

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, October 10, 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: Laureen Barthman-Thompson, CDFW
Dennis Becker, SRCD
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Kent Hansen, Goodyear
Michal Koller, DWR
Kelli Perez, SRCD
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 2:02 PM.
2. **Public Comments** ~ None.
3. **Open Session** ~
 - a) Approval of the September 12, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2018 Board meeting. Mr. Lenk noted a correction for the closed session, Mr. Connolly was not in attendance). The motion 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 September 2018 ~ Mr. Chappell reported that due to a power outage at the office caused by the fire, the September vendor claim summaries will be reported at next month's Board meeting.
5. **Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report** ~ Mr. Chappell read the DFW report provided by Mr. Rocha. The 2018 elk season on GIWA was a success with most of the hunters successful. Of 87 tags, 6 tags were unfilled. Phase I of the duck stamp project in the Crescent Unit was completed, improving water movement. Two blinds were replaced providing 3 more spaced blinds for waterfowl hunting this season. The staff assisted USGS with banding pintails on Pond B. Capture of 95 pintails was done with 10 marked with transmitters. Additional wigeons, shovelers, and pintails are targeted to be trapped later in the season. Fall flood-up is underway, and more birds are coming with increased water. The last hunting units are being prepared for flood-up.

Mr. Wyckoff provided an update on the Branscombe Fire that started on Travis Air Base over the weekend and ran south over the Potrero Hills into the Marsh. Mr. Chappell noted that the Montezuma boat harbor and all the boats moored there were lost, DWR's Belden's Landing water quality station was destroyed, and the Solano County Belden's Landing public fishing pier and boat launch facility was heavily damaged. Fire crews were able to save the Joice Island bridge. In the tidal wetland areas, phragmites burned heavily, and the Pond A HDPE flood pipe was destroyed. The fire jumped Montezuma Slough and burned areas on Grizzly Island including four structures near the base of the Montezuma bridge and the CDFW Island Slough pump house burned. Helicopters were used to stop the fire at the Red Barn fishing pier on Grizzly Island, and retardant was used at Potrero Hills. The fire burned the power poles (>100 poles) and much of the telephone poles. Power was restored to half of the Grizzly Island compound by Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Chappell suggested that there may be requests for USACE work to fix problems created by the fire.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Koller distributed the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. Discussing the fire damage to Belden's Landing water quality station, and an assessment trip will be done on Friday 12 October, but there is no data being collected currently. A new system is planned for setup in the near future. The station is a compliance station that is used for making decisions for the salinity control gates and reports for the Water Board, as well as part of the Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy.

For the month of September, there was no salinity standard for the month. Marsh salinities ranged from 6.1 to 15.6 mS/cm. Net delta outflow was 5,520 cfs with Sacramento tributary inflow of 16,711 cfs, with total exports >9,900 cfs. Values for October 4th salinity were like September with a slight increase, although exports and total increased with net balance of 10,679 cfs which is unusual, but this is an index or calculated value influenced by the recent storm which used the Fairfield fire station which had 1" of rain from the last storm. The October standard is 19 mS/cm.

Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) coordination meetings are taking place for fall flood-up. There are no updates on the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG) or Morrow Island Distribution System. Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) intakes were cleaned as needed, and beginning October 15th, cleaning of floating debris will be completed.

The reservoir storage was reported with levels similar to long term averages. Cumulative precipitation for the current year is reported from the new water year with no significant precipitation. The past year water 2017-2018 was only 75-80% of the long-term average.

Mr. Chappell asked if the SMSCG September operation would be triggered by the monitoring stations within 2 mS/cm of the standard for Goodyear. Goodyear was within 2 mS/cm and Ibis are both considered for October and may exceed, so DWR is on standby for operation depending on the readings. There was some power loss on Monday after the fire, but power was restored by 7PM on the day of the fire, and DWR accessed SMSCG via Collinsville.

Paul Garrison, DWR employee and former SRCD Water Manager is changing employment to the RWQCB in their permitting division.

