

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 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: Steven Chappell, SRCD
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Michal Koller, DWR
Michelle McIntyre, LAFCO Solano County
Kelli Perez, SRCD
Rich Seithel, LAFCO Solano County
John Takekawa, SRCD
Jeff Taylor, SRCD
Christina Tortosa, SRCD
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 March 14, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes ~

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2018 Board meeting was made by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Mr. Lewis; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for March 2018 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the March 2018 General Fund vendor claims total as \$119,882.90. He reported claim #140 is for the insurance for the last quarter of this fiscal year and three quarters of 18/19 fiscal year. He noted claim #148 to Shell Drake and Fat Hen Clubs were for two 2017 PAI cost share projects, and the payroll expenses for the month included 3 pay periods. Mr. Vaccarella made a motion to approve the March General Fund vendor claims for \$119,882.90 and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the March 2018 LJI vendor claims for \$22,327.80 that included the Massey-Ferguson repair, rebuilding a cylinder on the excavator, and new water control structure for LJI (will be a PAI project). Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the March 2018 LJI vendor claims for \$22,327.80 and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the March 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total as \$30,184.49 with purchase of diesel for portable pump program and repair of two portable pumps. Mr. Vaccarella made a motion to approve the March 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total for \$30,184.49 and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

b) Authorizing SRCD Resolution 1718-3 to enter Agreement No. P1830001 with CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife for Suisun Marsh Management Agreement ~ Mr. Chappell proposed authorizing SRCD Resolution 1718-3 for 3-year contract for resource management services with CDFW. There were no significant changes proposed from previous agreements. SRCD will continue habitat management support under the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act, Local Protection Policies, and provide permitting support for CDFW. Mr. Waters made a motion to approve and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

c) SRCD Budget Summary Review ~ 3rd Quarter FY 17/18 ~ Mr. Chappell reviewed the SRCD financial status report for the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 17/18 taken from the Solano County Integrated Fund Accounting System. For Lower Joice Island department of the General Fund salary costs are higher but that includes wages for an equipment operator mostly reimbursable under FEMA levee repairs. Some equipment repairs have been more expensive than anticipated, but this equipment will be used

under the FEMA levee repairs. Also, small tools are a bit higher addressing the new caretakers need to replace and acquire new tools. Mr. Chappell reported on other departments of the General Fund including the ABAG Water Quality grant (which is being completed this year), the Drought Response program and the DWR Support contract which will include costs in the next quarter for the Roaring River Western Drain materials. The CA Dept. of Conservation has paid most of the costs to upgrade the SRCD website and work on the draft strategic plan and annual SRCD workplan. The SRCD General Fund salaries and benefits is at 79% rather than 75%. The difference being the approved overlap of retiring and new Operations Managers. Services and supplies were only at 49% of projected expenses, but the County's accounting and financial services bill for this year is not yet paid, and the 2017-2018 audit cost are not yet incurred. The Water Manager Program salaries are normal, but equipment maintenance costs for this program are very high this year. The landowner Pump Program 2018 usage is increasing, but these are reimbursable expenses to SRCD.

