MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 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
Dennis Becker, SRCD Emeritus
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Mike Frost, Frost Ranch
Bill Gaines, Gaines and Associates
Michal Koller, DWR
Michael Koolhafkan, DWR
Shawn Overton, CDFW
Kelli Perez, SRCD
Orlando Rocha, CDFW
Steve Roerden, Montezuma Gun Club
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. Mr. Chappell announced Frank Johnson and Associate Director Bill Brush both passed away at the end of March. The obituaries have not yet been released. We were told that no service was planned for Bill Brush, and the service for Frank Johnson is May 7th at Rossmoor in Walnut Creek. We hope to coordinate with the families on a newsletter article. Discussion ensued.

3. **Open Session** ~
   a) **Approval of the March 13, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes** ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2019 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 March 2019** ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the March 2019 General Fund vendor claims was $69,697.35. Most expenses are normal operational expenses with an audit preparation expense and SRCD pre-paid annual liability insurance. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the March General Fund vendor claims for $69,697.35, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the March 2019 Lower Joice Island vendor claims for $7,281.62 of normal expenses. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the March 2019 Lower Joice Island vendor claims for $7,281.62, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the March 2019 Special Revenue vendor claims total as $28,094.69. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the March 2019 Special Revenue vendor claims total for $28,094.69, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Some discussion ensued.

   b) **SRCD FY 2018-2019 3rd Quarter Budget Summary and Review** ~ Mr. Chappell went over each department's expenses and revenues for the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2018-2019 of SRCD's general and special revenue funds. Some discussion ensued.

5. **Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report** ~ Mr. Rocha presented his DFW GIWA report. Stating that water levels have increased at Hill Slough due to a levee breach. An urgent request was submitted, and equipment is being mobilized to fix the levee with the CDFW excavator. The pig hunts are continuing, but no pigs were harvested. Pigs are being seen but there were no harvest opportunities. USGS started the summer nest searching, crews have started training, and found 20 nests. The area is still very wet. DFW mowed areas flat (tall wheat grass) in the fall to stimulate growth, and it is coming back strong. Vetch also is coming back strong, so the combination may be positive for waterfowl nesting. Discussion ensued.
6. **Department of Water Resources Report** ~ Mr. Koller distributed the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of March, the salinity standard was 8.0 mS/cm. Salinities are currently very low, so the standard was met at all the compliance stations. At the end of March, net delta outflow was 120,000 cfs. Salinity values for April 8th were low and still met the standard of 11.0 mS/cm with 2.3 mS/cm measured at highest. All Marsh salinities are within the standards. DWR facilities have been monitored during this year’s storms. Roaring River Distribution System drain gates are ½ open for flood storage. Two levee locations have been sheeted with visqueen and are impassable. A repair schedule is being developed. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates operations have been left open since January 23rd. Flashboards will be pulled in May and due to wet water year will not be operated this summer and reinstalled in September. Goodyear Slough Outfall intakes were cleaned monthly.

The reservoir storage was reported with levels higher than the previous month, and the values were at or above historical averages. Cumulative precipitation for the current water year starting in November was reported for the Northern Sierra at 60.6", while the Southern Sierra was at 43.2." It is an above normal water year. Mr. Koller will now move to a Salton Sea manager position, so someone else will take his position. Discussion ensued.

