

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 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: Steven Chappell, SRCD
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Michal Koller, DWR
Kelli Perez, SRCD
Orlando Rocha, CDFW
Ted Swift, DWR
John Takekawa, SRCD
Laureen Barthman-Thompson, CDFW
Larry Wyckoff, CDFW

1. Call to Order ~ The Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ None.

3. Open Session ~

a) Approval of the May 9, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes ~

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 9, 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 May 2018 ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the May 2018 General Fund vendor claims total as \$51,002.55 that included spring Lepidium control, and reimbursement of drought response funds. Mr. Lenk made a motion to approve the May General Fund vendor claims for \$51,002.55 and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the May 2018 LJI vendor claims for \$17,040.02. Mr. Lenk made a motion to approve the May 2018 LJI vendor claims for \$17,040.02 and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the May 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total as \$27,124.12. Mr. Lenk made a motion to approve the May 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total for \$27,124.12 and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

b) Presentation of the SRCD FY18/19 Draft Budgets Mr. Chappell presented the draft FY 18/19 budgets to the Board. These were sent to the Board last week and a summary memo was provided. The budgets are heavily funded by grant dollars by the DWR support, CDFW support, SMPA agreement and other contracts. This year's budgets include staff health care costs and 5% increase. The health rates are for the calendar year, so this number is still unknown. The SMPA admin fee has increased significantly this budget year. Salary expenses are similar to the last year, and anticipated legal fees are reduced this year. Liability insurance is prepaid and was redone in April. Audit costs will likely be higher for next year, so the budget has increased by \$8,000. Most SRCD general operational expenses are static. Office expenses includes a new computer, new computer desk for staff, and cleaning services for the SRCD offices. A budget surplus of \$35K is estimated. Mr. Lewis asked if the replacement of the 2008 Tahoe with 215,000 miles was included in the draft budget. Mr. Chappell responded no. The Board requested the vehicle replacement be added to the final 2018/19 budgets. Mr. Connolly suggested earlier that SRCD consider paying down SRCD CalPers unfunded liability costs. He would like to set up a meeting with Solano County to discuss options and will report back to the Board.

SRCD Water Manager Program draft Budget – Mr. Chappell presented the DWR contract information. The contract has an annual COLA, which increases the program

operational budget by \$4,500 this year. Program costs are similar to previous years and are reimbursable under the agreement. Lower Joice Island draft Budget – Mr. Chappell presented the estimate operational cost and expected revenues for the upcoming year. The LJI budget is heavily influenced by FEMA claim reimbursement for approved levee repairs. The use of SRCD's equipment and labor will be reimbursed, although costs will vary depending on the amount of approved work which get completed.

5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report ~ Mr. Rocha provided the DFW report. The big game hunt draw results were posted today. The wildlife area staff is doing a lot of mowing work with new equipment, and although the computer of the tractor failed, which was repaired under warranty. U.S. Geological Survey crews continue summer nest searching –as of June 4th, 276 nests were found, including 155 mallards, 5 northern harriers, and 5 bitterns. Early breeding birds did well with larger broods. Research is continuing on raccoons and skunks, and some aerial predators have been marked for observation. A longer update will be provided at the September landowner workshop. A question was asked about invasive nutria, and Mr. Rocha provided an update about the control work to date. The animals are nocturnal, so the best indication of nutria presence is vegetation cutting with a 45-degree angle cut. Muskrats can do the same cropping, but they cut at a 90-degree angle. The detection program is using game cameras with sweet potato bait, and well over 100 animals have been controlled in the Los Banos area. Some discussion ensued.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Koller distributed the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. In the month of May, the salinity standard of 11.0 mS/cm was met at all compliance and monitoring stations. Current salinities are ranging from 2.13 - 8.71 mS/cm. Net delta outflow was 7,519 cfs, which is relatively high for this time of year, resulting in relatively low Marsh salinities. CVP and SWP exports were normal at 2500 cfs. Planning for a Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) west drain replacement is continuing with construction that commenced on 1-15 June, and alternative access routes are in effect. Construction is set for 15-31 July. RRDS mowing and pre- and post-emergent was applied and completed. Regular updates were provided to SRCD and CDFW. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG) planned operation is in August. The Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) will have grading and spraying 18 June – 13 July. MIDS will have levee mowing, grading and spraying from 18 Jun to 13 July. Goodyear Slough Outfall – levee mowing, grading, and spraying will be from 16-20 July. Drought Response Funds have not been triggered this year – trigger values were provided in a table with no exceedance levels in March, April, or May. The reservoir storage was reported. Most reservoirs are at historical averages except for Oroville (68%). Precipitation for the current year in the Northern Sierra is below historical average with warmer water but at about 40" or 80%, and the Southern Sierra is at 75-80% of the historical average.

