3:10 pm

2. **Calendar** - Additions to the District Bills in the amount of $6,835.00 to close out the 319(h) Navarro grant and $990.12 for Ukiah Hinthill. Jerome asked to try to have the RCD insurance agent come to a board meeting. Jan requested a list of questions from Jerome to present to the insurance agent and suggested that the agent come prior to the board meeting. Larry motioned to approved the amended consent calendar, Tyler seconded, 3 ayes 0 nays.

3. **Administration**
   
a. Discussion and possible action regarding meeting times – Tyler stated that if the meetings were only held in the morning then he would not be able to attend and would prefer to meet at 6pm. Tyler stated that any ag producer would have the same issue. Afternoon meetings are scheduled for two hours instead of three. Less RCD business is being completed due to the shortened hours.

b. CARCD annual meeting registrants – The meeting will be held November 8th – 11th in Stockton. The RCD was awarded a $500.00 scholarship. Shelley and Linda will be attending. This meeting is geared toward directors.

c. MC Water Agency projects and RCD assistance – Jan met with Nash Gonzalez regarding the RCD taking on some of the Water Agencies projects. The county currently doesn’t have the capacity to complete all of the projects. Jan recommends completing the Noyo/Big River watershed management plan. The grant was terminated with the project incomplete. Completion is estimated at $40,000.00. Nash asked Jan to come up with a list of projects with a scope of work and a budget. Jan stated that the county has never come to the RCD before and this is an opportunity to work closer with the county. Tyler stated that the Board of Supervisors does not have an understanding of what the RCD does and how it utilizes the funding the county provides.

d. Discussion and possible action re: County NPDES permit – The county is under an NPDES permit. The storm water ordinance is an element to fulfill the permit. The ABC coalition has strong resistance to the ordinance. It was stated that they feel the ordinance is only required to be
applied to the municipalities and the surrounding urbanized areas. Agriculture could be exempt from the ordinance and the county would have to assume liability for third party runoff. Irrigated runoff is exempt currently. Craig feels that the ordinance is redundant for the rural areas. Dennis asked the board to support the resource elements of the ordinance. No action was taken.

e. Re-sign MOU on Mill Creek Bridge – the original was lost by the County. Larry resigned the document.

f. Review of Local Workgroup role – NRCS has changed the rules of the LWG. The local priorities are now being set cluster wide. Some of the high priorities of Mendocino County are not priorities for the cluster. Percentage of funding was set for each resource concern the cluster named a priority. The funding will be awarded to the cluster and must be competed for cluster wide. Mendocino County will rank higher in the Federal and State rankings. Patty will draft a letter stating the RCD position. NRCS service centers have voiced complaints as well.

g. Discussion and possible wage increases – the increases were approved as proposed.

4. Partner / Staff Reports
   a. NRCS – Emma Chow reported that Tom Schott is scheduled to work twenty hours per week. Louise has retired. The open position will be at a GS 9 level soil conservationist. An organic workshop was held to train TSP’s on the NRCS planning process for people applying for the transition to organic. There are none currently in the state.

5. Public Comment - None

6. Directors Report – None

7. Adjourn – 5:30

Jerome Dix
Board Chair
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 11, 2011

Directors Present: Jerome Dix; Larry Desmond, Tyler Nelson, Craig Blencowe
Directors Absent: Peter Braudrick
Associate Directors Present: None
Associate Directors Absent: Geri Hulse-Stephens
Staff Present: Jan Olave; Patty Madigan; Ursula Butler; Shelley Janek
NRCS Staff Present: Erica Lundquist
Other: None

1. Call to Order – 3:11 pm

2. Calendar - Additions to the District Bills in the amount of $175.00 from SDRMA. Additions for the NCIRWM Forsythe Creek Roads project from Northern Aggregates at $7,806.93 and Mendocino County Farm Supply at 98.80. Craig motioned to approve the consent calendar with the additions, Larry seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.

