



MISSION RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
138 S. Brandon Street, Fallbrook, CA 92028

District Regular Board Meeting, March 20, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**II. Welcome Guests**

Guests present: Jerri Patchett, Fallbrook Beautification Alliance; Lance Andersen; and, Celine Morales, NRCS.

**III. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum - Directors Present: Scott Murray, Julia Escamilla, Peggy Brown, Victor Santos, and Bob Lin – A quorum was confirmed.**

Associate Directors present: Ross Pike and Mark Mervich. Staff present: Ani Vartanians.

**IV. Additions to the Agenda (Gov. Code 54954.2(b))**

There were no additions to the Agenda, however, Item 4-1 was moved forward in the Agenda to follow after Consent Items and a portion of Item 4-2 was moved to Closed Session.

**V. Oral Communications to the Board of Directors (Gov. Code 54954.3 (a))**

There were no oral communications to the Board of Directors.

### SECTION 1 – CONSENT ITEMS

Consent Calendar items are routine and non-controversial, to be acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. If any Board member, staff member, or interested person requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar, it shall be removed so that it may be acted upon separately.

1-A: Treasurer's Reports – February 2024

1-B: Monthly Expenses – February 2024

1-C: Minutes – January 15, 2024 and February 27, 2024

A motion was made by Director Brown to approve the Consent Items as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Santos. The motion was carried by the following votes:

Scott Murray – Aye  
Julia Escamilla – Aye  
Bob Lin – Aye  
Victor Santos – Aye  
Peggy Brown - Aye



## **SECTION 2 – STAFF, OTHER AGENCY, DIRECTOR, COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**2-A: NRCS Report** – Celine Morales of NRCS provided three handouts: the March NRCS report, Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist, and a copy of the Effective DC Training PowerPoint presentation. She also gave an overview of current staffing and a contract status update. She will be collecting signatures from all Directors to affirm the review of civil rights responsibilities at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

**2-B: District Manager Report** – There was none.

**2-C: Directors' Reports** - Director Escamilla reported that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California will be continuing with water conservation incentives for the FY 2024-25. Associate Director Mervich reported on the Equinox Celebration held at the Community Garden.

**2-D: Legislative Update** – There was none.

**2-E: Board Committee Reports** – Director Escamilla updated the Directors on the Programs Committee efforts. The Programs Committee will be meeting regularly on a biweekly basis in order to secure new grant funding as well as explore fee-for- services opportunities.

**SECTION 3 – CORRESPONDENCE** – Nothing to report.

## **SECTION 4 – BOARD ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**4-1: Mission Medians Project – Fallbrook Beautification Alliance, Jerri Patchett – Fallbrook Village Association (Action)**, Ms. Patchett reported that after 20 years of serving the community by maintaining the road medians on Mission Road, from the high school to Rocky Crest, the Fallbrook Beautification Alliance (BFA) will be closing. The BFA would like the District to assume the responsibility for the medians as it fits well within the District's scope of purpose. After further discussion, the Directors requested that Ms. Patchett provide additional income/expense information at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

**4-2: District Staff and Current Staff Vacancies - (Action)** - A portion of this Item was moved to closed session. However, the Board continued its discussion with Lance Andersen regarding his proposal to continue managing the District's Regional Conservation Participation Program (RCPP) as a consultant. Mr. Andersen provided details on how the RCPP works, it benefits to the community, and how it needs to be managed moving forward. After discussion the Board agreed that it would be beneficial to move forward and provided further direction to Mr. Lance and Director Murray to work together to draft a Professional Agreement too present to the full Board.

**4-3: Request to Co-sponsor Special District Grant Accessibility Act HR 7525 (Action)** – Director Escamilla provided an overview of HR 7525 and provided a CSDA handout. A motion was made by Director Escamilla to support Act HR 7525. The motion was seconded by Director Lin. The motion was carried by the following votes:

Scott Murray – Aye  
Julia Escamilla – Aye  
Bob Lin – Aye



Victor Santos – Aye  
Peggy Brown - Aye

**4-4: Consideration to Discontinue ZOOM Access at Regular Board Meetings (Possible Action)** - The pros and cons providing digital meeting access were discussed. A motion was made by Director Brown to discontinue the provision of digital meeting access. The motion was seconded by Director Lin. The motion was carried by the following votes:

Scott Murray – Aye  
Julia Escamilla – Abstain  
Bob Lin – Aye  
Victor Santos – Nay  
Peggy Brown - Aye

**SECTION 5 – LEGAL MATTERS**

The Board convened to closed session at 9:00 pm to discuss personnel matters. After discussion, a motion was made by Director Brown to reconvene to open session. The motion was seconded by Director Murray. The motion passed by the following votes:

Scott Murray – Aye  
Julia Escamilla – Aye  
Bob Lin – Aye  
Victor Santos – Aye  
Peggy Brown - Aye

The Board reconvened to open session at 9:57 pm and provided the following report: A motion was made by Director Lin to offer a promotion to Ani Vartanians as the District Manager, which will include a hourly wage increase to \$35/hour. The motion was seconded by Director Santos and passed by the following votes:

Scott Murray – Aye  
Julia Escamilla – Aye  
Bob Lin – Aye  
Victor Santos – Aye  
Peggy Brown - Aye

**SECTION 6 – AGENDA SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT**

The following suggestions were made for agenda items for the next Board Meeting - Review current meeting date/time; discuss the need of a grant-writing consultant; and, approve revised budget.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 pm.

MINUTES APPROVED - on 4.17.24 2024

Approved By: [Signature]

Attest By: [Signature]