Mr. Chappell noted that this year would be a test for operating the SMSCG in August for

Delta Smelt habitat, but it could reduce salinities for the clubs for October flooding. Mr. Koller agreed that it may be a benefit for clubs.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

a) Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement Update and PAI Grant Program

Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported that in the Water Manager Program FY 18/19 budget, there are costs including replacement of two Chevrolet 2500 trucks with accessories for the upcoming fiscal year. This year, there are 29 PAI cost-share projects that have been approved, and 10 were pending review, and one project has been completed. The revised total PAI requests this year have been \$865,558 for the 75/25 program, \$212,093 for the 50/50 cost-share program, and \$251,213 for the JUF 75/25 program. The total estimated project cost is \$1,328,864 with a cost-share amount of \$943,625. The second meeting of the PAI Review Committee is scheduled for 22 June, and we currently have 10 PAI cost-share proposals to review. The PAI Project Agreements were sent to landowners for signature at the end of May.

b) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the Principals meetings were on May 17th, and on May 29th the Bradmoor Island tidal restoration project 30% design was presented at AMAT meeting. SRCD, DWR, and CWA hosted a BCDC Staff retreat and tour of Suisun Marsh on May 18th, 2018 at Denverton Land Company – Mr. Chappell thanked Mr. Robert Eddings (CWA) for hosting, and several others for participating. The fieldtrip provided a basic understanding of the history of the Plan of Protection, managed wetland activities, Suisun Marsh Plan, and tidal restoration projects in Suisun Marsh.

b) USACE Permits -- RGP3 Renewal, LOP Permit Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the April RGP3 package (~40 applications) and the May RGP3 package were all recently approved by the USACE. Two duck clubs that needed the new BCDC permits went to the BCDC Commission for approval this week. Yesterday, the 2018-2019 Water Quality Monitoring plan was approved by the RWQCB requiring less staff labor for the upcoming monitoring season. The 2018 Letter of Permission Dredging Permit application is being prepared. It is anticipated that 10 clubs will be applying for dredging. The Water Managers are completing site inspections and taking photos for submittal July 1st. A BCDC permit for 2018 dredging will be submitted and is currently being prepared. The volume this year is going to be similar to last year at 20,000-30,000 cu/yds, but a prepaid 100K cu/yds will likely be used, so a new certification will be needed next year at \$0.15/cu/yd, and costs may increase which SRCD will pre-pay. About half of this year's applicants have dredged previously. Also, thanks to Larry Wyckoff for completion of the three-year CDFW support agreement with SRCD. It was completed this week.

c) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the Water Manager Program. The Water Managers continued to deploy pumps as clubs request the support for final drainage. One pump broke down but was fixed with a new clutch. We received final approvals for the Corp permit applications from the April and May permit requests. Mr. Takekawa attended a Suisun Marsh vegetation monitoring meeting led by CDFW on Friday, 11 May where the status of the triennial surveys and future directions were discussed. A focus of the discussion was on 2018 aerial and ground surveys and future directions.

The Water Managers provided a display of water control structures for the BCDC retreat to Denverton Ranch and Bradmoor Island on 18 May. Work on the Managed Wetland Assessment project continued with surveys completed on most Priority 1 Areas and work initiated on Priority 2 and 3 Areas. We are waiting for response to permission requests from some of the clubs in the Priority 2 and 3 Areas, and most work should be completed by the end of June. A meeting on the Managed Wetland Assessment is scheduled to be held in Davis at RMA Associates on 19 June.

Mr. Taylor submitted a water quality monitoring plan to the Water Board to meet the new TMDL, and the board representative indicated that the plan fulfills the requirements and will likely be approved by next week. The water managers began assisting landowners in entering Diversion Reports online to the Delta Watermaster. We spoke with the Delta Watermaster on 7 June for clarification on the alternative reporting plan for Suisun Marsh clubs and the deadline for reporting. We were informed that if diversions are not reported by 1 July, they may be fined up to \$500 per day for each unreported diversion. An announcement was posted on the SRCD website, and letters and emails were sent to inform landowners about this deadline and the late fees.

