

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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
Michal Koller, DWR
Michael Koohafkaw, DWR
Kelli Perez, SRCD
Orlando Rocha, CDFW
John Takekawa, SRCD
Jeff Taylor, SRCD
Larry Wyckoff, CDFW

1. Call to Order ~ The Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ None.

3. Open Session ~

a) Approval of the August 8, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the August 8, 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 August 2018 ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the vendor claim summaries for August include 3 payroll periods. The August 2018 General Fund vendor claims totaled \$123,346.95, with expenses including landowner grant reimbursements and the purchase of a RTK survey unit acquired under DWR support contract. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the August General Fund vendor claims for \$123,346.95, and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the August 2018 LJI vendor claims for \$33,457.00 of normal expenses including bulkhead installation. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the August 2018 LJI vendor claims for \$33,457.00, and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the August 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total as \$38,437.97. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the August 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total for \$38,437.97, and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

b) For Board Consideration SRCD Resolution 1819-01: An increase to the SRCD petty cash checking account amount, SRCD credit card limits, and the approval of SRCD's submittal of electronic copies to Solano County Auditor's office ~ Mr. Chappell presented the proposal to increase the SRCD petty cash checking account, credit card limits, and the approval of the use of electronic and digital receipt copies submitted to Solano County for backup of expenses. Original receipts will be kept in SRCD office. This effort is to improve bill payment efficiency, to better meet payment deadlines, and avoid unnecessary late payment charges. Mr. Connolly made a motion to increase the petty cash account, credit card limits, and accepting electronic bill copies, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried for Resolution 1819-01.

c) For Board Consideration: Approve use of EnXco Funds up to \$8,000 to purchase pond stage level loggers to support Suisun Marsh wetland habitat enhancement assessment projects ~ Mr. Chappell presented the proposal in support of Suisun Marsh wetland habitat enhancement. The EnXco windmills settlement funding can be used by SRCD for habitat enhancement and wetland preservation projects within the Suisun Marsh. The pond stage level loggers will be used to record detailed information on

managed wetlands hydrology (flooding and drainage). Mr. Waters made a motion to approve the acquisition, and Mr. Connolly seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

d) For Board Conservation: The Biannual Review and approval of SRCD's existing Conflict of Interest Code ~ Mr. Chappell presented the existing SRCD conflict of interest code. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the existing code with no changes, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report ~ Mr. Rocha read the DFW report. Elk hunts continue to be busy, and we are on the downhill side of the 2018 hunt program. We just ended period 9. Everyone is doing well, although two spike tags were unfilled. Period 10 includes 3 bull hunters. On the Wildlife Area, Phase 1 duck stamp project in the Crescent Unit with spaced blind is being completed to add swales and new drain structures to improve water movement and wetland habitat. Flood-up of Joice Island cells A & B have been initiated and C & D are flooded. The birds have found it with mallards and pintail the primary species. Work is being conducted on the west side DFW properties. Eight ponds are now fully flooded, and flocks of pintail are in the area, as well as a large number of teal. Next step is the preparation for the opening of waterfowl season on October 20th. Most every pond that DFW has flooded has been sprayed for mosquito control. Discussion ensued.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Koller distributed the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of August, there was no salinity standard for the month. The Montezuma Salinity Control Gates were operated in August for the Delta Smelt Resiliency Study. Marsh salinities ranged from 5.4 to 13.5 mS/cm, which is low for this time of year and should be good for managed wetland flood up. Net delta outflow was 5,448 cfs with Sacramento tributary inflow of 18,233 cfs, with total exports >9,900 cfs. Values for September 11th were like August, although exports total increased with similar net balance of 5,800 cfs with increased salinities after suspending the control gate operations.

Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) coordination meetings are taking place. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG) operations for Delta Smelt Resiliency Study has been completed. Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) intakes were cleaned monthly as needed, sediment is scheduled to be dredged 11 September. Pre- and post-emergent herbicide will be applied to facilities as weather permits.

The reservoir storage was reported with levels ranging from 70-132% of historical averages (outside of Oroville), and Shasta is at 91% of the historical average, a decrease from August. Cumulative precipitation for the current year is reported for the Northern Sierra at about 80% of historical average, and the Southern Sierra is at 75% of the historical average.

Mr. Chappell asked if the SMSCG September operation would be triggered this year. Mr. Koller indicated that September gate operations will not happen as we are not in a deficiency year. Mr. Chappell stated that the September SMSCG Gate operation was based upon salinity conditions at monitoring stations S-35 and S-97, Mr. Koller said he would review the operation trigger and get back to SRCD.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement Update and PAI Grant Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the SMPA continues to be administered. We are now receiving landowner contacts for completed 2018 PAI grant projects, working on completing post construction inspections and processing reimbursements. The 2018 PAI program included >40 projects, ~6 will not be done, but 14 projects have been prepared for submittal for reimbursement, while 3 projects are pending that were submitted in July. The E-CAT and the Applicant Compliance Team meeting will be on 18 September. On August 29th SRCD, USBR, DWR and DFW attended a compliance meeting with NOAA Fisheries in Santa Rosa. This meeting was to provide an update on the current permits and reporting requirements. There are ongoing requirements for diversion and water quality monitoring, that may not be needed to continue. NOAA Fisheries agreed to work with the Agencies a review of past compliance reports and monitoring data to consider if continued monitoring is necessary. The dredging program has a requirement for Benthic monitoring. We will also be working with NOAA Fisheries to develop a 2019 monitoring program. The SMP principal's meeting was held on 16 August. Phragmites control studies were discussed for tidal restoration projects including permitting for allowing discharge over water that may be considered marsh-wide. Discussion ensued.

b) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the BCDC coordination meeting was held on 28 August. BCDC presented their policies and regulations requiring permits. DWR has completed their public access assessment, and Mr. Chappell provided comments on the draft Plan. BCDC has an emphasis on maximum feasible public access under the authority of the Bay Plan, which differs from Suisun Marsh Protection Plan. Mr. Chappell hopes to avoid future landowner conflicts favoring consistency with existing historical land use and the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan Policies. On August 17th, Mr. Chappell hosted a Marsh tour with Mike Roberts from the California Resources Agency, Bill Harrell, Catherine McCalvin and Chris Tjernell from DWR. Discussion ensued.

c) USACE Permits -- RGP3 & LOP Permit Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the RGP August package was approved. The 2018 Letter of Permission dredging program has been approved by USACE and RWQCB with 10 clubs participating. Continuing to work with BCDC for approval of a Marsh Development Permit, that hopefully will be issued on 5 September. One project with phragmites removal is being addressed

separately. The 2018 work season applications are likely done unless we have an early winter with unforeseen work. Mr. Chappell has extended an invitation to USACE and RWQCB to complete the annual audit inspection of completed projects.

d) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the Water Manager Program. Stating that pumping is continued on a few clubs. Throughout August, Ms. Tortosa checked managed wetland assessment data and conducted ground-truthing surveys of elevation and vegetation for the marsh wide vegetation mapping project. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with partners on the Managed Wetland Assessment grant project on 10 August to assess progress and start writing a Delta Conservancy pre-proposal for priority club drainage projects which was successfully submitted on 31 August. Mr. Edmunds ordered 2 new $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton pickup trucks for the water manager's program that should be ready in mid-October. The quarterly SRCD staff meeting was held on 14 August with Mr. Lewis attending employee reviews.

Fish screens were repaired and replaced including assistance from Intake Screens for repairs to three screens. The water manager's coordinated fieldwork for the EPA water quality low DO project and installed meters. Inspections were completed for pre-dredging and post-PAI projects. SRCD staff met with Solano County Mosquito Abatement District on 23 August to discuss the upcoming fall flood up season, and letters were sent to clubs about this year's flood up procedure and abatement cost share requirements, if they are treated. Mr. Takekawa led a job walk on 30 August at DWR's Mein's Landing property for a ditch cleaning and blind moving project requested by DWR. Mr. Randy Mager of DWR attended and Caretaker Stan Gollinger led the tour attended by 2 pre-qualified SRCD contractors – Wetlands Construction and Sweetwater Construction.

The last week of August and first week of September, Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, and water managers met with Mr. Pete Smith to coordinate the upcoming Landowner's Science Workshop. The workshop was held on 5 September with >100 in attendance and with a fieldtrip on phragmites control and ecology on 4 September. Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, and Mr. McKinney attended the first Roaring River Distribution System coordination call on 6 September organized by Mr. Michal Koller at DWR. Updates were provided on operations, and Mr. Koller agreed to provide operating directions for operating the West Drain gate. Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, the water managers, and Ms. Tortosa attended the Bay-Delta Conference in Sacramento on 10-11 September, and Mr. Takekawa provided a talk on sea-level rise and the value of managed wetlands for climate adaptation.

e) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Mouton continued to complete exterior levee repairs and required managed wetland work activities. On 13 August, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa joined Mr. Mouton and Mr. Kelly to replace the failed flap gate on Montezuma

Slough. The replacement was successfully completed during the low tide window. Mr. Mouton completed mowing of the south unit and prepared to disk firebreak strips for potential controlled burning in the spring of 2019. He conducted initial work on repairing the main dock and obtained some of the supplies to complete the repairs. Bulkhead supplies were ordered from for installing 100 feet of bulkheads on Hunter's Cut, and the material was delivered the last week of August.

[At this time, Mr. Connolly excused himself to leave the meeting for another appointment.]

f) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the Landowner Workshop was a success and thanked staff for their support in preparation. The venue at Pete Smith's was very good with extra room for attendees. We will likely continue to meet there for future workshops at the invitation of Mr. Smith. The Pacific Flyway Center will go before the Fairfield Planning Commission for annexation consideration. SRCD will be attending this meeting.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~

a) Agency Committee ~ Mr. Lenk provided an update on the Oroville spillway damage repairs and Delta water rights proceedings. Mr. Lenk noted he has been on the SRCD Board for 18 years, and he was worked with RD 2127 for 27 years and has helped with the establishment of 7 of 11 Reclamation Districts (RDs) in the Marsh. He will no longer be the executive director for Reclamation District 2127 but will provide assistance to four other RDs in the Marsh.

b) Legal Committee ~ No report.

c) Personnel Committee ~ No report.

d) Finance Committee ~ No report.

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

9. Closed Session ~ 1. Conference with Labor Negotiators: agency designated representatives: Directors Tony Vaccarella, Terrance Connolly, Arnold Lenk, James Waters, and Mike Lewis. Unrepresentative Employees: Executive Director, Operations Manager, Office Supervisor, Water Managers, and LJI Resident Caretaker.

10. Reconvene ~ The Open Session reconvened at 3:55 pm with SRCD Board President reporting that the Personnel Committee recommendations for SRCD staff 2018 salary considerations was reviewed. Mr. Waters made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Personnel Committee, and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion; all were in favor, and the motion carried.

11. Adjourn ~ Mr. Lewis then made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Waters seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.