

## **MINUTES**

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 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:** Laureen Barthman-Thompson, CDFW  
Steven Chappell, SRCD  
Tim Edmunds, SRCD  
Kelli Perez, SRCD  
Orlando Rocha, CDFW  
Melissa Riley, CDFW  
Steve Roerden, Montezuma Gun Club  
Ted Swift, DWR  
John Takekawa, SRCD  
Bud Tonnesen, Family Club  
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 January 2019 Board Meeting Minutes ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2019 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 January 2019 ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the January 2019 General Fund vendor claims was \$157,074.47. Most are normal operational expenses, but three large expenses noted – two are reimbursable to the DWR support contract and the third as a claim for the EPA Low DO water quality best management practices grant. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the January General Fund vendor claims for \$157,074.47, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the January 2019 Lower Joice Island vendor claims for \$10,740.72 of normal expenses. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the January 2019 Lower Joice Island vendor claims for \$10,740.72, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the January 2019 Special Revenue vendor claims total as \$30,367.74 including new standing desks for staff. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the January 2019 Special Revenue vendor claims total for \$30,367.74, 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. The LJI pig hunt is accepting applications through tomorrow February 14<sup>th</sup>. There are lots of pigs on the wildlife area, and the hope is to remove 10-12; there are currently 900 applicants for 36 hunter slots. A lottery is done to randomly select hunters. These storms and high tides have led to extensive damage to a section of the Montezuma Slough that suffered damage in 2017. DFW is currently placing sandbags and visqueen to stabilize this area. So far this spring, USGS has marked 11 raccoons and 3 skunks, and Shannon Skalos has 2 northern harriers marked with transmitters. Nest searching crews will be out soon. This year the 2018/19 waterfowl season harvest totaled 7,239 ducks taken, by 4856 hunters. The average waterfowl harvest per hunter this season was 1.47 compared with 1.67 from last year. The difference was composition: green-winged teal 1714, American wigeon 1574, northern shoveler 1491, mallard 1055, northern pintail 409. Seventy-five wild and 95 planted pheasants were also bagged. During the end of the season Jr waterfowl hunt days there were 22 junior hunters on Saturday that shot a 1.74 bird average and the Jr's shot a 1.83 bird average on Sunday.

Discussion ensued.

**6. Department of Water Resources Report** ~ Mr. Swift distributed the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of January, the standard salinity target was 12.5 mS/cm. Salinities ranged from 1.8 to 8.4 mS/cm, so the standard was met in the compliance stations. Net delta outflow was 30,373 cfs with Sacramento tributary inflow of 31,582 cfs and San Joaquin at 1,544 cfs, with total exports 6,000 cfs. Values for February 11th were higher than January including compliance stations with a standard of 8.0. The salinity control gates were in operation all month. Current net delta outflow had a balance of about 56,574 cfs, while CVP and SWP exports were at about 6,100 cfs. Marsh Salinities are within the standard. Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) is being carefully monitored during the rainstorms (Mr. Rocha has the wheel to the east gate, but operations have not been clearly resolved. Mr. Waters suggested opening the west gate). The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG) operations are being left open with continued rain. 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, and the values may be above historical averages. Cumulative precipitation for the current water year starting in November was reported for the Northern Sierra at 32.4" of rain, while the Southern Sierra was at 27.7". Discussion ensued.

**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 grant program continued to be administered. The letter was submitted to DWR and USBR for the annual budget forecast for 2019/2020 including PAI projects for this year. There is also a line item for replacement of the third water manager truck. Drought response funds were included but are unlikely to be triggered this year. Under Article 5, of the Agreement SRCD has been working on review of the marsh-wide vegetation survey methods and a look at remote imaging technology to streamline process. The 2019 PAI grant program applications were posted on the SRCD website February 1<sup>st</sup> and applications sent out to the landowners. Discussion ensued.
- b) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ Mr. Chappell participated in an adaptive management workshop at UC Davis on February 6<sup>th</sup>. On February 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be a principals meeting, and the quarterly AMAT meeting will be held in February. Bradmoor Island Restoration project and the Montezuma Wetlands projects will be reviewed including monitoring requirements. Discussion ensued.
- c) USACE Permits -- RGP3 & LOP Permit Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported the district transmitted the RGP 3 to all landowners last month. Several urgent and unforeseen permits were submitted in late January and early February for levee flood damage

repairs, which received rapidly approved by the USACE. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Taylor will meet with State Lands at the end of the month to submit the 2018 post-dredging compliance report. The 2018 low DO water quality monitoring report was completed and submitted. The Letter of Permission for the 2019 Dredge Program is in preparation and will be sent out soon.