The Water Managers attended and assisted at the Suisun Marsh Field Day on June 2nd and manned the SRCD booth. Several landowners and former Operations Manager Bruce Wickland stopped to visit. Mr. Takekawa hosted a meeting with Ted Swift of DWR on 5 June at the USGS Dixon Field Station to discuss a DWR-proposed LiDAR aerial survey for August. The data from this survey provides detailed information on the elevation of ground surfaces or plant canopies. We have proposed to assist in conducting ground surveys to help validate the aerial data. Mr. Edmunds ordered chemicals for the 2018 Pest weed control program on 12 June, but he was told there may be a large increase in chemical costs this year. The next SRCD landowner workshop will be held on September 5th focusing on the recent results of the applied studies in the Marsh. We have invited Dr. Karin Kettenring from Utah State University to discuss Phragmites control and management, and Bob Perry from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources who will discuss brackish water wetland waterfowl management in the Ace Basin. Thanks to the Suisun Conservation Fund for offering to support their travel to attend.

Board members and Mr. Chappell suggested a review of pump maintenance costs including asking a few equipment experts about billing and managing long-term maintenance. This was agreed upon as a valuable review to undertake at the end of the pumping season.

d) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. Mr. Mouton continued equipment repairs for the upcoming work season. He installed a new seat in the excavator, sanded and repainted the mower, repaired a 4-wheeler, and fixed a chainsaw. We completed a dredging work application for LJI in late May. On 21 May, Dr. Chris Potter, a NASA scientist, conducted a vegetation survey with a drone at LJI to test detection of pepperweed with this method. Dr. Susan De La Cruz from USGS attended to discuss cooperative studies on habitats. On 30 May, the Suisun Conservation Fund trustees met to discuss the fund and LJI maintenance expenses in 2017. Early in June, Mr. Mouton performed a leach cycle on the northern unit of the property to take advantage of the good freshwater conditions and irrigate late emerging food plants. SRCD completed 6 diversion reports for Lower Joice Island and submitted them on the Water Board website by 7 June. Progress on club house facility improvement continues.

e) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported that he attended the Pacific Flyway Center meeting, and Mr. Hoffmann's daughter attended the meeting and committed to move forward with the Flyway Center environmental planning and permitting. They will hire a development director to raise funds, especially from those who offered earlier commitments. The November water bond ballot initiative includes funding for the Flyway Center. The center will include paid admission and step-wise development following the model of other centers. Some discussion ensued. The July 2018 - SRCD Board meeting will be held at Rush Ranch to accommodate renovations at the Supervisor's Chambers.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~

a) Agency Committee ~ Mr. Lenk reported on 2 items. For FEMA claims, Mr. Lenk was notified that last week the main FEMA contact was demobilized. Also, articles were provided in the Board package on the water bond and the tunnels. Mr. Lenk suggested that the public doesn't know what is in the bonds and what they will accomplish, and articles in the package provided that background. Mr. Vaccarella noted that a new bill was introduced to remove Hetch-Hetchy dam; the voters from the City of San Francisco will vote on it this fall. Discussion ensued.

b) Legal Committee ~ Mr. Waters discussed the need to engage Potrero Hills Landfill and discuss the SRCD PHLF settlement Agreement. Mr. Chappell would like SRCD attorney Nick Jacobs to organize and attend the meeting to find out when the PHLF second phase status. The agreement was signed in 2006, so it has been 12 years since

the expansion was proposed, and the facility was sold to Waste Connections. To Steve's knowledge the tiger salamander permitting requirements have been met and Phase II expansion is now possible. Discussion ensued.

c) Personnel Committee ~ No report.

d) Finance Committee ~ Mr. Chappell stated the FY 16/17 audit is nearing completion and the draft audit will be presented at the July Board meeting.

e) Associate Directors Report and Public Relations Committee ~ No official report, but Mr. Vaccarella discussed the need to recruit landowners to be involved in the SRCD Board. Involvement primarily would be attendance 2-3 hours monthly for the Board meeting. Mr. Chappell suggested that there is an opportunity to have associate directors become engaged on landowner issues. Discussion ensued.

9. Adjourn ~ 3:46 PM