

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2025

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** was held Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bethallyn Black, Igor Skaredoff, & Lorena Castillo

ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT: Derene Allen
Remote: Bob Peoples & Chris Choate

RCD STAFF PRESENT: Chris Lim & Patty Pell
Remote: Ben Weise, Heidi Petty & Jules Mackey

NRCS STAFF PRESENT: Remote: Luis Rivera-Cruz, District Conservationist

DIRECTORS EXCUSED: Renee Fernandez-Lipp & Walter Pease

Call to Order: Bethallyn Black called the meeting to order at 8:31 A.M.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE (Remote):
Rich Walkling, Managing Principal/CFO, Restoration Design Group
Gary Roth, Associate Principal Landscape Architect, Restoration Design Group
Devin Best, Executive Director, Golden State Land Conservancy
Rob Moore, Conservation Director, Golden State Land Conservancy

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: BROWN ACT, SECTION (54954.2(B) (2))
DETERMINATION THAT A NEED IMMEDIATE ACTION EXISTS:
No item added

NRCS REPORT: Luis Rivera-Cruz provided updates on the end of the fiscal year application selections and payment status.

PRESENTATIONS:
6.1-Presentation #1-Rich Walkling and Gary Roth, both with Restoration Design Group presented on the Marsh Creek Restoration project, presenting its goals, restoration objectives, design timeline, funding timeline and strategy along with anticipated dates for the construction phases. A question-and-answer session followed.

Presentation #2- Devin Best and Rob Moore, both with Golden State Land Conservancy introduced a pilot partnership opportunity with CCRCD, outlining potential roles and collaborative capacities between the two organizations.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Item 7.1-July 15, 2025 Board Minutes
Item 7.2-July 2025 Financial Report

Lorena Castillo made a motion to approve Items 7.1 & 7.2 as presented. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0.

DETERMINATION ITEMS:

- 8.1** Consider approval of contract with Alameda County Resource Conservation District for biomonitoring services related to livestock pond restoration. Following Ben Weise explanation on the need to subcontract with Alameda County Resource Conservation District and listing the funder involved, Igor Skaredoff moved to approve contract with Alameda County RCD. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0.
- 8.2** Consider approval of grant amendment for NRCS Equity Grant. Ben Weise explained the proposed revisions made to the existing grant, clarified the reimbursable amount and edits to the original language. Following this discussion, Lorena Castillo moved to approve the amended contract with NRCS. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0.
- 8.3** Consider approval of the amended contract with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) for Peyton Slough Marshes - Water Quality Improvements and Management SEP. Heidi Petty described the Tide Gate work and explained the need for the proposed revisions. Following this discussion, Igor Skaredoff moved to approve the amended contract with ESA. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0.
- 8.4** Consider travel authorization for Molly Clemons, Adam Gelfand, Jules Mackey, and Elena Rich to attend CAL-IPC Conference in Ventura, CA. Following Jules Mackey describing the conference and advantages to staff, Igor Skaredoff moved to approve travel expense for four employees to attend the CAL-IPC conference. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0.
- 8.5** Consider approval of letter of support for the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District's proposed East Richmond Heights Shaded Fuel Break. Ben Weise introduced the proposed fuel break project. Following review of the project and the letter of support, the Board recommended revisions to the letter. Lorena Castillo then moved to approve the letter of support with proposed edits. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0.
- 8.6** Consider approval of the City of Martinez MOU pertaining to implementation of a pollinator garden at Boys & Girls Clubs of Contra Costa. Following Chris Lim's brief description of the project, Igor Skaredoff moved to approve the MOU with the City of Martinez. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0.
- 8.7** Consider approval of amended contract with Exploratorium for Contra Costa County Shoreline Leadership Program with Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Following Chris Lim relating the project to an earlier presentation and explaining the amendments made to the contract, Igor Skaredoff moved to approve the contract with Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0.

DISCUSSION:

- 9.1** It was noted that details for the upcoming CARCD conference have not yet been released and will be distributed once available.

REPORTS:

- 10.1** President Reports— **Renee Fernandez-Lipp**—Excused for work-related travel.
- 10.2** Directors' Reports –
Lorena Castillo—Lorena Castillo shared that Groundwork Richmond is recruiting for Board members.

Following an update on the number of Board applications received, **Igor Skaredoff** offered to continue serving until a replacement is found. The Board discussed recruitment strategies to expand outreach.

10.3 Staff Reports—The Board expressed appreciation for the staff reports and acknowledged the staff for their reported accomplishments and results.

10.4 Executive Director Reports—Chris Lim provided staffing changes, including CA Climate Action Corps Fellows and shared funding updates, noting that Prop 4 funding will no longer be disbursed.

Adjournment Motion: Igor Skaredoff moved to adjourn the meeting; Motion seconded by Bethallyn Black. Bethallyn Black adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Pell, Board Clerk, CCRC