- d) Presentation of the SRCD Annual Report ~ A final version of the 2018 SRCD Annual District Report was distributed. The content of the report was described and will be placed on the SRCD website. This effort provides a template for future annual report preparation. Discussion ensued.
  
- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the Water Manager Program. Ms. Tortosa worked with Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa to complete the 2018 SRCD Annual Report that was posted on the website. Gate checks were conducted on 30 January with Mr. McKinney driving, and water quality monitoring were continued every 2 weeks by Mr. Taylor and Mr. McKinney. Following the January high tides, a few urgent and unforeseen RGP 3 permit requests were processed for areas with levee damage, Mr. McKinney worked with webmaster Mr. Charles Fox to complete SRCD website updates to meet compliance with recent laws. Websites for all special districts will be required by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Mr. McKinney and Ms. Tortosa began inventory of spatial data to update our mapping system. Mr. Taylor prepared notification letters for burning and salmon and rail closures that were sent out on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Additional notices were sent with the 2019 PAI Applications.

On January 11th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with WCB, CDFW, and CWA to discuss Phragmites management. On January 16th, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Chappell, and Mr. Takekawa had a meeting with RD2134 to discuss fish screen repairs. On January 18th, the water managers attended a webinar on diversion measurements and water rights. Large diversions will be required to be measured with data posted to a website in 2020, but Suisun Marsh ownerships are under an alternative plan of compliance. On January 28th, Mr. Taylor, Mr. McKinney, Mr. Chappell, and Mr. Takekawa met with EPA grant partners to discuss completion and final reporting of the water quality grant. On January 29th, we held the quarterly staff meeting and conducted reviews attended by Board Personnel Committee Member Lewis.

Also, SRCD obtained an Automated External Defibrillator or AED to be available at the office for emergency use by landowners. CPR may save 9% of cardiac arrest victims, while AED survival is 38% or 4-times higher. AEDs double survival even compared with waiting for emergency medical services (EMS) help. This is far more likely given the distance to help in the marsh.

- f) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. For the 2018-2019 season, the Lower Joice club members bagged 315 ducks and one pheasant (compared to 241 ducks last year in 2017 and 274 in 2016) in 162 hunter days or 1.94 birds/hunter average and 8.75 ducks per shoot day. This year's harvest included 123 teal, 62 spoonbills, 61 wigeon, 32 sprig, and 26 mallards. 257 of the ducks were harvested in the north, 58 were harvested in the south.

Mr. Takekawa ordered 5 drums of diesel for equipment use, in the upcoming work season. Mr. Mouton and Mr. Takekawa replaced a bad panel in the equipment shed roof. Mr. Mouton brought one of the ATVs to the office for repair of the starter. He put the club on full drain on February 1<sup>st</sup> and hooked the mower to the tractor for levee mowing.

The caretaker boat was driven to Belden's Landing and brought on a trailer to Rocklin for service at Bass Pro on February 4<sup>th</sup>. It was returned after the work was completed on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Service for the pontoon boat was coordinated with Mr. Greg Daniel of Miramonte Club, and the boat was taken to Eagle Marine for service on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Dates were scheduled for the post-season club walkthrough on February 20<sup>th</sup> and the Habitat Committee Review on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported we had the initial meeting on the EPA project, and in March, the team will meet with the agencies. Mr. Chappell attended the Pacific Flyway Center quarterly meeting which will go to LAFCO on March 25<sup>th</sup> followed by permit applications including bringing water under Hwy 680 to the site. The Solano Transportation Authority contacted Mr. Chappell for a meeting, and they are interested in working with Suisun City and CDFW to extend the bike trail at Hill Slough to the bridge with linkage to wildlife viewing. The SRCD Spring Landowner Workshop will be 24 April hosted at FP Smith Equipment. Discussion ensued.

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

- a) Agency Committee ~ Mr. Lenk reported that a meeting will be hosted by the Local Area Formation committee (LAFCO) on 22 February at 10-12 at Rush Ranch on district requirements for information. Discussion ensued.
- b) Legal Committee ~ No report.
- c) Personnel Committee ~ No report.
- d) Finance Committee ~ Mr. Chappell provided a memorandum about the annual audit public solicitation request for 3-years of auditing services. Five proposal were received by SRCD. Mr. Connolly looked over the solicitations, and the lowest bid was not selected, because it did not include a peer-review certification and had a

single staff without backup. The next 3 bids were similar. Cropper Accountancy was the next lowest bid, and the Audit review committee recommended moving forward with Cropper Accountancy. A motion was requested to accept the recommended selection. Mr. Lenk made the motion, and Mr. Connolly seconded it; all were in favor and the motion carried.

e) Associate Directors Committee ~ No report.

**9. Adjourn ~ 2:56 PM**