

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, May 11, 2016
AT SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533 @ 2:00 PM

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Laureen Barthman-Thompson, CDFW
 Dennis Becker, SRCD Associate Director
 Bill Brush, Greenhead Duck Club
 Steven Chappell, SRCD
 Matt Connelly, Island Duck Club
 Tim Edmunds, SRCD
 Mike Frost, Frost Construction
 Paul Garrison, DWR
 Patrick Graham, CDFW
 Rhiannon Klingonsmith, DWR
 Michal Koller, CDWR
 Larry Newhall, Joice Island Mallard Farms Duck Club
 Dick Olson, Grizzly Hilton Duck Club
 Kelli Perez, SRCD
 Rich Radagonda, Cal Farms Duck Club
 Melissa Riley, CDFW
 Orlando Rocha, CDFW
 Pete Smith, North End Duck Club
 Leonard Stefanelli, Volanti Duck Club
 John Sweeney, Pt. Buckler Club
 Gary Taylor, Tip End Duck Club
 Jeff Taylor, SRCD
 Bud Tonnesen, Joice Island Mallard Farms Duck Club
 Bruce Wickland, SRCD
 Lisa Wohn, Wohn Ranch
 Larry Wyckoff, CDFW

1. Call to Order ~ The Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ Received the following comments:

a) Mr. John Sweeney, Suisun Marsh landowner, expressed concern with SRCD actions to notify Regulatory Agencies of development and construction activities occurring at Property 801 - Point Buckler. Mr. Sweeney stated that he has incurred significant legal expense responding to the Regulatory Agencies' investigations of his activities.

b) Mr. Leonard Stefanelli, Suisun Marsh landowner, commented that he disagreed with the negative comments directed towards SRCD made by John Sweeney. He commented that he fully supports SRCD for all of their outstanding work in the Marsh providing benefits to the landowners that follow the rules.

c) Mr. Matt Connelly, Suisun Marsh landowner, expressed his gratitude to the Board for their service and especially Steve Chappell for his 20 years of service protecting the Suisun Marsh and all of its landowners. Mr. Connelly also expressed concern of all the time Steve Chappell has had to expend due to the negative actions and personal attacks from one landowner in the Marsh.

d) Ms. Lisa Wohn, Suisun Marsh landowner, commented on maps she received in the mail from Mr. Sweeney. She also expressed concern about communication with SRCD not making her informed of the rules that apply to her property and acreage of tidal marsh she owns being potentially taken by regulatory agencies.

e) Mr. Bill Brush, Suisun Marsh landowner, commented on his appreciation of the Board and to Steve Chappell for all the work done on behalf of the landowners in the Marsh.

f) Mr. Bud Tonnesen, Suisun Marsh landowner, expressed his appreciation to the Board and Steve Chappell for the assistance provided to him as a landowner in the Suisun Marsh, and commented that Steve Chappell was instrumental in acquiring the permit to dredge in the Suisun Marsh.

g) Mr. Pete Smith, Suisun Marsh landowner, commented on SRCD being instrumental aiding him with duck club management and as a landowner how useful the correspondence received from SRCD is. He could not understand how any Suisun Marsh landowner could claim being misinformed.

3. Open Session ~

a) Approval of the April 13, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2016 Board meeting was made by Mr. Waters and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for April 2016 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the April 2016 General Fund vendor claims for \$58,570.54. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the

General Fund vendor claims for \$58,570.54 and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the April 2016 LJI vendor claims for \$6,466.63. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the LJI vendor claims for \$6,466.63 and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the April 2016 Special Revenue vendor claims total for \$25,330.87. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the Special Revenue vendor claims total for \$25,330.87 and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

b) Amended LJI Vendor Claim Summary for March 2016 ~ Mr. Chappell stated there was an error on the March 2016 LJI vendor claims summary. The summary should have been reduced by \$45.35, making the amended LJI March vendor claim summary total \$6,670.68. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the amended March LJI vendor claims in the amount of \$6,670.68, and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report ~ Mr. Rocha reported that USGS waterfowl nest searching continues on Grizzly Island Wildlife Area upland fields. As of Monday May 9, total nests counted were 318, with mallard being the most prominent at 245 and second was gadwall at 53. USGS also trapped 16 mallard hens and 15 were fitted with GPS tracking transmitters. The Joice Island pig hunt has wrapped up with only 5 pigs taken this year compared to 12 pigs last year. Mr. Waters added an update to the Fish & Game Commission, stating that the appointments of Commissioner Sklar and Williams were both confirmed at the CA Senate Confirmation Hearings.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Michal Koller provided the monthly DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet and reviewed the information for the Board. Included in the packet was a DWR Suisun Marsh facilities update stating that the maintenance activities planned at Roaring River Distribution System for June are mowing and spraying. Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) maintenance activities are on schedule. With cleaning out the vegetation from the ditch, the crew is now removing the sediment to complete the project. Lastly, the entire MIDS levee crown will be re-graveled. Mr. Koller also stated because of the low salinity the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates will remain in the open position. The flashboards are scheduled to be removed on May 23, 2016. Discussion ensued.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement Update ~ Mr. Chappell stated that May 3, he participated on a Principal Agencies conference call. He also reported at the June Board meeting he will bring a draft Preservation Agreement Implementation (PAI) Fund grant application to the Board for consideration.

