



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 20, 2026**

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** was held Tuesday, January 20, 2026, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, California.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Walter Pease, Renee Fernandez-Lipp & Bethallyn Black

**ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Martin Steinpress, Derene Allen and Soumya Suresh  
Remote: Bob Peoples

**RCD STAFF PRESENT:** Chris Lim, Joe Boyden & Patty Pell  
Remote: Ben Weise, Genna Fudin, Heidi Petty & Adam Gelfand

**NRCS STAFF PRESENT:** Excused

**DIRECTORS EXCUSED:** Lorena Castillo & Igor Skaredoff

**Call to Order:** Renee Fernandez-Lipp called the meeting to order at 8:39 A.M.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:** None

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** (Gov. Code 54954.2 (B)): None added

**NRCS REPORT:** NRCS Staff were excused; no report provided

**PRESENTATIONS:** Joe Boyden presented an overview of CCRCDD's social media analytics, beginning with key definitions and highlighting an Instagram reel on wildfire mitigation that received the highest engagement. Joe Boyden reviewed platform-specific performance, summarized 2025 outcomes, and outlined plans for 2026, including expanded collaboration with partner organizations.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Item 7.1-December 16, 2025 Board Minutes

**Motion to approve by:** Walter Pease; seconded by Bethallyn Black. Motion carried 3:0.

**Ayes:** Pease, Black & Fernandez-Lipp

**Nays:** None

**DETERMINATION ITEMS:**

**8.1** Consider approving subcontract with of Solano RCD to cover staff time related to the Greater Bay Area Conservation Hub.

Ben Weise provided background on the Greater Bay Area Conservation Hub, including participating RCDs, anticipated grant funding and covered activities.

**Motion to approve by:** Bethallyn Black; seconded by Walter Pease. Motion carried 3:0.

**Ayes:** Pease, Black & Fernandez-Lipp

**Nays:** None

**8.2** Consider approval of grant award with CalRecycle Farm & Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup & Abatement Grant.

Ben Weise reviewed the purpose of the grant, describing the agricultural sites and outlined strategies to help prevent future illegal dumping.

**Motion to approve by:** Walter Pease; seconded by Bethallyn Black. Motion carried 3:0.

**Ayes:** Pease, Black & Fernandez-Lipp

**Nays:** None

**8.3** Consider approving the Board President signing a three-year engagement letter for auditing services with Richardson & Company, LLP.

Patty Pell summarized the Request for Proposal process and the basis used to select the recommended auditor.

**Motion to approve by:** Walter Pease; seconded by Bethallyn Black. Motion carried 3:0.

**Ayes:** Pease, Black & Fernandez-Lipp

**Nays:** None

**8.4** Consider approval of contracting Civicorps for vegetation management of Little Frank's Tract.

Adam Gelfand explained the original contract, reasons for the delay, and the updated plan for completing the work, including future project plans.

**Motion to approve by:** Walter Pease; seconded by Bethallyn Black. Motion carried 3:0.

**Ayes:** Pease, Black & Fernandez-Lipp

**Nays:** None

**8.5** Consider approval of Amended Contract with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) for Peyton Slough Water Quality Improvements and Management SEP (Peyton Slough SEP).

Heidi Petty described the need for a contract extension and the current challenges affecting the project implementation.

**Motion to approve by:** Walter Pease; seconded by Bethallyn Black. Motion carried 3:0.

**Ayes:** Pease, Black & Fernandez-Lipp

**Nays:** None

**8.6** Consider Travel Authorization Expense for Genna Fudin to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting and National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCCP) Pilot Training.

Genna Fudin outlined the training program and explained how the certification will enhance her ability to support NRCS clients.

**Motion to approve by:** Walter Pease; seconded by Bethallyn Black. Motion carried 3:0.

**Ayes:** Pease, Black & Fernandez-Lipp

**Nays:** None

- 8.7** Review and determine the Board’s voting recommendations on the CARCD officers’ election, bylaws, and ten resolutions.

Board members expressed concerns regarding unanswered questions. The Board agreed to seek clarification from CARCD and revisit the ballot at the next meeting.

**Motion to postpone determination item for one month by:** Walter Pease, seconded by Bethallyn Black. Motion to postpone carried 3:0.

**Ayes:** Pease, Black & Fernandez-Lipp

**Nays:** None

**DISCUSSION:**

**REPORTS:**

**10.1** President Reports— Renee Fernandez-Lipp reported attending a recent cleanup and encouraged exploring additional ways to promote the various CCRCDD’s events.

**10.2** Directors’ Reports –

Bethallyn Black announced she will be serving as an adjunct instructor at Diablo Valley College, teaching courses in plant identification and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Martin Steinpress suggested developing a map to visually display CCRCDD’s project locations and requested notice of upcoming events to support attendance.

**10.3** Staff Reports—There were no questions

**10.4** Executive Director Reports—Chris Lim provided updates on the Shoreline Leadership Council and the California Climate Action Corps cohorts, followed by a funding update.

**Motion to adjourn by:** Walter Pease; seconded by Bethallyn Black.  
President Renee Fernandez-Lipp adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted, Patty Pell, Board Clerk, CCRCDD**