

## **MINUTES**

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018 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:** Bill Brush, Greenhead Duck Club  
Steven Chappell, SRCD  
Tim Edmunds, SRCD  
Bill Gaines, Gaines and Associates  
Kent Hansen, Goodyear Land Co.  
Kelli Perez, SRCD  
Melissa Riley, DFW  
John Takekawa, SRCD  
Laureen Barthman-Thompson, DFW  
Larry Wyckoff, DFW

**1. Call to Order** ~ The Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

**2. Public Comments** ~ None.

**3. Open Session** ~

**a) Approval of the January 10, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes** ~

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2018 Board meeting was made by Mr. Waters and seconded by Mr. Lewis; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**4. Financial Reports** ~

**a) Approval of Vendor Claims for January 2018** ~ Mr. Chappell reported the January 2018 General Fund vendor claims total as \$108,446.27. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the January General Fund vendor claims for \$108,446.27 and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the January 2018 LJI vendor claims for \$11,035.62. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the January 2018 LJI vendor claims for \$11,035.62 and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the January 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total as \$42,978.31. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the January 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total for \$42,978.31 and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report** ~ Ms. Melissa Riley presented the DFW report for Grizzly Island Wildlife Area. Starting with Joice Island pig hunt applications are online and are due February 14<sup>th</sup> by 4pm. DFW has received 2,200 applications for 21 tags, and 260 junior's applications for 3 tags. The Joice Island pig season begins March 3 and runs thru April 22. GIWA staff is prepping for general maintenance and fieldwork on the Wildlife Area. Drawdown has started of the GIWA managed wetlands to perform for leach cycles. A new backhoe has been received to assist in the completion of maintenance activities. Since the January Board meeting, hunting has been consistent. The hunter average for the season is 1.67 ducks/hunter not including 551 coots. If you include the coots, it was 1.76 birds/hunter. This season the goose harvest was up, totaling 184 geese – mostly white-fronted geese. Teal and wigeon harvest was higher towards the end of waterfowl season, consistent with earlier years. Some discussion ensued.

**6. Department of Water Resources Report** ~ Mr. Chappell distributed and reviewed the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet provided by DWR. Starting with the Delta Tributary average flows and Suisun Marsh salinity conditions for the month of January, and part of February 2018. Salinity conditions were good in the Marsh, especially when you consider the lack of rain. DWR Suisun Marsh facilities update, reviewing work planned this upcoming work season at Roaring River Distribution System, Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates, Morrow Island Distribution System, and Goodyear Slough

Outfall. Reservoir levels and storage at most dams are at or near historical averages, except Oroville, which has been kept low to accommodate spillway repairs. Forecasts suggests we may not have rain in February. The water year is trending below 2014-2015 levels in the Southern and Northern Sierra.

**7. Government Affairs** ~ Gaines & Associates, Mr. Bill Gaines presented the following state legislative updates: The bill introduction deadline is Friday (2/16) for the State legislature. The proposed State budget was presented on January 10, with \$600 million for DFW including a \$50 million augmentation to support DFW programs. AB 573 was a wild pig depredation bill under consideration – it was directed at eliminating the need for depredation permitting on private land for pig removal, but the bill has died and will be resubmitted. A new bill will consider the elimination of pig tags (now \$24/tag but providing \$1.2 million in support for DFW big game mgmt. account) vs. pig validations tag on hunting licenses. Pig control efforts are encouraged to reduce their habitat damage, and pig validation will have a lower fee than the current pig tags. This legislation is also considering a separate designation for pig as exotic game with hunting as an approved method for control. There is also, a bill being considered that would lower license fees (25%) for veterans, this bill has cleared Assembly. AB711 was signed to make nonlead for all hunting by 2019. Assembly Bill 1544 proposes modify the existing law to allow the Fish and Game Commission ability to exempt non-lead for hunters and ranchers depending on the availability if some calibers don't exist or are hard to obtain. Fish and Game Commissioner Peter Silva, was recently reappointed by the Governor, his term ended January 15. Waterfowl regulation discussion has started for 2018-2019 which includes moving to 2 pintails in the bag for next season.

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

**a) Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement Update and PAI Grant Program Update**

~ Mr. Chappell reported that an ECAT principals meeting was held on January 11 and the next meeting is scheduled for February 15. SRCD will be establishing a quarterly BCDC coordination meeting at the end of February, to discuss implementation of Suisun Marsh Plan, managed wetland enhancement, tidal marsh restoration projects, and eco-restore projects. BCDC would like to schedule a 2018 fieldtrip to the Marsh for its 40 plus employees. This field trip is being planned for Apr-May. On January 29, Mr. Chappell attended a Wings Landing tidal restoration technical advisor meeting. Bradmoor Island and Arnold Slough tidal restoration projects will be discussed at the next quarterly meeting. At Arnold Slough restoration site, DWR has identified a preliminary public access plan for the site. This initial public access plan was distributed to the neighboring landowners that included a viewing platform close to one of the adjacent landowners. Landowners had concerns on the proposed public access and will be submitting comment letters to DWR. The 2018 PAI Cost Share Program applications will be mailed separately 2 to 3 weeks after the Regional General Permit (RGP) is issued and mailed out.

