

MINUTES
Meeting of the
GOLD RIDGE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PHONE: 707.874-2907 FAX: 707.874-9607
Date: Thursday, January 20, 2011

Location: Gold Ridge RCD Office
14775 'b' Third Street
Occidental, CA 95465

Time: 6:00pm -7:31pm

I. Open Meeting (Introductions). The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Call to Order (Roll Call of Directors)

Directors Present: Don Petersen, Bob Burke, Martin Albini, Joe Dutton

Director Absent: Ann Cassidy

Staff Present: Brittany Heck, Sierra Cantor, Noelle Johnson, and Michele Rocha

Others: Al Gerhardt, Brooke Cole (NRCS), Ben Garland (NRCS), Shanti Wright (Sonoma Land Trust), Doug Hillberman (AXIA), and Mike Schwartz (AXIA)

III. Public Comment-

- a) Al talked about the notice of public hearing on agricultural preserve rules and related agricultural zoning code sections, and we had a discussion about possible changes and their consequences. The next hearing is March 17 at 2 pm at Vet's Memorial Bldg.
- b) Al Gerhardt submitted a letter of interest to become a GRRCD associate director.

IV. Informational Items:

- a. Correspondence and Notices – None.
- b. GRRCD Grant Status Updates – Brittany reported on the progress of current grants. (1) EA rangeland and EA sediment are done and the draft final reports have been sent. (2) CDFG grant, (weed management project), has been billed out for 2010; we'll be receiving the 2011 soon. How do we properly comply with CEQA around weed management practices? Noelle met with Marin Ag commissioner who has agreed to take responsibility for CEQA compliance. We'll be working off the BAEDN prioritized list for weed eradication. Next year, we'll turn over this project to the Marin AG Commissioner. (3) Ebabias Creek construction project finished this summer or next. (4) Gorse removal project; we waiting for landowner to get EQIP match funding. (5) SCIRWMP-Sediment control (SC Roads) and water conservation, in Salmon Creek watershed is just getting under way. (6) Dutch Bill fish passage done. (7) SOS tanks installed and project nearly complete except for some monitoring. (8) SCWA RR 08/09 completed, new cycle is for workshops, GV roads project and GV planning project. (9)Purrington bank stabilization is complete. (10) RR Coho NFWF is still selecting projects; new gauges going in through Dutch Bill Creek. (11)EA Sediment Reduction 2 for gully restoration design and workshops, we're waiting on design cost proposal from new engineers. (12) GV roads on hold for winter and will start again summer 2011. (13) GV HEP, we're soliciting bids for the first project site (Thomas Creek Ranch), moving forward with contractors. (14) Pollinators, got matching state funds, will be starting up again in March. (15) SC roads project was broken up into phases, phase 1 in Nolan sub-watershed will be constructed this summer, bid tour in May, should be completed by Fall 2011. (16) TEAM, planning for Gilardi ranch workshops in March-

May. (17) SC instream (Tannery Creek), construction this summer. (18) Poff outreach, we met with Open Space district to move forward but RCd is waiting on SCAPOSD staff to move forward.

- c. Valley Ford Schoolhouse (Potential Remodel & Use Plan): Initial feasibility meeting with AXIA Architects –Doug Hillberman, pres. of AXIA architects and Mike Schwartz. How can we use the Valley Ford schoolhouse? Doug has met with Lisa and talked about plans to potentially turn the schoolhouse into an agricultural business and public educational center, requiring extensive remodeling. The remodel would have to happen in phases, since it's an expensive project. Doug talked about the proposal: Phase 1 will explore if the project is viable, Phase 2 is creating the floor, site plans, artist rendering, cost info and schedule. AXIA is willing to do the first phase at no cost and phase 2 at a discounted rate. The board had questions about how we own the property, do we own the title? What is the actual address? Doug left business cards with AXIA website information. Since Lisa was not at this meeting, the item will be further discussed at the next board meeting.
- d. Sonoma Land Trust Gully Restoration Project Presentation – Shanti Wright. Shanti thanked GRRCD thanked for our help over the years. She outlined the EA preserve gully restoration and erosion control structures project for which they need CEQA compliance. A Notice of Exemption (NOE) form must be filed by a state agency and asked us to file it. Brittany conveyed that Lisa approves. Joe Dutton made a motion to be the lead agency and file the NOE/Albini second. Motion carried.
- e. Strategic Planning Project –We're on for Feb.7 from 10:30-1:30.

V. Action Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2010
1st Joe Dutton / 2nd Martin Albini Motion Carried
- b. Approval to utilize a Categorical Exemption to comply with CEQA for the *Mentha pulegium* removal project. Pennyroyal/menthe pulegium removal in an environmentally sensitive area for the Laguna Foundation. We may not need to post it, but we still want it approved.
1st Joe Dutton made a motion to approve/ 2nd Martin Albini seconded. Motion Carried
- c. Approval to act as CEQA Lead Agency for the Sonoma Land Trust on the Estero Americano Preserve – SLT Gully Restoration Project
- d. 1st Joe Dutton made a motion to approve/ 2nd Martin Albini seconded. Motion Carried
- e. Approval to utilize a Categorical Exemption to comply with CEQA for the SLT Gully Restoration Project
1st Joe Dutton made a motion to approve/ 2nd Martin Albini seconded. Motion Carried
- f. Approval of Staff Report: Brittany talked about getting more funding for gorse removal and mastication, fire prevention work, clearing roads, chipping programs. For a new proposal, due in March, does the board feel it's a good idea?
1st Martin Albini made a motion to approve the staff report/ 2nd Bob Burke. Motion carried.
- g. Approval of Bookkeepers Report: Motion to approve financial report.
1st Bob Burke/ 2nd Joe Dutton. Motion carried.
- h. Approval of Warrant Requests: Motion to approve warrant request.
1st Joe Dutton/ 2nd Bob Burke. Motion carried.
- i. Agenda items for February 17, 2011 Meeting:
 - AXIA/Valley Ford schoolhouse (maybe Sonoma Land Trust can be a partner with us on this project)?
- j. Personnel. No personnel issues.

- k. NRCS report. Brooke talked about their projects that work with organic farmers and landowners and transitional growers; its smaller, newer program focused on soil and plant health, nutrient management. They're getting AWEP money, special grant of \$5million over 5 years, for water conservation and salmon habitat, probably about \$600,000 for weather stations, ponds; they're approved to offer rainwater catchment systems and wastewater treatment lagoons. She handed out the MONAR report. Hispanic farmers are growing at double the rate of white; how can NRCS reach out better? They have materials in Spanish. Sierra suggested doing PSAs on the Spanish radio stations. It was also suggested to contact Efren Carrillo, who knows about the Hispanic farmer's association. Motion to approve the BRCS report.
1st Joe Dutton made the motion/ 2nd Martin Albini second. Motion carried.

VI. Closed Session. No items for closed session.

VII. Adjournment: 7:31 pm