SUMMARY MINUTES

Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)
An independent special district of the State of California
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Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 12, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Note: Though agenda items may be 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: Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Rick Lanman. Directors Roger Castillo and John Vidovich were present. Associate Directors Larry Johmann, Gary Jahns and Bill Leikam, and Executive Director Stephanie Moreno were present.

2. Approval of Agenda:
   
   Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Castillo/Vidovich; 3-0-0)

3. Public Comment: None

4. Consent Agenda:
   
   Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented. (Castillo/Vidovich; 3-0-0)

5. Presentation: California Envirothon

5.1 How to grow California Envirothon with RCD leadership and participation. Ms. Jovita Pajarillo, retired from EPA and currently the Chair for California Envirothon, gave a presentation on the Envirothon program and its previous work with NRCS and other resource conservation districts. They are interested in expanding their program with the help of GCRCD. ED Moreno will follow up on partnership possibilities with Ms. Pajarillo.

6. Programs and Projects

6.1.1 Overview by Richard McMurtry, Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition (SCCCC), on the Coyote Creek report by Dr. Jerry Smith (December 2017). Dr. Jerry Smith was present at the meeting, so he was asked by the Board President to take the lead on this presentation. Dr. Smith reviewed some of his findings and stated that he believes one of the highest priorities for these fish – and one that has been largely neglected in the FAHCE settlement agreement – is their out-migration. He stated that steelhead adults will come in on pulse flow, but juvenile fish “lollygag” going out, so relying on a 5-day period isn’t enough. Mr. Anthony Fulcher, the SCVWD attorney assigned to FAHCE, responded that they have been “going in circles” trying to make the plan work, and commented that in the FAHCE agreement, they’ve agreed to maintain the upper watersheds. Mr. McMurtry also commented on the Dr. Smith’s report, which concluded that “unsuitable flow conditions, and the barrier at Singleton Road, have resulted in passage bottlenecks that have eliminated most or all steelhead production for the past five years, potentially extirpating steelhead”.

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He suggested during discussion that GCRCD should engage in outreach to Santa Clara County and City of San José for consideration of the steelhead as a community asset.

6.1.2 Overview by Richard McMurtry, SCCCC, on the SCCCC and Sierra Club water rights complaint (filed March 2018). Mr. McMurtry summarized the reasons for and content of SCCCC’s complaint to the State Water Board, which alleges violations of the terms and conditions of water rights licenses under which the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) diverts and appropriates water from Alamitos Creek, Guadalupe Creek, and the Guadalupe River in and around the City of San José.

6.1.3 Update by ED Moreno on the status of SCVWD-sponsored SB 1301 (Senator Beall), an act relating to environmental permitting. ED Moreno gave an update on this legislation to the Board, which would enable certain applicants, including the SCVWD, to seek permitting exemptions for projects proposed in certain historic flood areas, such as Coyote Creek. The bill is in the process of amendment.

7. Director/Associate Director/Staff Roundtable:

7.1 Updates:

President Lanman reported that he had talked with SCVWD Director Barbara Keegan regarding FAHCE EIR schedule issues and the lack of response to GCRCD's request to schedule a meeting between SCVWD CEO Norma Camacho and ED Moreno.

Director Vidovich reported that he had a meeting with several SCVWD Board members and SCVWD staff regarding FAHCE EIR schedule issues, and that they are very interested in fish and the environment.

Director Castillo showed a new video of steelhead and Chinook salmon activity within the "Three Creeks" area.

Associate Director Johmann commented that it was his observation over the years that some local agencies fail to take care of priority issues, then declare an emergency and avoid following normal rules/protocol.

Associate Director Leikam reported on AB 2422, by Assemblymember Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica), which would ban certain "rat poisons", or rodenticides, due to the unintended destructive downstream consequences on people, animals and wildlife. The bill is an especially important one for the urban gray fox.

ED Moreno gave an update on meetings/activities relating to San Jose-SPUR, Guadalupe River Conservancy, Santa Clara's Watershed Management Initiative, the Guadalupe River Adaptive Management Team, the engagement of an auditor for 2016-18 biennial audit, and USDA-NRCS.

8. Closed Session:

8.1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)):

Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) Settlement Agreement regarding water rights of the Santa Clara Valley Water District on Coyote, Guadalupe, and Stevens Creeks.

Closed session was cancelled due to GCRCD’s attorney no longer being available because the starting time of the item had been delayed.

9. Meeting was adjourned until May 10, 2018.
Consent Agenda (Item 4)

4.1 Minutes for the February 8, 2018 Board of Directors meeting.

4.2 Financial reports for February 2018.

4.3 Authorization for GCRCD President to sign a letter of support for a proposed San Jose Conservation Corps grant application entitled “Coyote Creek Revegetation and Disadvantaged Youth Career Path Project”.