**b) Suisun Marsh Plan Update** ~Mr. Chappell noted we are moving forward, but it is on cruise control not much to report.

**c) USACE Permits -- RGP3 Renewal, LOP Permit Update** ~ Mr. Chappell reported he received an email from the Regional Water Board regarding the status of the 401 Clean Water Act Certification, as being on the Executive Director's desk for signature. The USACE Legal counsel continues to scrutinize the draft RGP3 and environmental documents. In past years, the RGP renewal has been issued as late as June, although this renewal has already taken 8 months. The RGP3 renewal applications were submitted to the Agencies in June of 2017. The Dredging Program will be forthcoming and sent out after the PAI Program is released.

**d) Consider Request for SRCD to Support the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018 Bond** ~ In January, Mr. Chappell provided the Board an email from Mateo Crowe coordinator for November 2018 Water Bond ballot initiative, requesting the SRCD Board consider supporting the new Water Bond. This item was ajenized and discussed at the January 2018 SRCD Board meeting but carried forward to the SRCD Board meeting in February to obtain more information. In response to questions and concerns raised by the Board at the January meeting, Mr. Gaines addressed the Boards concerns and summarized that no funds were to be spent for Delta water conveyance projects, the Bond language can't be changed moving forward. Mr. Gaines suggested supporting the bond because of the significant funds for waterfowl and wetland programs that would be beneficial for the Suisun Marsh. Discussion ensued. Mr. Chappell summarized the issues that had been presented and asked the Board if they were ready to vote on the issue of the SRCD Board supporting the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018 Bond at this time. The Board agreed to proceed, Mr. Vaccarella conducted a vote by roll call, with Mr. Waters, Mr. Connolly, and Mr. Lewis voting to yes to endorse the Bond, Mr. Lenk voted no, and Mr. Vaccarella abstained from voting.

**e) Water Manager Program Update** ~ Mr. Takekawa reported the SRCD website launch was completed on February1, 2018. He noted that Water Manager staff has started working on the March newsletter, so any article ideas are welcome. Public notice for public work contractor pre-qualifications packages has been completed. SRCD received a total of 4 prequalification packages back. The Districts temporary, extra help employee JT Love has completed his seasonal work of Geomارش updates. Mr. Takekawa started a project with NASA (Dr. Chris Potter) to use imagery to examine recent vegetation condition changes including invasive species on wetlands. The Ridgway's rail and spring salmon work restriction letters have been mailed out. Mr. Edmunds attended a chemical applicators workshop and took the test for an applicators license. Mr. McKinney took the boom truck training workshop and tested for an operator's license. A summary of truck repair costs has been provided to the Board to show maintenance costs are now exceeding the value of the SRCD Water Mangers 12-year-old field trucks. SRCD has requested the replacement of 2 of the 3 trucks Water managers field trucks in the upcoming SMPA Contract budget year. The annual SF Bay Midwinter Waterfowl survey was completed, and a summary of the survey results

are in preparation.

**f) Lower Joice Island Update** ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the LJI Caretaker's work activities, including the continued support provided by Mr. Mouton for the Hunting Group. A final walkthrough of the club house with the hunt group is scheduled for February 28. A broken flap on an exterior gate was found on Montezuma Slough, so Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, and Mr. Mouton used the low tide on the night of January 31, to temporarily seal the pipe until a new gate can be installed. A letter of permission was granted for zooplankton sampling coordinated with SRCD and DWR by Ms. Anne Slaughter of SFSU Romberg Tiburon Center. Net sampling began on February 9 and will likely end on February 15 at two managed wetland discharge locations. This sampling work from the last 2 years indicated that LJI is producing inverts that are being exported to the slough. SRCD has had slow progress on the repairs to the Massey Ferguson. The disposed of JD 350 dozer was picked up on February 8. SRCD moved the gate monitoring boat to LJI temporarily until we can obtain a replacement boat. The LJI hunting report for the period of January 10-28, included counts for 35 total hunters over 7 hunt days; Teal 39; Wigeon 17; Spoonbill 8; Sprig 16; Mallard 10; Gadwall 1; Scaup 3; white geese 2. Total birds were 106, and the birds/hunter ratio was 3.03. For the junior hunt weekend, LJI Hunt Group had one junior hunter bag 2 ducks.

**g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations** ~ Mr. Chappell reported he attended two meetings on the Pacific Flyway Center and the land transfer of two parcels at the proposed Pacific Flyway Center site has been completed. The Flyway Center now owns the upper two parcels of Garibaldi's. BCDC has provide a lengthy comment letter on the City of Fairfield's Notice of Preparation of a CEQA document for the proposed project. Discussion ensued. Mr. Chappell noted that planning continued for the retirement party for former Operations Manager Bruce Wickland set for Wednesday, February 21, at Rush Ranch 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM, with Mr. Mike Souza barbequing lunch. Of 101 invites, 74 accepted as of today.

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

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

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

**c) Personnel Committee** ~ Resolution of Appreciation for Bruce Wickland. Move to be adopted by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Vaccarella, all were in favor and the resolution was approved.

**d) Finance Committee** ~ No report.

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

**10. Adjourn ~ 3:40 PM**