7. **Bill Gaines of Gaines and Associated – Legislative update.** Mr. Gaines provided an update on recently enacted 2018 laws influencing ammunition, gun purchasing, and transport. On 1 July, background checks will happen at point of sale for ammunition. You must provide proof of identity and a $19 fee to pass the ID check and $1 per transaction thereafter. Discussion ensued. Mr. Gaines provided an update on 2019 Bills are pending before this session of the Legislature. AB 18 – is a firearms excise tax. The first environ law (P-R Act) was passed long ago. This will be a $25 retail dealer tax on new guns to violence and intervention and prevention grant program (CalVIP). It passed public safety yesterday. AB276 (Friedman) restricts storage to homes and duck clubs. This includes appropriate ways to store, and infraction if it is violated, and it is now a 2-year bill. AB 688 (Chu) – firearm vehicle storage would require strict storage rules need to be locked in a secure container connected to the vehicle frame and out of sight. This may be difficult to follow, but it is on suspense. SB 220 (Hill) – firearm dealers and storage, requires bollards or barriers should be in front of stores, and inside have additional requirements for security. Dealer costs will rise. AB 1254 (Kamlager-Dove) – prohibits bobcat hunting. 12,000 tags were sold last year and 331 were killed statewide. It passed out of Assembly committee. It should be a DFW role, and there is no science involved.

Fish and Game Commission update: 2019-2020 Waterfowl Season and Regulations are set, 1 pintail as part of fed framework, 31 Jan closure – addition of 5 more days instead of last Sunday in January. New appointment, Ms. Samantha Murray
(Scripps), Jacque Hostler-Carmesin term has ended but she stays seated until the governor appoints a replacement. The other commissioner’s term-out in 2022-2024.

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 first batch of SMPA PAI landowner applications has been received and may total up to 22 projects this year. ECAT and the Applicant’s Compliance Team met on March 12th. All monitoring reports have been completed. BOR has a final restoration summary report in preparation, but not yet submitted. Discussion ensued.

b) **Suisun Marsh Plan Update** ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the Adaptive Management Advisory team met in March, the Montezuma Wetlands Project at Collinsville presented an update on their project. It is a beneficial reuse dredge material project with first phase planned to be restored this fall or 2020. There are least terns on site, so sandy soils promoted them establishing nesting. Now there are new habitats above high tide for them with tern decoys. It doesn’t count as restored acreage toward the Suisun Marsh Plan. Discussion ensued.

c) **USACE Permits -- RGP3 & LOP Permit Update** ~ Mr. Chappell reported that we sent the 2019 RGP3 January and February packages to the Corps. We received authorization for January, but not February. The March package was submitted on April 2nd. 2019 Letter of Permission Dredging program applications has been sent to landowners and only one application has been submitted so far. Dredging permit letter of 100,000 cu yds will need amending after this year. The new fee is higher ($0.38/cy) and based on post-dredging volume amounts.

d) **Water Manager Program Update** ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the Water Manager Program. Mr. Edmunds and Mr. Takekawa managed to get the automated water level and salinity loggers working. We will prepare a report on the data collected for the Spring Landowner Workshop. We finalized an agreement with ServPro for SRCD office cleaning janitorial service, and they did an initial cleaning on March 27th and are now cleaning every Wednesday.

Mr. McKinney completed the March 2019 Land of the West Wind newsletter, it’s been uploaded to our website, and mailed it on March 15th. Ms. Tortosa and Mr. McKinney completed measuring elevation of the new drain on the Roaring River. Mr. Takekawa received initial PAI project proposal information; so the water managers are working with landowners to complete full proposals prior to a PAI committee review meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 18th.
On March 18th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with Mr. Brian Olson of DFW to discuss the Presley Program and Suisun Marsh Phragmites control efforts. On March 22nd, Mr. Chappell, Mr. McKinney and Mr. Takekawa met with Randy Mager from DWR to discuss Meins Landing management and needed work activities. On April 1st, SRCD conducted gate monitoring. Mr. Takekawa attended a Delta Remote Imagery Collaborative organizing meeting in Sacramento hosted by the Delta Stewardship Council.

