

## **MINUTES**

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018 AT 2:00 PM  
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS  
675 TEXAS STREET  
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dennis Becker, SRCD Associate Director  
Steven Chappell, SRCD  
Mike Frost, Frost Construction  
Michal Koller, DWR  
Yuanwen Lin, DWR  
Kelli Perez, SRCD  
Melissa Riley, CDFW  
Orlando Rocha, CDFW  
John Takekawa, SRCD  
Larry Wyckoff, DFW

**1. Call to Order** ~ The Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM.

**2. Public Comments** ~ None.

**3. Open Session** ~

**a) Approval of the February 14, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes** ~

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2018 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 February 2018** ~ Mr. Chappell reported the February 2018 General Fund vendor claims total as \$69,590.81. Mr. Waters made a motion to approve the February General Fund vendor claims for \$69,590.81 and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the February 2018 LJI vendor claims for \$19,495.40. Mr. Waters made a motion to approve the February 2018 LJI vendor claims for \$19,495.40 and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the February 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total as \$28,099.56. Mr. Waters made a motion to approve the February 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total for \$28,099.56 and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**b) Disposal of 1976 Formula Boat HIN TNRP005M76B, and 1975 Vinson Boat Trailer VID 24725** ~ Mr. Chappell proposed disposal of the old and nonworking Formula Boat and boat trailer. Mr. Waters made a motion to approve and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report** ~ Mr. Rocha provided the DFW report. He provided a short update on the Joice Island pig hunt. During the junior hunt, one junior hunter harvested a pig, and since the adult hunt has begun 3 pigs have been harvested by 6 hunters. DFW staff is preparing for the summer work, starting spraying, and completing tractor maintenance. USGS has been busy tracking 10 radio marked skunks and 6 raccoons, as part of the waterfowl nest predation study. This year there is much less water in the upland nesting fields, so behavior of foraging skunks and racoons may be much different. GPS transmitters are now more available, this year a student is planning to mark 10 northern harriers and trying to mark a pair of great horned owls. Wardens have been active on the Wildlife Area checking the public and fisherman. Some discussion ensued.

**6. Department of Water Resources Report** ~ Mr. Koller distributed the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. Month of February, salinity was 8 mS/cm and was met at all compliance stations (Sunrise is in error at 9.17 mS/cm, actual likely 4-5 mS/cm), ranging from 1-5 mS/cm. Ibis and Goodyear were higher at 7.49-9.17 mS/cm. Delta

outflow was 11,549 cfs with exports of ~2000 cfs from the CVP and SWP projects. The March 11<sup>th</sup> report showed that salinities ranged from 1-8 mS/cm. The western marsh was higher, and effects of salinity control gate operations and recent rain events have lowered salinities. Delta outflow has reduced to ~9000 cfs, and CVP and SWP exports continue to be ~2000 cfs.

Plans to install a new Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) West Drain this summer is ongoing. Herbicide and preemergent is currently being applied to the RRDS levee system. Salinity control gates are in operation. The Salinity Control Gates will stop operating March 15<sup>th</sup>, since salinity standards are being met. Apr-May salinity standards are 11 mS/cm. Morrow Island Distribution System mowing will be completed in early May with herbicide applied post mowing. Goodyear Slough Outfall levee mowing will be completed in early May with herbicide already applied, Goodyear Slough Outfall intakes will be cleaned of floating debris after 30 April when RGP3 permit authorized for this facility is obtained.

Reservoirs storage in February were average or slightly above except Oroville, now March is at average levels. Precipitation for current year is below average, about 25". The precipitation will likely be below average in both north and south areas of the State.

Mr. Chappell stated that the salinity measurement of 9.17 mS/cm at the Goodyear Station for the month of February, exceeded the salinity Standard by 1 mS/cm. This exceedance is the first of two required criteria to trigger the Drought Response Program for 2018 under the SMPA Agreement. Mr. Chappell requested that future DWR reports include the status of the Drought Response Program trigger and possible future salinity exceedances.

Mr. Chappell asked about planned repairs to the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates and for DWR to include monthly updates— Mr. Koller agreed and reported the plan is set for Jun-Sep. During the gate removal, a stop lock will be in place to close off the water on one gate. Two gates will continue to be used to move the water resulting in 90% efficiency of the system. Oct-May operations is not expected to be affected much, but August operation for Delta Smelt resiliency study may be affected.

