Summary Minutes
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2015
5:30 p.m.

Note: Agenda items are occasionally considered out of order to accommodate the schedules of guest speakers and/or members of the public in attendance for a specific item. The official minutes remain recorded in the same order as originally published in the official agenda.

1. Call to Order: President Castillo called the meeting to order. The following Directors were present: Roger Castillo, Mondy Lariz, Bill Leikam and Jim Moore.

2. Approve Agenda:
   Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Leikam/Lariz; 4-0-0)

Closed Session:

3. Pending Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(a))
   3.1. The Board met in closed session to confer with Legal Counsel regarding the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) Settlement Agreement and gave direction to staff.

4. Regular Session: The Board reconvened into regular session, and President Castillo reported out from Closed Session.

5. Approval of Minutes:
   Motion: Approve the regular session minutes for the special meeting of the October 26, 2015, as presented. (Leikam/Lariz; 4-0-0)

6. Public Matters Not on the Agenda: None.

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)
   7.1. District Conservationist Report: DC Aquino was unable to attend the meeting. Executive Director Moreno reported that NRCS California is partnering with CARCD to provide small outreach grant opportunities (up to $2,000) for Ag Partners, Non-Profit Organization and RCD’s for resource conservation projects to historically underserved producers. She recommended exploring the possibility of applying for a grant in collaboration with Valley Verde. The Board concurred with her recommendation.
   7.2. Santa Clara County Local Work Group Meeting Report: ED Moreno reported on the October 1st meeting jointly hosted by GCRCD and Loma Prieta RCD. It was well-attended, and included representatives from NRCS, local agencies, and two agricultural producers. John Wick, co-founder of the Marin Carbon Institute and co-owner of the Nicasio Native Grass Ranch, and Pelayo Alvarez gave a presentation on carbon farming.
8. Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)

8.1. **SCVWD Water Utilities Report:** Ryan Heacock gave an update on FAHCE and reported that the Evelyn Fish Ladder project is completed. He was asked the status of pit-tagging/monitoring efforts, and he responded that: it has been discussed at the FAHCE science team; they still have 5 active antennas on the 5 open bays at the salt ponds; they need to construct additional antennas; and the application for pit-tagging has been submitted but has not yet been approved. He also was asked about the status of the contract for Ogier Ponds, and responded that he will ask and report back at the next meeting.

8.2. **SCVWD Watershed Operations Report:** ED Moreno reported that Norma Camacho, Chief Operating Officer for Watersheds, has agreed to assign a representative to attend future meetings.

8.3. **Integrated Water Resources Master Plan Stakeholder Group Report:** ED Moreno reported that the next phase of the stakeholder process is due to begin in 2016, and will include development of a watershed plan for Coyote Creek. She asked if any of the Board members are interested in participating on SCVWD’s planning committee. Director Lariz asked to be sent additional information on meeting date/time.

9. Projects and Programs

9.1. **Wildlife Videos:** ED Moreno recommended that the Board consider partial funding for the Tule elk video as the estimate exceeds the budget allocation for this fiscal year. She suggested funding the remaining portion in next year’s budget, which will begin in July 2016. She also requested the Board approve the final invoice for the Beaver video. Mr. Kerekez indicated he would like to begin filming the rutting season in November, and estimated about 20 hours of filming for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Motion: Approve up to 20 hours of filming for the elk video (maximum of $2,000), and approve the final invoice for Greg Kerekez for the Beaver video. (Lariz/Moore; 4-0-0)

9.2. **Coyote Valley Wildlife Corridor Project:** Board members in attendance at the Coyote Valley Wildlife Linkage Assessment Stakeholder meeting on November 9th reported on the meeting. The Board requested the ED follow up with the SCCOSA regarding the possibility of GCRCD serving as a liaison for them with private landowners in the area.

9.3. **Ranchers’ Outreach Program:** ED Moreno gave an update on the work GCRCD consultant Pelayo Alvarez is doing to develop a ranchers’ workshop in February and a field day in the spring, as part of the NRCS cooperative agreement.

