

## **MINUTES**

**SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2018 AT 2:00 PM  
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS  
675 TEXAS STREET, FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steven Chappell, SRCD  
Tim Edmunds, SRCD  
Mike Frost, Frost Construction  
Michal Koller, CDWR  
Kelli Perez, SRCD  
Melissa Riley, CDFW  
John Takekawa, SRCD  
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 July 11, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes** ~

A correction was requested by Mr. Lenk on Item 7A. – PAI Grant Program update. Mr. Lenk requested that the minutes reflect that RD2127 was not aware of the proposed 2018 cost share project to replace and upgrade two exterior water control structures on property 805/806 Gray Island. A motion to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2018 Board meeting as amended was made by Mr. Lenk and seconded by Mr. Waters; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**4. Financial Reports** ~

**a) Approval of Vendor Claims for July 2018** ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the July 2018 General Fund vendor claims total was \$42,815.88. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the July General Fund vendor claims for \$42,815.88, and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the July 2018 LJI vendor claims total as \$31,803.26, which included levee work reimbursable under FEMA. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the July 2018 LJI vendor claims for \$31,803.26, and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the July 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total as \$21,694.71. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the July 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total for \$21,694.71, and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**b) Budget Summary Review 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter FY17/18** ~ Mr. Chappell presented the budget summary review for the SRCD 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of FY 17/18. Mr. Chappell discussed the fiscal year 4<sup>th</sup> quarter expenditures and revenues for each Department of the SRCD General and Special Revenue Funds. Mr. Connolly presented a spreadsheet of SRCD's financial position at fiscal yearend. Some discussion ensued.

**5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report** ~ Ms. Riley read the DFW report. Staff is busy preparing elk camp for the season starting last Saturday. On opening day, the auction tag hunter harvested a 7x7 bull tule elk weighing 605 lbs. The hunter, from Alabama appreciated the hunt and the Grizzly Island wildlife area. All of the general tag hunts will start on 14 August through September. Pond work in the wildlife area was completed, and staff also has fixed a bad levee to prepare for flood up. Hill Slough exterior levee damage was repaired, but it remains a chronic spot of concern.

**6. Department of Water Resources Report** ~ Mr. Koller distributed the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet for the month of July. Mr. Koller reviewed salinity reading readings ranging from 5.2 to 15.7 mS/cm. Net delta outflow was 6,525 with Sacramento

inflow of 15,141 cfs, with total exports >5,000 cfs. Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) West Drain construction was completed on 20 July. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG) are being operated for Delta Smelt resilience with operation in the month of August for the first time. The flashboards were installed a few days before 1 August. A weblink is provided to report on the action. Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) had aggregate base added and levees graded. Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) intakes were cleared on 16 July, and intakes will be cleaned monthly as needed. Levee mowing has been completed, and pre- and post-emergent is applied as weather permits.

The reservoir storage was reported with most at historical averages. Shasta is below the historical average. Cumulative precipitation for the current year is reported for the Northern Sierra is below historical averages at 75-80%, and the Southern Sierra also is at 75-80% of the historical average. This year was less than half of the precipitation of last year.

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

**a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement Update and PAI Grant Program Update ~** Mr. Chappell reported that the SMPA Agreement continues to be administered. We are now receiving landowner notifications about 2018 PAI project completion. SRCD will be working on completing post construction inspections and processing reimbursements. Mr. Lenk informed SRCD, that Reclamation District (RD) 2127 had concern with a PAI Project exterior water control structure replacement on property 805/806 Gray Island. The water control structure and exterior levee on this property are part of the RD 2127. Mr. Chappell reported that PAI applications and environmental permitting are associated with individual properties, not the Reclamation Districts in the Marsh. This project was determined to be eligible and consistent with the PAI Program guidelines, had all required environmental permitting authorizations, and has been approved for funding by DWR and USBR. SRCD will proceed with processing the application when completed. Mr. Chappell recommended that the Reclamation District contact the landowner directly and facilitate a meeting with the landowner, the contractor, the Reclamation District engineer and RD discuss their concerns and resolve this issue under the authority of the RD. Discussion ensued.

**b) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~** Mr. Chappell reported that the SMP Principals met on July 19<sup>th</sup>, and the Adaptive Management Committee will meet on 28 August with 60% design review for Wings Landing project. California Resources Agency has asked for a tour of the Marsh on August 17<sup>th</sup>, with Mr. Michael Roberts of Resources, Mr. Bill Harrell, Kris Tjernell, Catherin McCalvin of DWR. The tour will address tidal restoration projects, levee maintenance needs, and actions for delta smelt resiliency projects.

**c) USACE Permits -- RGP3 Renewal, LOP Permit Update ~** Mr. Chappell reported that the RGP3 June package was not approved at the end of July, and the

USACE received the July package and combined them and authorized both in early August. All 2017 RGP3 applications are approved and authorized. The 2018 dredging program LOP applications and the BCDC Marsh Development Permit includes 10 clubs this year. The BCDC permit will undergo a 2-week review, then the permit will be issued the week of the 28 August. Work should be scheduled starting 1 September.