3. Administration
   a. Request by NCCARC&D for MCRCD to host pollinator workshop – They will provide $500.00 in cash towards the venue. They will provide speakers and the agenda. The RCD will do the outreach. Tyler moves that the RCD hosts the pollinator workshop. The venue will depend on what the speakers will require. Shelley suggested Parducci or Dark Horse vineyards that already have hedgerows in place. Patty suggested MCOE may have space for an indoor presentation. Larry seconded the motion, 4 ayes 0 nays.
   b. Field guide update – Tamera Camper reported that it would take under 30 hours to complete the guide. The book is a guide for rare and endangered plants of the redwood forest. Craig will try to get into contact with her.
   c. Resolution for entering into contract with Calfire for JDSF Berry Gulch project match – This is a procedural step for Calfire to provide match to the DFG grant. Tyler motioned to pass the resolution, Craig seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.
   d. Annual CARCD Membership dues past due – amount is based on a percentage of RCD expenses. Some benefits include a lobbyist, and developing relationships with other organizations that benefit RCD’s; they worked on the SB436 issue and they will be working on the NRCS local working group issue. Jerome recommended that the RCD pay the membership dues, Tyler seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.
   e. CARCD Annual Conference – Jan asked for a final call on conference attendees. Peter will be attending. Shelley, Linda and Jan will be attending also. The RCD is getting one scholarship, Shelley and Linda are being paid for by the DOC grant, and one attendee will be out of the RCD funds.
   f. Discuss project tour in November – Craig stated that he will not be able to attend. Jan stated that a tour in December would work best for her.
Possible projects tours could be Ridgewood Ranch, Yokayo Rancheria and Largo Ranch. It was agreed that the tour would be done in December.

4. Partner / Staff Reports
   a. Staff Updates –
      i. Jan – Risk manager will be available in November after the board meeting. The county is asking for a list of deliverables for contributing operation funding to the RCD. The money has always been used for project development. The Caltrans Willits Bypass MMP was received and Geri will be reviewing the plan. Mill Creek bridge contract has not been received yet but when it does come in the first invoice will be approximately $75,000.00.
      ii. Patty – a work day is planned for the Anderson Valley Elementary School trail. Four sessions of electrofishing were done for the Garcia project.
      iii. Joe – Arundo eradication on Beckstoffer & Largo ranches. Caltrans approved the use of herbicide. West Coast Landscaping has done a good job on the willow mattress. The success of these projects will demonstrate to other landowners our success.
      iv. Shelley – Kayaked 24 miles of the Russian River. GPS 166 sites and 40 Army Corps jacks in the river. Potential projects include invasive removal and navigation hazards. There were approximately 40 Arundo sites.
   b. NRCS - Due to budget cutbacks, Louise’s position will not be filled. A soil information website is under development. Carol is serving on the Landscape Planning Advisory Team. The team is looking into NRCS programs on a watershed basis instead of political boundaries. EQIP and WHIP application deadlines are November 18th.

5. Public Comment - None

6. Directors Report – None

7. Adjourn – 4:53

Jerome Dix
Board Chair
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 8, 2011

Directors Present: Jerome Dix; Larry Desmond; Tyler Nelson; Peter Braudrick @ 9:45am

Directors Absent: Craig Blencowe

Associate Directors Present: Geri Hulse-Stephens

Associate Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: Jan Olave; Patty Madigan; Ursula Butler; Shelley Janek; Linda MacElwee; Joe Scriven

NRCS Staff Present: Carol Mandel

Other: None

1. Call to Order – 9:40 am

2. Calendar - Larry motioned to accept the consent calendar, Tyler seconded the motion, 3 ayes 0 nays.

3. Administration
   a. December tour and potluck – it was decided the tour will include Beckstoffer, Largo and Yokayo projects. The staff will email the board regarding pot luck details before the next meeting.
   b. Appoint sub-committee to make recommendations to the board regarding holiday gifts for the staff – Tyler and Peter volunteered to be the sub-committee.
   c. Request to reimburse Joe Scriven $100.00 for windshield replacement deductible – Tyler motions to reimburse Joe $100.00, Larry seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.