9.4. **Stevens Creek Fish Pass Survey:** The Board discussed the results of the survey, which was funded by the Rose Foundation on behalf of Permanente Creek/Stevens Creek Alliances, and Director Lariz reported on additional work being considered on Stevens Creek.

9.5. **CDFW Local Area Assistance Grant Program:** ED Moreno gave an update on the grant application submitted by GCRCD as lead agency on behalf of a partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency and Santa Clara County Parks.

9.6. **GCRCD Stakeholder Group:** ED Moreno reported on potential collaboration with SCVWD for a series of brown bag forums connected to the efforts of the Integrated Water Resources Master Plan process, and the possibility of meeting with interested members of the Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) to discuss interagency coordination and communication on watershed projects and programs.

9.7. **Alamitos Drop Structure Feasibility Study:** The Board reviewed the technical memo from McBain Associates, and discussed how to proceed with the proposal.
Motion: Authorize the President to send a letter to the SCVWD Board requesting consideration of the proposal to conduct a Alamitos Drop Structure Feasibility Study, subject to review by GCRCD Counsel. (Lariz/Moore; 4-0-0)

9.8. Stream Field Trip: President Castillo presented his idea for a field trip for state and local officials, and the Board recommended he and ED Moreno come back to the Board in January with a specific plan.

10. Administrative

10.1. Associate Director Appointment: The Board reviewed the letter of interest from Gary Jahns, who was present to discuss his application and answer questions.

Motion: Appoint Gary Jahns as GCRCD Associate Director (Lariz/Moore; 4-0-0)

10.2. Revenue and Expenditure Report: The Board reviewed invoices and accepted the report.

10.3. 2015-16 Budget: Continued until the December meeting.

10.4. McBain Associates: ED Moreno explained that the review McBain Associates is conducting for proposed construction on Reaches 7 and 8 of the Guadalupe River involved some unexpected modeling work, which caused a cost overrun. She believes McBain’s work has proven to be extremely beneficial to the 65% design review being conducted by GWIWG, of which GCRCD is a member. McBain has requested a payment of an additional $3,000 towards the modeling work, which represents about one-half of the additional hours they invested. ED Moreno also recommended increasing the total agreement allocation from $5,000 to $15,000 to allow for their continued involvement in GWIWG and the Alamitos Drop Structure proposal.

Motion: Approve the additional $3,000 for work already completed, and increase the total agreement allocation for McBain Associates to $15,000. (Lariz/Leikam; 4-0-0)

10.5. Veggielution Community Farm: ED Moreno reviewed Veggielution’s request to amend the scope of work for their agreement, and indicated there is no increased cost as a result of the amendment. The Board indicated they would like for Veggielution’s Executive Director to come back to answer questions at a future meeting.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to amend the grant agreement with Veggielution Community Farm. (Lariz/Leikam; 4-0-0)

10.6. GCRCD Volunteer Policy: The Board reviewed the draft policy and requested amendments; ED Moreno will bring back revised policy for approval.

10.7. GCRCD Vehicle Use Policy: ED Moreno reviewed the draft policy.

Motion: Approve the Vehicle Use Policy as presented. (Lariz/Leikam; 4-0-0)

10.8. GCRCD Speaker Guidelines: The Board discussed setting a 3-minute limit for receiving public comment on both items on the agenda and items raised during public comments not on the agenda, but agreed limits for agendized presentations should be determined on a case-by-case basis. ED Moreno will prepare a formal policy for Board review and adoption.

10.9. GCRCD Grant Program: ED Moreno recommended changes to the GCRCD grant program, including development of formal eligibility criteria, and establishment of application deadlines. After discussion, the Board agreed to a quarterly grant application cycle and development of formal guidelines. ED Moreno will work with Associate Directors Jahns and Hale to develop a proposal for Board review and approval.
11. Director, Associate Director and Executive Director Reports

Director Castillo: He screened a video following up on issues related to storm water.

Director Leikam: He reported that they unsuccessfully attempted to catch the fox with the eye infections in order to get it treatment, but have now located a veterinarian who will try to dart the fox, sedate it, and give it antibiotics.

12. Adjourn until December 14, 2015: The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.