**d) Water Manager Program Update** ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the Water Manager Program. On July 11th after the last Board meeting, Mr. Takekawa met with Mike Casazza and John Eadie to discuss the Landowner Workshop for 5 September. Pete Smith and Josh Birch have graciously offered to host lunch at the workshop, and Mr. Smith offered use of his facility for future landowner meetings to take advantage of the larger space.

The week of July 16<sup>th</sup>, Mr. McKinney completed the July Newsletter and mailed it out. He updated the website with articles and upcoming events. Data from the Managed Wetland Assessment project was forwarded to modelers at RMA in mid-July to complete a priority list of areas that will benefit from increased gravity drainage. A team meeting was scheduled for Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the preliminary results and preparation of the upcoming pre-proposal due on August 31st.

On July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Tortosa and Mr. Takekawa met with Dr. Karen Thorne and Dr. Kevin Buffington at USGS, Ms. Sarah Estrella and Ms. Laureen Thompson at CDFW, and Dr. Ted Swift at DWR to discuss ground surveys for vegetation monitoring. This will be associated with ongoing triennial vegetation surveys and a LiDAR flight in Aug-Sep. This survey will provide a detailed elevation map of the marsh surface and vegetation. USGS loaned SRCD a RTK-GPS unit for the survey work.

Phragmites aerial helicopter spraying was completed during the first week of July. All planned areas were covered. In the second week of July, Goodyear Slough landowners were sent notices of EPA grant support for work to improve their water quality. The Water Managers completed the pulling and cleaning of all the fish screens, including the screen at Lower Joice Island. Mr. Edmunds is working on maintenance of the batteries and power systems, but it has been difficult to find a solar expert who will help us with repairs. Pumping continued at three installations on 425, 520, 610.

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Takekawa submitted a proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with Solano County Parks and CDFW to improve conditions at Belden's Landing. The goal of the proposal was to improve an area where public use is already concentrated rather than considering potentially inappropriate expansion of public use elsewhere in the Marsh.

The week of July 30<sup>th</sup>, we worked with IT technicians to repair problems with the office network and email system. While we contract with GoDaddy for email and office

software, their system is not very user friendly, so changing to a different vendor may be worth discussing. Mr. Edmunds obtained three estimates for two replacement trucks for the Water Manager Program. We obtained estimates for outfitting the new trucks from Sierra Truck and are hoping for replacements to be in place by the end of October.

**e) Lower Joice Island Update** ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Mouton initiated 2018 FEMA levee work and made quick progress on the north end of the island. Other maintenance activities non FEMA was done as well. On July 13<sup>th</sup>, we met with Remarkable Solar who loaned us three panels and installed them on the solar shed to repair those damaged by equipment the previous month. He surveyed the existing solar system and provided a proposal for a solar system upgrade with an estimated cost of \$17,500 (85% of costs are for new panels, batteries, and controller). This compared to a rough estimate from a solar company in Vacaville suggested 4-times that cost. In general, it has been very hard to find good solar contractors who are available and willing to come out to the Marsh. Repairs have been made on the excavator and tractor. Next Wednesday, the club members have a work day plan, and Mr. Mouton is helping with coordination. We continue to make repairs to the LJI pickup truck. We are delaying major repairs while we upgrade our vehicle fleet.

**f) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations** ~ On July 27<sup>th</sup>, we hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Suisun Conservation Fund Fun Shoot and Social at Bird's Landing and had a good turnout. Mr. Chappell reported that we had 67 shooters, and net proceeds were \$15,252. Mr. Takekawa requested comments about the event that would improve it from Board members, and he noted next year's event is tentatively scheduled for August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

Mr. Chappell attended the Pacific Flyway Center meeting, and the CEQA document is on the street for review. The Fairfield Planning Commission meeting will be 12<sup>th</sup> September with full city council review at two meetings thereafter. The review will be in October and the project is still moving forward. Tomorrow, the CVJV Board will meet at Grizzly Ranch and Mr. Chappell will attend. Mr. Waters attended the Delta Conservancy Board meeting with Assemblyman Jim Frazier and Supervisor John Vasquez in attendance. Mr. Waters mentioned that several clubs would benefit from improved emergency services, so Mr. Waters would like to establish a protocol with Reach or Calstar for helicopters that will respond based on a local call (currently, it requires a uniformed officer). Supervisor Vasquez was interested in that suggestion. Mr. Chappell mentioned that Mr. Takekawa requested an AED in the SRCD 18/19 budget, and this will likely be acquired. Mr. Waters reported they have oxygen and an AED at their club.

**8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports** ~ No report.

**a) Agency Committee** ~ No report.

**b) Legal Committee** ~ No report.

**c) Personnel Committee** ~ For Board consideration: Update SRCD Personnel Policy ~ Modified SRCD Work Schedule. Alternative work schedules – Maxiflex time provides the ability for working longer than 8h in a day but no more than 80 h in a 2-week period. Also, a 5-4/9 is provided for every other Friday off. Each of the work schedules may be offered on a case-by-case basis if approved in writing by the Executive Director. Mr. Waters requested a written confirmation about the need for uniformity from the County attorney, and the update was continued to this meeting so that information could be obtained. Written confirmation was provided in the Board package from counsel Bernadette Curry. Motion to approve was offered by Mr. Lewis and second by Mr. Waters; all were in favor and the motion carried.

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

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

**9. Adjourn ~ 3:55 PM**