5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report ~ Mr. Chappell read the DFW GIWA report provided by Mr. Rocha. The Joice Island Pig Hunt has been very successful. All hunters had a safe and enjoyable experience, and all comments left on our cards have been very positive. Pig activity has been consistent and so far, hunters have harvested 6 pigs, and a hunter this past weekend shot 2 pigs out of a group of 20 pigs. Staff on the wildlife area are busy conducting maintenance; equipment is being prepped for mowing of access levees, which will begin soon. DFW has several working tractors available this year, including a brand-new tractor and backhoe. DFW have put the backhoe to good use already and already have close to 100 hours on the machine. USGS started their summer nest searching season on April 2nd and have already found nests for 23 Mallard, 17 of which are active; 1 cinnamon teal; and 2 northern harriers. Shannon (PhD student) was successful in capturing 2 nesting great-horned owls and fitted them with GPS transmitters to track their movements around GIWA. Shannon also attached transmitters to 10 harriers, and many of the mature females have left the Marsh to the north with one making it all the way to Canada! The amount of movement by these harriers is surprising and yet again shows how much the Suisun Marsh plays a role in migratory birds. Some discussion ensued.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Koller distributed the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. In the month of March, the salinity standard of 8 mS/cm was met at all compliance and monitoring stations ranging from 1-5 mS/cm. Low salinity was related to large Delta outflows of 27,000 cfs with exports of ~2700 from SWP and ~3600 cfs from the CVP projects. The April report showed that salinities ranged from 1-7 mS/cm. The western marsh was relatively low 2-7 mS/cm with standard of 11.0 mS/cm. Delta outflow was ~90,000 cfs, and CVP and SWP exports were 3400 and 4200 cfs.

Efforts to install a new Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) West Drain this summer are ongoing, and levee mowing will begin in early June. The Montezuma Salinity Control Gates will stop operating March 15th, since salinity standards are being met, and refurbishment will begin in June. Morrow Island Distribution System mowing will be in early May. The Drought Response Program update indicated trigger values were exceeded in February, but were not exceeded in March, so implementation will depend on if trigger values are exceeded in the next two months. Reservoir storage in April was above long-term average except for Oroville. Precipitation for the current year in the Northern Sierra is 37" or 80%, and the Southern Sierra is at 28" or about 80% of the long-term average. The water year still is below normal. Mr. Koller, Mr. Cliff Feldheim, and office chief Ms. Gail Kuenster (heading 3 offices: Suisun Marsh and 2 other compliance branches) toured Suisun Marsh including a visit with SRCD (Chappell, Takekawa). The tour included visiting DWR facilities in the Suisun Marsh. During the visit to the SRCD office, Mr. Chappell provided a historical perspective and overview on the DWR presence and obligations in Suisun Marsh.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

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

~ Mr. Chappell reported that SRCD has a Principal's meeting next Thursday. The 2018 PAI cost share Program announcements were sent out to the landowners, and water managers are meeting with landowners for discussions of possible projects. Projects approved but not completed from last year are being carried over and many new projects reviewed to be completed before October 2018.

b) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ Significant planning for more tidal restoration is ongoing. DWR is presenting on current tidal restoration and public access study at a public meeting in Suisun City and the SRCD landowner workshop. The public access assessment is being completed by DWR at the request of BCDC. SRCD would like to see the study focus on opportunities to enhance current public access and encouraging improvement of existing areas – this will be discussed at the Landowner's Workshop. The Suisun City meeting hosted by DWR last night had 20 people in attendance.

c) USACE Permits -- RGP3 Renewal, LOP Permit Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the new 5-year Corps permit, the 401 Water Quality certification, soil testing requirements, and BCDC Marsh Development Permit requirements were sent out to the duck clubs on March 15th. Every primary landowner was sent a hardcopy of the permits, and these permits are also posted on the SRCD website. Mr. Chappell has asked the USACE to consider an expedited package review and approval for the March package which included 60 landowner applications including CDFW. Two exterior water control structures replacements authorizations were expedited by USACE. On the 29th March, Mr. Chappell met with BCDC to review a draft Marsh Development Permit for new drain gate installation. SRCD has drafted a narrative for each activity requiring a BCDC Permit and all required environmental permitting documentation is

now on file a BCDC. Installing a drain gate and a bulkhead was considered fill. Administrative permit costs were \$175 (\$5-50K), \$350 (\$50-100K), and \$1000 (\$100-600K) depending on cost of projects. The first application was submitted 10th of April for BCDC consideration. The deadline for 2018 LOP dredging applications is 22nd of May 2018.

d) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the Water Manager Program. Christina “Nina” Tortosa started on 19th March as a seasonal technician and initiated work on Managed Wetland Assessment. Ms. Tortosa mailed property access permission requests and posted a form on the website for participation in the Managed Wetland Assessment. She conducted first elevation surveys with CWA. For her transport, we repaired the air conditioning on the Ford pickup and installed a trailer hitch for towing an ATV trailer. The water managers continued individual meetings with clubs on Corp permit applications, dredge applications, and PAI cost-share proposals. Water manager staff-maintained pumps with regular oil changes and continued deployments between rain events. One pump at John Deere for repair was completed today. Phelan and Tim used the boom truck to reinstall a flowmeter at the 425 Cal Farms fish screen. We visited with Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD) on 3rd of April to learn about changes in their program. SCMAD will present a summary at the Landowner Workshop. Tim passed the chemical applicators test for right-of-way control and is fully certified. He is preparing the Phragmites program letter and will be sending it out next week. Mr. McKinney and Ms. Tortosa worked with Todd Hallenbeck at BCDC on troubleshooting and maps with Geomارش; they have prepared several maps for different requests. Mr. Takekawa met with Chris Potter, NASA on 15th March to discuss a Phragmites analysis with the NAIP remote sensing marsh images. He sent an initial analysis on 9 April, and we continue to work with him on developing vegetation analysis techniques. Mr. Takekawa met with USGS (Karen Thorne) on 22nd March to learn about their work on sea-level rise effects in Suisun Marsh. They will visit LJI on 26th April to see managed wetland operations. For the Landowner Workshop at Rush Ranch next Wed, 18th April. We now have > 61 Yes RSVPs on evite. Finally, our quarterly staff meeting and review (with Mike Lewis from the personnel committee) is planned for 25 April.

e) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. The new caretaker boat is in full use and working well, now fully equipped with a sump pump, lights, seats, lines, and emergency kit. Tractor repairs were finished, and it was driven back to Pierce Harbor and barged to LJI on the 28th March at high tide. Mr. Mouton used the tractor to start mowing the levees starting at the north end. He completed a second leach cycle and brought water back up to shoot level for the Habitat Committee review and will remain elevated for zooplankton sampling. Zooplankton sampling was scheduled for 4-11 May for the third drainage cycle with SFSU Anne Slaughter and Wim Kimmerer. Pape Machinery finished refurbishing the LJI excavator’s radiator and arm cylinder, while FP Smith refurbished the bucket

cylinder. We are borrowing a material lift courtesy Bart Price at Family Club to conduct final repairs on Friday (4/13). Electrician (Russell Dorsey, Good Samaritan) repaired the osmosis system pump circuit. The Habitat Review Committee (Mr. Lewis, Mr. Dennis Becker, Mr. Kurt Black, Mr. Mike Kelly, Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, and Mr. Mouton) is set for Thursday, 12 April, and the Facilities Review Committee (Mr. Vaccarella, Mr. Waters, Mr. Chappell, and Mr. Takekawa) is set for 30 April.

f) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported he attended the Pacific Flyway Center meeting on displays. There is no professional display curator yet helping with design, so the committee focused on the messaging and theme of displays. Work is progressing on the annexation to the city of Fairfield. Mr. Chappell is coordinating with the Delta Stewardship Council for a meeting with the Flyway Center proponents. Mr. Waters and Mr. Chappell attended the Delta Conservancy Board meeting this month, and today, Mr. Chappell attended the SFBRWQCB Board meeting on the adoption of the TMDL for dissolved oxygen and mercury in the Suisun Marsh. The SRCD Landowner Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday 18th April at Rush Ranch, and because of remodeling taking place in July at the Board of Supervisors meeting room, the SRCD July Board meeting needs to be relocated possibly to Rush Ranch, owned by Solano Land Trust.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~

- a) Agency Committee** ~ Mr. Lenk reported on DR 4301, 4308 and funding of reimbursables from FEMA. Funding for approved projects has been provided from the CA Office of Emergency Services, but lack a project number, accounting explanations will be provided later.
- 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. Adjourn ~ 3:23 PM