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. On 18 September, the quarterly ECAT and Adaptive Management Advisory Team (AMAT) Meetings were held. The Wings Landing tidal restoration project came back to the

AMAT meeting at 60% design. Discussion included permitting processes and applications in 2019, with the goal of construction and breaching the exterior levee in the fall of 2020. Tule Red tidal restoration project is under construction with most work done this year, and the project proponents are planning to breach the exterior levee in the fall 2019. SRCD is currently processing completed 2018 PAI grant projects. Most have completed construction and staff is completing post construction inspections and processing of reimbursements.

b) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the monthly Principal's meeting will be 18 October. SRCD, DWR, DFW, and USBR have some ongoing regulatory obligations and reporting requirements. Last month the group met with NOAA Fisheries to discuss water quality and benthic monitoring activities. NOAA Fisheries was pleased with the progress of monitoring and reporting efforts and has committed to work with the group for data analysis and next steps.

c) USACE Permits -- RGP3 & LOP Permit Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported that most of the 2018 dredging projects have been completed. There will be an annual audit inspection by the USACE and RWQCB on October 11th. The USACE has selected a list of projects to inspect at the Sunrise Duck Club, Volanti Duck Club, CDFW fire damage, Montezuma Duck Club dredging, and Mein's Landing work among others. Discussion ensued.

d) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the Water Manager Program. All of the fish screens were installed and repaired with new batteries. Pumping season has concluded, and all the pumps are back in the yard for maintenance and storage. Ms. Tortosa continued ground-truthing surveys of elevation and vegetation for the DWR LiDAR survey to be completed by 15 October. The Water Managers visited RMA Associates on 10 October to test the Managed Wetland Assessment excel tool that helps landowners estimate drainage and circulation rates with different water control structures. SRCD staff participated in the weekly DWR calls for the Roaring River Distribution System flood up coordination and worked with the landowners to coordinate fall flood-up schedules with Mosquito Abatement.

The water managers assisted with bulkhead installation at Lower Joice Island. Ms. Tortosa and Mr. Takekawa obtained training on a new Leica RTK GPS unit obtained by SRCD with DWR support for accurate elevation surveys. Abel Chevrolet notified SRCD that delivery of new trucks was on track for November, and Sierra Truck and Van is scheduled to install required truck accessories. Boat maintenance was completed on the gate monitoring boat and outboard motor. On 26 September, Mr. Takekawa attended a salinization workshop at UC Davis to learn about potential ecological changes with predicted increased salinization. The EPA funded grant water quality monitoring work was initiated with the deployment of water quality monitoring

instruments in designated sloughs. New pond water data loggers were placed on several clubs. Discussion ensued.

e) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. All the levee, disking, and mowing work was completed in preparation for Duck Season. The southern pond was flooded, inspected by SCMAD, and drained. The northern pond was recently flooded and will be drained later this week before refilling for duck season. SRCD completed the installation of 3 bulkheads to protect the Hunter's Cut levee. Dredging near the clubhouse was completed with the material placed to repair the exterior levee. Marque completed repairs on the main dock with new 2x4" tops and 2x12" front facing boards. The clubhouse was cleaned, and Joice Island Club members inspected it to take possession for the hunting season. Three injectors on the dozer were replaced. Dirty fuel plugged them.

f) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported that he attended the September Delta Conservancy Board meeting. SRCD is working on a Delta Conservancy Prop. 1 grant proposal for club drainage improvement project. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with Mr. Aaron Will of DU to discuss a potential Delta Science proposal on managed wetland salinity management. This proposal would build on practices developed in the late 1970s and studies in the mid-1990s to increase understanding of soil salinities and effects on habitat. Mr. Chappell attended the Pacific Flyway Center Advisory meeting and the October 16th City of Fairfield City Council hearing for the project. The formal approval process was moving forward from the City of Fairfield Planning Commission to Fairfield City Council for a vote which will be followed by a LAFCO review. Dudek will be hired to complete the environmental permitting for the project. This Friday, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa will have a meeting set with Mr. Brian Olsen CDFW to discuss the Presley Program, which may compensate landowners for managing and maintaining quality nesting and brood habitats in the Marsh.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~

a) Agency Committee ~ Mr. Lenk discussed the bonds coming up for 6 November. The water bond will be \$10.9B. He discussed the potential distribution of the funds and need for clarity on the allocation if passed. Discussion ensued.

b) Legal Committee ~ No report.

c) Personnel Committee ~ No report.

d) Finance Committee ~ Mr. Connolly reported that former Fairfield mayor, Solano County Supervisor, CA Assemblyman, and Director of DWR, Mr. Tom Hannigan died on 9 October.

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

9. **Adjourn** ~ Mr. Lenk made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Lewis seconded the motion, and all agreed to adjourn at 3:12 PM.