

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 AT 2:00 PM  
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS  
675 TEXAS STREET  
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dennis Becker, SRCD Associate Director  
Steven Chappell, SRCD  
Tim Edmunds, SRCD  
Michal Koller, DWR  
Kelli Perez, SRCD  
Melissa Riley, CDFW  
Orlando Rocha, CDFW  
Katie Smith, CDFW  
Laureen Barthman Thompson, CDFW  
Bruce Wickland, SRCD  
Lisa Wohn, Wohn Ranch

**1. Call to Order** ~ The Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 2:06PM.

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

**3. Open Session** ~

**a) Approval of the August 9, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes** ~

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2017 Board meeting was made by Mr. Lenk and seconded by Mr. Lewis; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**4. Financial Reports** ~

**a) Approval of Vendor Claims for August 2017** ~ Mr. Chappell reported the August 2017 General Fund vendor claims total as \$104,744.84. Mr. Lenk made a motion to approve the August General Fund vendor claims for \$104,744.84 and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the July 2017 LJI vendor claims for \$103,382.41. Mr. Lenk made a motion to approve the August 2017 LJI vendor claims for \$103,382.41 and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the July 2017 Special Revenue vendor claims total of \$37,770.48. Mr. Lenk made a motion to approve the August 2017 Special Revenue vendor claims total for \$37,770.48 and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report** ~ Mr. Orlando Rocha presented the DFW Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (GIWA) report. The elk hunting season is currently in period 9 antlerless, and tomorrow will be the start of period 10 general bull hunts. DFW staff has been working with a group of researchers in the Wildlife Area and the Napa Sonoma Marsh to trap and place telemetry equipment on Great Egrets. The Information obtained will provide insight to the Great Egret's movement data in and around the area. The USGS banding crews are done for the season with the exception of the rocket net crew who look to band pintail, wigeon, and shovelers. The crew was out on Joice Island today with a good set of birds in front of the net, unfortunately when the ignition button was pushed the net didn't fire, they are hoping for better results when they try again tomorrow.

Reporting out of order

**6. Department of Water Resources Report** ~ Mr. Michal Koller distributed and reviewed the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. Starting with the Suisun Marsh salinity conditions for the month of August and early September 2017, he then gave a detailed update on the Suisun Marsh facilities operations, maintenance and repairs. Mr. Koller reported the current reservoir storage levels and precipitation. Some discussion ensued. The presentation by Mr. Cliff Feldheim on a summary of ongoing Suisun Marsh Waterfowl & Wildlife Studies was postponed.

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

### **a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement and PAI Grant Program Update ~**

Mr. Chappell reported attending an Environmental Compliance Team Meeting and Applicants Compliance Team Meeting on September 12. Included in your Board package is a preliminary summary of the 2015 draft Vegetation Map of the Suisun Marsh, Mr. Chappell pointed out the increase of invasive species, specifically Phragmites. Some discussion ensued. SRCD and the Technical Review Committee are done reviewing the 2017 PAI project proposals and site inspections. Many of the approved 2017 PAI Projects are being pushed back until the 2018 work season.

**b) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~** Mr. Chappell stated on Friday September 15, SRCD and DWR, will host the Delta Stewardship Council's Science Panel for a Suisun Marsh tour. The tour will have stops at the DWR Bradmoor Island and the DFW Hill Slough tidal wetland restoration site; the tour will proceed to Grizzly Ranch for lunch and discussion of managed wetlands operations, then on to Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates, and Tule Red tidal restoration site.

**c) USACE Permits ~ RGP3 & LOP Update ~** Mr. Chappell reported that the USACE, and USBR are performing an audit inspection of approved maintenance activities completed in the 2017 work season on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The Corps has requested site visits focus on properties that applied for and were approved to complete emergency dredging under RGP 5 permit and RGP 3 activities in the tidal side of the exterior levees. Also Mr. Chappell stated he received word from the Corps that they're working on the Public Notice for the renewal of the 5 year RGP 3 maintenance permit, which expires at the end of December 2017. . Some discussion ensued.

**d) Water Manager Program Update ~** Mr. Wickland began his report with the announcement of his retirement from SRCD as the Operation manager effective February 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. Mr. Wickland voiced his appreciation for the opportunity to work with SRCD, DFW, Suisun Marsh Landowners and other agencies in the preservation and enhancement of the Suisun Marsh wetland and wildlife habitat. He also committed to work diligently to get a replacement for his position hired and assist in training them prior to his departure. Mr. Wickland then went on to report the Water Manager's work activities this past month including, herbicide delivery and chemical use reporting, GIS database update, operate and service portable pumps, Low DO grant project support, RWQCB staff support, fish screen maintenance, fall flood up coordination, NMFS notifications and preconstruction photos of exterior work projects.

**e) Lower Joice Island Update ~** Mr. Wickland reported on the LJI Caretaker's activities which included facility and grounds maintenance, equipment maintenance, herbicide application, and supporting excavator and dozer operation with fuel, mowing levees and transporting the mechanic, and placement of lumber at numerous sites for bulkhead construction.

**f) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~** Mr. Chappell stated he gave a presentation to the, Napa-Solano Chapter of the Audubon on the Suisun Marsh and Pacific Flyway Center September 12<sup>th</sup>. Included in the Board package is a letter from Assembly Member Jim Frazier to California State Legislature on his

recommendations for funding 2.5 million dollars from the Green Gas Reduction Fund and Water / Park Bond, for Suisun Marsh habitat protection and levee improvements. .

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

**a) Agency Committee** ~ Mr. Lenk discussed a newspaper article called "Oroville Dam" Frustration, friction flashed behind the scenes as emergency grew".

**b) Legal Committee** ~ No report

**c) Personnel Committee** ~ Mr. Lewis proposed an amendment to the SRCD Employee Handbook section on Administration Leave, reducing the amount of leave granted to the position of Operations Manager from 56 to 40 hours a fiscal year. Mr. Waters made a motion to accept the recommendations' of the Personnel Committee as presented, and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**d) Finance Committee** ~ No report

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

**9. Closed Session:**

**Conference with Legal Counsel – 1.** Potential Litigation: (Gov. Code Section 54956.9 (c))

2. Conference with Labor Negotiators: Agency designated representatives: Directors Tony Vaccarella, Arnold Lenk, James Waters, and Mike Lewis. Unrepresentative employees: Executive Director, Operations Manager, Office Supervisor, Water Managers, and Lower Joice Island Resident Caretaker.

**10. Reconvene** ~ - Mr. Vaccarella reported out of Closed Session, nothing to report on

1. Potential Litigation; 2. Conference with Labor Negotiators, the Board approved the recommendations of the Personnel Committee for SRCD staff salary considerations.

**11. Adjourn** ~ Meeting adjourned at 4:13 PM.