



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** was held Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, California.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bethallyn Black, Walter Pease & Renee Fernandez-Lipp
Remote: Martin Steinpress

ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT: Remote: Tracey Rogers Brandt, Derene Allen & Bob Peoples

RCD STAFF PRESENT: Chris Lim & Marisa Ortiz
Remote: Lisa Damerel, Zoe Fung & Adam Gelfand

Fellows: Amber Milano, Ryan Schultz
Remote: Miranda Shuba

NRCS STAFF PRESENT: Jarryd Brackett

DIRECTORS EXCUSED: Soumya Suresh

CALL TO ORDER: Renee Fernandez-Lipp called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: None

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

NRCS REPORT: Jarryd Brackett provided an update on NRCS activities and 2026 obligations. NRCS is currently working on six contracts, including a new virtual grazing contract. He also shared NRCS's new motto, "Keeping Working Lands in Working Hands," and noted that updated agency goals are available on the NRCS website. NRCS is preparing for the upcoming fiscal year and will begin field visits for future applications.

PRESENTATIONS: California Climate Action Corps Year-End Wrap-Up

Miranda Shuba, Ryan Schultz, and Amber Milano provided a year-end presentation on their 2025–26 terms as California Climate Action Corps Fellows. The Fellows highlighted projects and activities related to wildfire resiliency, urban greening, agriculture, watersheds, vegetation management, community education, and professional development. Their work included supporting EcoStewards activities, Living With Wildfire events, Marsh Creek watershed projects, and Fellow-led events at the Laurel Garden. During their service term, the Fellows reported planting 7,661 native plants, supporting 24,433 square feet of urban greening, and engaging 2,031 community members. The Fellows will return for a second service term beginning in September.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Item 7.1: Approve June 16, 2026 Board Minutes

Item 7.2: Accept June 2026 Financial Reports

Motion: Bethallyn Black moved to approve; seconded by Walter Pease

Motion carried: 3-0-0

Ayes: Black, Fernandez-Lipp, & Pease

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Suresh

DETERMINATION ITEMS:

8.1 Consider approval of new contract with Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Damerel)

Lisa Damerel requested approval of a new contract with Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. The previous contract ended at the close of the prior fiscal year. The new contract will be effective July 1, 2026, to provide continuity of services and will include similar task orders.

Motion: Walter Pease moved to approve; seconded by Bethallyn Black

Motion carried: 3-0-0

Ayes: Black, Fernandez-Lipp, & Pease

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Suresh

8.2 Consider approval of amendment of existing Professional Services Agreement with Sequoia Ecological Consulting to extend contract expiration date and expand scope of work (Fung)

Zoe Fung requested approval for an amendment to the existing Professional Services Agreement with Sequoia Ecological Consulting. The amendment extends the existing agreement from June 30, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and expands the scope of work. The work is funded through CAL FIRE.

Motion: Walter Pease moved to approve; seconded by Bethallyn Black

Motion carried: 3-0-0

Ayes: Black, Fernandez-Lipp, & Pease

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Suresh

8.3 Consider approval of an extended contract for work with Bob Simmons and the Walnut Creek Watershed Council (Gelfand)

Adam Gelfand requested approval for an extended contract for work with the Walnut Creek Watershed Council. The proposed agreement combines work previously covered under multiple contracts into one contract to streamline administration and reduce paperwork.

Motion: Bethallyn Black moved to approve; seconded by Walter Pease

Motion carried: 3-0-0

Ayes: Black, Fernandez-Lipp, & Pease

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Suresh

DISCUSSION:

The following upcoming events were noted:

Girls in STREAM Stewardship Camp

July 27–31, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Girls in STREAM Fellow-led day camp is designed for rising sixth- through eighth-grade girls and non-binary students and includes environmental education activities at multiple sites. The program is intended to encourage participation and representation in STEM-related fields and address gender inequities in STEM.

REPORTS:

10.1 President Report:

Renee Fernandez-Lipp announced that she has joined the CARCD Board of Directors as a Bay-Delta Regional Representative. She noted plans for a September meeting in Modesto and increased collaboration with other RCDs.

10.2 Director Reports: Walter Pease reported on a visit to the North Orinda Fire Break and expressed interest in learning more about its operations.

10.3 Staff Reports: Walter Pease provided positive feedback on the recent updates in staff reporting to the board. He requested that staff member names be included instead of referencing “I” and “we” on staff report write-ups and that wildfire-related activities be separated for the Ag Team report. He also requested that future budget materials include staff names, titles, and salaries.

10.4 Executive Director Report / Fundraising Report:

Chris Lim provided an update on current fundraising and grant development efforts. Staff have been working on proposals to support wildfire resilience and other District programs. He noted that the CCRCD will increase focus on pursuing funding for existing and future projects this fiscal year. Chris also noted increasing interest from partner organizations in RCD programs and project management support.

Motion: Walter Pease moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Bethallyn Black.

President Renee Fernandez-Lipp adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marisa Ortiz, Board Clerk, CCRCD