On April 4th, Mr. Takekawa participated in the SF Bay Joint Venture wildlife indicators species meeting at the San Francisco State Ocean and Estuary Center in Tiburon. On April 5th, Mr. Takekawa met with Leading Edge Associates (LEA) to discuss drone vegetation surveys and spray drone operations and permitting. LEA has been working with mosquito abatement districts to apply pesticides with spray drones. This was in follow-up to the proposal submitted to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to test use of these methods for Lepidium control. Mr. Chappell, Mr. Taylor, Mr. McKinney, and Mr. Takekawa met in Lafayette with project partners on finalizing the EPA Low DO Water Quality grant products. All seemed on track for completing the reporting in the summer and the project by the end of the December.

e) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. The week after the last Board meeting, a mechanic diagnosed the caretaker boat with a bad fuel pump diaphragm, which was a warranty repair. The boat was taken to Eagle Marine for repair. They completed that service a week later and the boat was returned. Mr. Mouton completed a leach cycle and left the gates closed to take advantage of catching rainfall to reduce soil salinities. Mr. Mouton continued mowing of the exterior levees, but the mower was damaged after hitting a hidden piece of concrete. The mower is still usable, but has metal fatigue, so we are investigating a possible replacement for next fiscal year.

A new propeller for the pontoon boat was mounted by Eagle Marine. Marque transported diesel to LJI for this spring equipment operations. Mr. Mouton treated the clubhouse for mice and rats and closed some holes. We have the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) permit and Suisun Fire Protection District permit for marsh management burn and are preparing for it, but so far rainy weather conditions have precluded burning. We would like to burn before next Monday when this burn season ends.

f) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the SRCD Spring Landowner Workshop is being held on Wednesday, April 24th hosted at FP Smith Equipment. The meeting will focus primarily on permits, grant programs, and spring habitat management. Workshop PowerPoint presentations will be posted on SRCD website after the event. The SRCD Fall
Science Workshop will be Wednesday 18 September at the same location. On March 24th, the Pacific Flyway Center went before LAFCO and annexation into the city of Fairfield was approved. A consultant is currently working on required permit application for the project. March 27th, Mr. Waters and Mr. Chappell attended the Delta Conservancy Board meeting. There is an article in the Board package about the new Delta National Heritage Area designation. The Delta Protection Commission will oversee the NHA and Suisun Marsh is included in the NHA Boundary. SWRCB has adopted new wetland protection policies, to replace federal Clean Water Act rollback for isolated wetlands. This should have minimal impact to Suisun Marsh, as most of the Suisun Wetland are below high tide and remain under national wetland policy protections. Discussion ensued.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~
   a) Agency Committee ~ No report by Mr. Lenk. Mr. Waters recommended a future discussion on the appropriate level of SRCD participation on legislative issues and asked for a future discussion. Mr. Connolly noted that we work closely with Mr. Gaines and support his efforts. Mr. Chappell stated he currently looks at participating in issues that have the potential to directly affect wetlands, water quality, waterfowl, and Suisun Marsh landowners, but tends to stay on the sidelines of issue for general sportsman. If directed, we can add it to next month’s meeting agenda for further discussion. Discussion ensued.
   b) Legal Committee ~ No report.
   c) Personnel Committee ~ No report.
   d) Finance Committee ~ Mr. Connolly referenced the previous Lower Joice Island fiscal report. He mentioned 91% expenses at 75% through the year, so SRCD is $47,000 in the black. Mr. Chappell noted that 2018 FEMA levee repair reimbursements are posted to this department as revenue and the 2019 work season reimbursements are not yet reflected in this report. Mr. Chappell and Ms. Perez will discuss this issue with Mr. Connolly. He also noted the passing of Mr. Frank Johnson and Mr. Bill Brush, it leaves just three Suisun Conservation Fund (SCF) Trustees (Mr. Vaccarella, Mr. Connolly, and Mr. Greg Daniel). Mr. Connolly was planning to leave the SFC this year, so there may be a need for 3 new Trustees. It would be good to have a member(s) with a finance or law background. Two members must be on the SRCD Board, and 3 members at large. Discussion ensued.
   e) Associate Directors Committee ~ No report.

11. Adjourn ~ 3:55 PM