

## **MINUTES**

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019 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:** Dennis Becker, CDFW Retired  
Steven Chappell, SRCD  
Tim Edmunds, SRCD  
Mike Frost, landowner  
Michal Koller, DWR  
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 2:02 PM.

**2. Public Comments** ~ None.

**3. Open Session** ~

a) Approval of the December 12, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2018 Board meeting was made by Mr. Waters and seconded by Mr. Lenk; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**4. Financial Reports** ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for December 2018 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the December 2018 General Fund vendor claim summary totaling \$647,454.43. This month's vendor claims total included over thirty PAI Grant Cost Share landowner reimbursements from DWR for completed wetland enhancement projects. Mr. Waters made a motion to approve the December General Fund vendor claims for \$647,454.43, and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion; Mr. Lenk abstained; the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the December 2018 LJI vendor claims for \$4,264.63 of normal operational expenses. Mr. Waters made a motion to approve the December 2018 LJI vendor claims for \$4,264.63, and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the December 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total as \$37,981.20. Mr. Waters made a motion to approve the December 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total for \$37,981.20, and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

b) Budget Summary Review ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Fiscal Year 18/19 ~ This item was deferred on the agenda until later in the meeting when Director Connolly was present and could participate.

**5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report** ~ Mr. Wyckoff read the DFW report. The Joice Island pig hunt will continue with applications due 14 February at 4pm. Juniors and apprentice hunting will be in the same area. The planned hunt dates will be 2 March – 28 April with the first weekend for junior hunters. This year there will be 12 more tags than last year. USACE permits of the 2019 Wildlife Area activities are being prepared, and king tides resulted in only one minor exterior levee issue. Waterfowl season hunter results are a 1.46 birds per hunter day (1.6 bird/hunter average in 2017-2018). The top birds were wigeon, spoonbills, and teal, and 3,735 hunters came through taking 5,475 birds (5,450 ducks). The Junior waterfowl hunt day was held on 26 December. Discussion ensued.

**6. Department of Water Resources Report** ~ Mr. Koller distributed the DWR Suisun

Marsh briefing packet. For the month of December, the standard salinity target was 15.5 mS/cm. Salinities ranged from 6.0 to 13.6 mS/cm, so the standard was met in the compliance stations. Belden's Landing data was not available with the temporary station installed that is collecting data and is online. Net delta outflow was 10,320 cfs with Sacramento tributary inflow of 15,110 cfs and San Joaquin at 1,387 cfs, with total exports 16,500 cfs. Values for January 7th were slightly lower than December including compliance stations with a standard of 12.5 mS/cm. Sunrise reading of 1.5 mS/cm was unusual but related to rainfall event. The Montezuma salinity control gates were in operation all month. Current net delta outflow had a balance of about 16,400 cfs, while CVP and SWP exports were at about ~5,500 cfs. Salinity was within the standard. Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) had four locations in need of interior levee repair, and emergency repairs were conducted on 8 January finishing on 10 January. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG) operations were tidally operated since 17 October, but it may be suspended with continued rain based on weekly update calls (below the 8.0 mS/cm February standard). There were no updates for the Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) or the Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO).

The reservoir storage was reported with levels similar to the previous month at or slightly below historical averages. Cumulative precipitation for the current water year starting in November was reported for the Northern Sierra at 17.5" slightly below the historical averages, while the Southern Sierra was near the historical average. Discussion ensued.

Terry Connolly arrived at 2:20PM. Agenda Item 4b was heard.

4 b) SRCD Budget Summary Review ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Fiscal Year 18/19 ~ Mr. Chappell presented the budget summary review for SRCD's 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 18/19. Starting with the Lower Joice Island Department of the General fund halfway through the year, we are at 43% of salary expenses and 73% of operational expenses. Unexpected equipment maintenance expenses have severely impacted this year's budget. Mr. Connolly reported the LJI budget has \$35,000 of revenue from the Suisun Conservation Fund this year, but annual SCF contributions in past fiscal years has been significantly higher and is reducing the endowment amount. Mr. Chappell noted although we are at 73% of expects to be close on this year's budget. Mr. Chappell reviewed the financial status of the following individual programs: fish screen, mosquito abatement, pest weed control, water quality improvement grant, DWR Support Grant, PAI Fund, Department of Conservation grant. Halfway through the year, SRCD's general office operations are at 46% of the projected salaries and 38% operational expenses. Some of the normal expenses (Solano County Financial Services) will not be billed until the last quarter of the year, so these budgeted operation expenses will increase in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. The SMPA fund for the Water Manager program salaries and operational expenses are at 50% halfway through the 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 and PAI grant program continues to be administered. The water manager and portable pump program are continuing. SRCD is ramping up for the upcoming spring Pumping season and the PAI Funds proposal applications to be released and carryover projects will be discussed with landowners. Discussion ensued.

Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ Mr. Chappell attended the ECAT and Applicants Compliance Team meetings on 11 December. On 17 January, the next Principal's meeting is scheduled, but it may be affected by the federal shutdown. He reported that the Marsh Plan implementation continues to move forward. Discussion ensued.

- b) USACE Permits - RGP3 & LOP Permit Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported that we are done with the construction year and Mr. Taylor, Mr. McKinney, and Mr. Edmunds have compiled and submitted the end of year compliance reports by to USACE, EPA, RWQCB, FWS, and CDFW. The letter of permission (LOP) Dredging Permit post construction report has been submitted. The RGP3 401 certification water quality monitoring reporting is being compiled for submittal before 31 January. The 2019 RGP3 maintenance permit applications are ready to send next week. The full permit will not be sent out this year (it was sent last year when it was issued), but it is posted on our website. Discussion ensued.
- c) For Board Consideration ~ SRCD Five-Year Long-Range Work Plan ~The SRCD five-year strategic plan was requested for final comments and adoption. The Dep. of Conservation grant provided support funding for the strategic plan, annual work plan development, website upgrades, workshops, and outreach. Mr. Waters made a motion to adopt the Five-Year SRCD Long-Range Work Plan, and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.
- d) Review SRCD Draft Annual Report ~ A rough draft of a SRCD Annual Report for 2018 was prepared and distributed for Board review. Board approval will not be requested as this is a simple summary report, but it will be finalized next month. Discussion ensued.
- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the Water Manager Program. Mr. Taylor led the water managers efforts to complete and send on time the year-end work reports to the agencies. Mr. Takekawa worked with Mr. Chappell, Ms. Tortosa, and Ms. Perez and the water managers to complete the final version of the SRCD 5-year long range work plan. Gate checks were conducted on 18 December, and water quality monitoring continued every 2 weeks. Sonde meters

were swapped on Goodyear Slough. Mr. McKinney and Mr. Taylor worked on drafting the annual water quality report due to the water board at the end of January. Mr. Edmunds completed disposal of the 1995 Chevy and 2003 Ford, and the Chevy 2500 is at auction. Mr. Edmunds and Mr. Takekawa worked with technicians at Solinst on troubleshooting their level-sender device that downloads water logger and salinity data remotely from field. Mr. McKinney completed mailing of the second quarter newsletter on 19 December, and he also worked on revising the website to meet new standards for special districts. Mr. Takekawa worked with our IT vendor, Tech2U, on developing a system to provide information updates to SRCD landowners. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa worked with CWA and RMA to submit the final Delta Conservancy Prop 1 proposal on 18 December that requests funds for drainage infrastructure improvements for 13 landowners. On 14 December, Mr. Takekawa visited with Ms. Monica Iglecia from Manomet to discuss possible spring shorebird surveys at a few sites in Suisun Marsh. The water managers will attend a diversion reporting webinar on 18 January, and the information for that webinar was shared to landowners on the website.

- f) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. Since the last board meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup> through this past Sunday, the Lower Joice members club bagged 71 ducks and one pheasant in 37 hunter days or 1.9 birds/hunter day (compared to 2.5 last month). This included 39 teal, 13 wigeon, 5 greenheads, 7 spoonbills, and 7 sprig. Since Mr. Mouton was on vacation, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Taylor conducted a levee survey on 24 December at the end of a king tide period. All levees seemed to be holding up well following the FEMA work of last summer. Repairs on the John Deere bulldozer fuel system has been completed. Mr. Mouton is working on repairs and maintenance of SRCD's ATV's, pontoon boat, and a warranty repair of the caretaker boat. We will schedule habitat and facilities committee meetings for the spring.
- a. Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported that he will attend the Delta Conservancy Board meeting on 23 January. He attended a meeting with the consultants for the Pacific Flyway Center. He also attended a LAFCO meeting on 22 December. The discussion led to a new meeting on 22 Feb for Special Districts facilitated by SRCD to discuss Special District requirements with LAFCO and County counsel.

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

- a) Agency Committee ~ No report.
- b) Legal Committee ~ No report.
- c) Personnel Committee ~ No report.

d) Finance Committee ~ Mr. Connolly asked about SRCD expenditures at Lower Joice Island, because the endowment fund had losses in the last part of the calendar year. He suggested considering future directions for Lower Joice Island. Mr. Connolly obtained a bid of \$4,300 from Cropper and Associates to perform the Suisun Conservation Fund accounting.

e) Associate Directors Committee ~ No report.

**9. Closed Session** ~1. Conference with Legal Counsel – One case – Potential Litigation (Gov. Code Section 54956.9 (c))

**10. Reconvene** ~ Report of action from Closed Session was made by Bernadette Curry from Solano County Counsel, stating there is nothing to report at this time.

**11. Adjourn ~ 3:52 PM**