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

### **c) USACE Permits -- RGP3 Renewal, LOP Permit Update ~ *Heard out of order.***

Mr. Chappell reported that the new 5-year permit was issued by the USACE on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The permit was signed by SRCD and hand-delivered to the USACE for execution. The 40-page permit, the 401 Water Quality certification, soil testing requirements and BCDC conditions letter is currently being printed and will be sent out to each duck club. Every primary landowner will receive a hardcopy of the permits and these permits will be posted (as of 3/15) on the SRCD website. Mr. Chappell has asked the USACE to consider an expedited package review and approval for the March

package. The April package should be a normal review process.

Mr. Waters asked about the BCDC conditions letter and new permitting requirements. Mr. Chappell reported that Mr. Taylor is looking over the letter and permit application requirements. SRCD is currently aware of 6-7 proposed projects that will require a BCDC permit including possibly 2 for CDFW. SRCD will prepare a standard application and the landowner can add their project specific action and contact information to the permit.

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

~ Mr. Chappell reported that SRCD has updated the three 2018 PAI cost share programs with the updates from 2017 Board approved clarifications or changes in program administration. SRCD is incorporated these changes and is working on the final changes for a mailing next week. This mailing will likely have the 2018 Dredging Permit, PAI program, notice for the 2018 Spring landowner workshop, and diversion restriction letter for Delta Smelt included. March 13<sup>th</sup>, SRCD participated in the quarterly meeting of ECAT and ACT meeting to ensure required monitoring and reporting for Biological Opinions and Permits are being completed and submitted. SRCD is responsible for most all reporting related to the Regional General Permit 3. Everything is current and going smoothly. BOR is behind on their compliance report and are working on the 2016-2017 report to be completed by the end of March.

**b) Suisun Marsh Plan Update** ~Mr. Chappell noted the monthly principal's meeting for tomorrow was canceled. The Adaptive Management Advisory Team (AMAT) meeting was held at the end of February. The meeting topic focused on the initial design of the Wings Landing tidal restoration project. The project will be brought back to AMAT again when it is at a 40-60% design. February 27<sup>th</sup>, was the kick-off meeting for the quarterly BCDC coordination meeting. BCDC has asked for a Marsh tour of 11 May being set up by Mr. Chappell and Mr. Feldheim at DWR. The visit will likely include Bradmoor Island tidal restoration site. This provides an elevated view and overlook of the managed the wetlands. The tour will also include a stop at a managed wetland to view maintenance and operation, possibly CWA's Denverton property. The expectation is about 30 BCDC staff, planning and site access will be a challenge.

**d) Water Manager Program Update** ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the successful retirement party for Bruce Wickland – a good time was had by all. Pump deployments began during the first week of February. One of the tow pumps needed repair and was brought to John Deere in Dixon, while another pump had a field repair. The March newsletter was published for distribution. Geomorph maps were used for meetings about summer work with clubs, and NASA (Chris Potter) provided 2016 NAIP images for updating background photos. The Water Managers assisted with coordinating and distributing permits and forms including the new RGP 3 permit which was issued on 13 March. SRCD interviewed and hired a seasonal technician to start on 19 March to

assist in the Managed Wetland Assessment Project. Phelan McKinney passed his boom truck certification, and Tim passed his general chemical applicators license but will take the right-of-way section test in late March. A summary of results from the Midwinter Waterfowl Survey Index was provided.

**e) Lower Joice Island Update** ~ Mr. Takekawa reported that the post season hunting group check out club house inspection was completed on 28 February. The first round of zooplankton sampling was completed during the club initial drain, and a poster of these study results was presented at the Interagency Ecology Program (IEP) meeting in early March. The new LJI caretaker boat was obtained from Bass Pro with assistance from CWA. The boat is a Grizzly Tracker 1860 Jon Boat with 60hp Mercury outboard motor. The Hitachi Ex120 excavator was serviced by Pape Machinery on LJI with arm pistons, and the radiator removed for further work in Sacramento. A dumpster was rented, and trash was cleared from LJI and the Pierce garage. The Massey-Ferguson tractor service was nearly done and should be returned to the island in the next week.

**f) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations** ~ Mr. Chappell reported that Bruce was appreciative of his retirement party. The Landowner Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday 18 April but may be in error in some copies of the Newsletter. An erratum will be posted on the website.

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

**a) Agency Committee** ~ Mr. Lenk discussed a recent news article about Prop 72. Discussion ensued.

**b) Legal Committee** ~ Recent water rights decision info was included in the Board package.

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

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

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

**9. Adjourn ~ 3:13 PM** (At the end of the meeting, Mr. Koller introduced new DWR staff Dr. Yuanwen Lin, an engineer from Colorado State Univ.)