b) 2016 SMPA Drought Response Funding (DRF) Allocation ~ Mr. Chappell reviewed a memo prepared for the Board discussing the 2016 Drought Response Funding allocation and landowner eligibility list. Due to increased rain fall during the winter of 2015 and spring of 2016, increased snow pack and Delta outflow, DWR has determined that the Drought Response criteria was not triggered for the 2016 Water Year. The 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement states, "the Drought Response funding will be made available to compensate landowners (including CDFW for land it manages in the Marsh) who, because of drought

conditions, have no alternative but to apply higher salinity channel water and, therefore, must more intensively manage these lands". This funding is available, during any year that "drought response criteria" is triggered (2015) and for one additional year beyond the last year of drought response (2016). Therefore, landowners eligible to participate are the same as the 2015 allocation. Mr. Lenk made a motion to approve the 2016 DRF Allocation and Eligibility list and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ Mr. Chappell included this agenda item when reporting on the 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement Update.

d) USACE Permits ~ RGP3 & LOP Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported receiving approval from the USACE on May 6, for the 39 maintenance applications submitted in the March package. The April package of 18 applications was submitted to the Corps on May 2. SRCD has received 7 LOP dredging applications for the 2016 dredging season. The total annual permit limitation is 100,000 cubic yards; so far we have only received requests for approximately 10,000 cubic yards.

e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Wickland reported on the Water Manager's work activities this past month including water management, pump installation and operation, office painting, gate monitoring and reporting, landowner workshop, Lepidium program coordination, process dredging applications, participate with the DWR facilities update conference call, herbicide use reporting, and equipment maintenance.

f) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Wickland reported on the activities of the LJI Caretaker which included facility, grounds and equipment maintenance, haul supplies, levee mowing, completing third drain, pest weed control, and Lepidium spray crew support.

g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ On April 15, SRCD, DFW, DWR, and CWA met with the Delta Water Master to discuss California legal requirements of SB88 – the new water diversion reporting and measurement requirements. That meeting was very productive, it allowed SRCD to come up with an Alternative Plan of Compliance for water diversion measuring and reporting in the Suisun Marsh. The Suisun Marsh landowners will be able to choose to opt in or opt out of the Suisun RCD Alternative Plan of Compliance. Mr. Chappell stated SRCD will continue to work with the Delta Water Master on formulating that plan and getting it submitted for implementation. Expectations are we should have it by late summer and the landowners can opt in through the fall to be compliant by January 2017. On April 20, SRCD held the Annual Suisun Marsh Landowner Workshop. Mr. Chappell believed it was the best attended workshop SRCD has ever hosted. SRCD has received a lot of good feedback from landowners who appreciated the information that was provided. Because of the success and comments received, we will most likely schedule a fall Landowner Workshop, specifically to address the SRCD Alternative Plan of Compliance for water diversions. SRCD will have the Delta Water Master there to answer questions and to assist landowners. Mr. Chappell also reported that he attended a Delta Conservancy Policy Working Group Subcommittee meeting. On May 3, he attended the Solano County Board of Supervisors meeting for a presentation on the Pacific Flyway Center and Fairfield City Council meeting on the same subject. In the Board package there are a couple of newspaper articles on the Fairfield City Council's approval of the proposed Pacific Flyway Center by adding the City of Fairfield's Urban Growth Boundary amendment to include the

acreage of the Pacific Flyway Center site on the November ballot. Mr. Chappell stated he was asked by Assemblyman Jim Fraiser to attend the CA Sporting Caucus on May 18, 2016 at Birds Landing for a Legislative Education Day and give a brief presentation to the legislative members on the Suisun Resource Conservation District's role in the Suisun Marsh.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~

a) Agency Committee ~ Mr. Lenk gave an update on the Delta Levee and Habitat Advisory Committee status on the proposed projects submitted for grant funding. Mr. Chappell added to this report stating that the Solano County Board of Supervisors awarded the Director's of the Suisun RCD a Certificate of Appreciation for volunteering their valuable time as Board Members, helping improve the quality of life in Solano County.

b) Legal Committee ~ No Report

c) Personnel Committee ~ No Report

d) Finance Committee ~ Mr. Connolly reported that Suisun Conservation Fund is scheduling a meeting which he will share at the June Board meeting. Mr. Chappell stated he would also have a draft of the 2016/2017 SRCD budgets for review next month.

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

9. Closed Session ~ 1. Conference with Legal Counsel – One case –Potential Litigation (Gov. Code Section 54956.9 (c))

2. Real Property Negotiations: Property: Lower Joice Island in unincorporated Solano County. District negotiator: Steven Chappell

10. Reconvene ~ Mr. Vaccarella stated that there was no report.

11. Adjourn ~ Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.