4. Partner / Staff Reports
   a. Staff Updates –
      i. Jan – Toured with Caltrans personnel and DFG staff associated with the Geyserville Bridge mitigation projects. They are happy with the work, how the money is being spent and that the RCD has leveraged the funding close to double. The tour included the Lower Forsythe and Yokayo. We received a copy of a letter from the Regional Board in response to a request from Redwood Valley Water District had asked the board to give them credit towards their mitigation obligations for a project that was done on the wrong site. Bill Kohler will be asking his board to cut a check to us for the full amount of the mitigation to be applied to projects north of Hwy 20. He liked the idea of the RVOEP project.
      ii. Patty – A meeting was held with Mendocino County Redwood Co. to discuss what some of their priorities were and what we could collaborate on. They have funded projects that are currently stalled due to the economy.
iii. The Army Corps public meeting for the Willits bypass mitigation was positive overall. There is still some reluctance for the project from the environmental community and those that have grazing on leased land. The grazing is now three times greater than the Corps proposed no-grazing plan. Tyler stated that he is not sure that the amount of allowed grazing will be enough to sustain a ranching business. Geri stated that a grazing association might be useful with a grazing manager who would oversee all of the mitigation lands. The income from the grazing leases could pay for the services of a grazing association manager. Multi-species grazing is being considered. Caltrans believes that the 404 permit will be forthcoming. Caltrans anticipates construction beginning in 2013 and the mitigation implementation will begin concurrently.

b. NRCS - There is a trend to move away from local input and control of programs. The changes are due to ranking procedure findings from the audits. Staff is very busy with signups. NRCS is going to be able to cost-share on energy audits if funds are made available. There is now a State Energy Specialist that oversees the program and it is funded from EQIP.

5. Public Comment - None

6. Directors Report – Larry discussed the difficult decision facing the Willits City Council regarding the current Hwy 101 relinquishment.

7. Adjourn – 10:47

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Jerome Dix
Board Chair
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 13, 2011

Directors Present: Jerome Dix; Larry Desmond, Craig Blencowe, Peter Braudrick
Directors Absent: Tyler Nelson
Associate Directors Present: None
Associate Directors Absent: Geri Hulse-Stephens
Staff Present: Jan Olave; Patty Madigan; Ursula Butler; Shelley Janek, Linda MacElwee, Joe Scriven
NRCS Staff Present: Carol Mandel, Erica Lundquist
Other: None

1. Call to Order – 9:09 am

2. Consent Calendar – Additional bills were added to the list for approval. The financial statements in the board package lacked the month end entries. The two 319(h) project resolutions, previously approved in August, needed to be amended to include the dollar amount of the award. These were added to the agenda for re-approval. Larry motioned to approved the amended consent calendar, Peter seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays.

3. Administration
   a. Amended 319(h) resolutions with award amounts – Craig motioned to approve, Peter seconded, 4 ayes 0 nays. Craig asked for clarification on the Willits Bypass Project with regards to grazing. It appears that the Army Corps may be giving mitigation credit for the Baker’s meadowfoam. Caltrans has asked the RCD to update the letter of intent to take the mitigation properties. The board decided to have further discussion before updating the letter. The board would like to have a tour of all of the mitigation properties. Caltrans approved having a third party review the MMP. Larry reported that there is now an active beaver population on mitigation properties.

4. Public Comment - Peter asked if the staff would step out so the committee could report and discuss the staff holiday gift recommendations.

5. Directors Report – None

6. Adjourn – 9:45am.

7. Note: Staff and directors attended a site visit to three restoration projects off Old river Road between Talmage and Hopland in the Upper Russian mainstem.

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Jerome Dix
Board Chair