

**SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017 AT 2:00 PM  
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS  
675 TEXAS STREET  
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Tony Vaccarella  
Terry Connolly  
Arnold Lenk  
Mike Lewis  
Jim Waters

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steven Chappell, SRCD  
Tim Edmunds, SRCD  
Cliff Feldheim, DWR  
Mike Frost, Frost Construction  
Paul Garrison, DWR  
Michal Koller, DWR  
Kelli Perez, SRCD  
Melissa Riley, DFW  
Orlando Rocha, DFW  
Laureen Barthman-Thompson, DFW  
Bruce Wickland, SRCD  
Larry Wyckoff, DFW

**1. Call to Order** ~ The Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors called the meeting to order at 2:04PM.

**2. Public Comments** ~ No Public Comments

**3. Open Session** ~

**a) Approval of the October 11, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes** ~

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2017 Board meeting was made by Mr. Lenk and seconded by Mr. Waters; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**4. Financial Reports** ~

**a) Approval of Vendor Claims for OCTOBER 2017** ~ Mr. Chappell reported the October 2017 General Fund vendor claims total as \$234,227.82. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the October General Fund vendor claims for \$234,227.82 and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the October 2017 LJI vendor claims for \$9,193.79. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the October 2017 LJI vendor claims for \$9,193.79 and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the October 2017 Special Revenue vendor claims total as \$21,890.31. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the October 2017 Special Revenue vendor claims total for \$21,890.31 and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**b) First Quarter FY 17/18 Budget Summary Review** ~ Mr. Chappell reviewed the first quarter revenue and expenses for fiscal year 2017/2018 for the departments of the General Fund and Special Revenue Fund.

**c) For Board Consideration ~ SRCD Resolution No. 1718-1 ~ Delta Conservancy Suisun Marsh Improvement Assessment Grant #2017-18-207** ~ Mr. Chappell requested Board approval authorizing the District to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Delta Conservancy for Suisun Marsh Improvements Assessment. This grant is in partnership with the Delta Conservancy, SRCD, CWA, DWR and a hydrodynamics modeling engineering firm to physically survey an assess managed wetland drainage capacity to meet the 30 day flood and drain objective. The CWA Survey work would commence in the spring 2018. Mr. Waters made a motion to approve entering into a grant agreement with Delta Conservancy as presented and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report** ~ Mr. Rocha presented the DFW report for Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, starting with opening weekend of 2017/2018 waterfowl season. The hunters had 4.60 bird average on opening Saturday and 1.97 on Sunday. The last waterfowl opener to have over a four-bird average was back in 2006/2007. The top five birds harvested this season were Northern Shovelers, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, American Wigeon, and Gadwall. Mr. Rocha stated that the pheasant opener is this Saturday November 11, and the Apprentice Hunt for

Planted pheasants is November 18, 2017, with spaces still available.

**6. Department of Water Resources Report** ~ Mr. Michal Koller distributed the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet and reviewed the contents. Starting with the Suisun Marsh salinity conditions for the month of October and early November, then he gave an update on the Suisun Marsh facilities operations, maintenance, and repairs. Mr. Koller reported the current reservoir storage levels and precipitation totals. Some discussion ensued. Mr. Cliff Feldheim, Branch Chief of the DWR Suisun Marsh Branch, gave a presentation on the ongoing Suisun Marsh waterfowl & wildlife studies. Mr. Feldheim reported that they have initiated the fourth year of a 10-year study plan. Using data provided from waterfowl fitted with telemetry equipment researchers are able track waterfowl use and movements in the Marsh and other wetland regions of the state when marked waterfowl leave Suisun. The waterfowl use and telemetry data will help assess managed wetland conditions and waterfowl food availability. UC Davis graduate students, DFW and USGS are also conducting other waterfowl breeding, survival, wintering, foraging, and predator interaction research projects in the Marsh. As part of this research program, DWR and CWA are contracting with Response Management to conduct a Human Dimensions Study and Questionnaire. To support the study the Project Manager has requested Suisun Marsh Landowner mailing addresses from the SRCD database, and has provided the District with a signed confidentiality agreement. Some discussion ensued. The SRCD Board directed staff to provide the requested Suisun Marsh landowner mailing addresses in support of the Suisun Marsh Landowners participation in the study survey.

**7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~**

**a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement Update and PAI Grant Program Update** ~ Mr. Chappell stated that the second invoice for reimbursement of completed 2017 PAI projects was submitted today. The approved 2017 PAI projects that were not completed this past work season, will be completed in the 2018 work season.

**b) Suisun Marsh Plan Update** ~Mr. Chappell reported attending an Adaptive Management Advisory Team Meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>, where they've reworked the applicants process for tidal restoration projects review into a four steps method, evaluating the project at different stages 10%, 65%, 100% of completion ready for permit submittal, and post construction. Mr. Chappell also attended a Principals Meeting on October 19, and will be attending a Benthic Monitoring Team meeting on November 17, which is a requirement under the Suisun Marsh Plan for compliance with the Biological Opinions for the Dredging Program.

**c) USACE Permits ~ RGP3 & LOP Update** ~ Mr. Chappell reported the Corps received a request from BCDC staff for an extension to the public comment period, which would have closed October 18, 2017. BCDC submitted a four-page comment letter on the renewal of RGP3 for maintenance activities in the Suisun Marsh. SRCD, DWR and DFW will be meeting with BCDC management to discuss the content of this letter. Discussion ensued.

**d) Water Manager Program Update** ~ Mr. Wickland reported the Water Manager's work activities this past month, which included water management of MIDS, RRDS, King Cut, Frost Lake, and FSSD. Low DO Grant Project support, Solano County Parks and Recreation Commission grant application submittal of two grant requests, fish screen maintenance, gate monitoring is now underway, newsletter article drafting, soil sample (feed availability) study support, landowner pump usage this season, GIS database update, Mr. Wickland also introduced our new water manager Phelan Mckinney.

**e) Lower Joice Island Update** ~ Mr. Wickland reported on the LJI Caretaker's activities getting ready for the upcoming waterfowl season, which included working on the Hunt Groups boat docks, and installation of a new boat dock for the caretaker. Mr. Wickland gave introductions of the new Lower Joice Island caretaker Marque Mouton and the Districts new Operations Manager John Takekawa.

**f) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations** ~ Mr. Chappell expressed appreciation to staff but especially Bruce for helping with the hiring and training for his position, the LJI caretaker, and water manager position. Also discussed the planning of Mr. Wickland's retirement party for February and welcomed all ideas from the Board. Mr. Chappell stated, he spoke at a meeting on the beneficial uses of dredged material for disposal of spoils in the Bay. On the same day, he attended a UC Davis fisheries department meeting to discuss coordination of Suisun Marsh scientific studies and how to increased knowledge about duck clubs drainage activities maybe exporting food resources and benefitting Suisun Marsh fisheries.

**8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~**

**a) Agency Committee** ~ No report.

**b) Legal Committee** ~ No report.

**c) Personnel Committee** ~ No report.

**d) Finance Committee** ~ No report

**e) Associate Directors Report and Public Relations Committee** ~ No report

**9. Closed Session** ~ No closed session

**10. Adjourn ~ 3:52 PM**