MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 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:      Dennis Becker, Associate Director
                      Steven Chappell, SRCD
                      Tim Edmunds, SRCD
                      Mike Frost, Landowner
                      Michal Koller, DWR
                      Shawn Overton, CDFW
                      Kelli Perez, SRCD
                      Steve Roerden, Associate Director
                      Orlando Rocha, CDFW
                      John Takekawa, SRCD
                      Laureen Thompson, CDFW
                      Bud Tonnesen, Family Club
1. **Call to Order** ~ The Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

2. **Public Comments** ~ None.

3. **Open Session** ~
   a) **Approval of the November 14, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes** ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the November 14, 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 November 2018** ~ Mr. Chappell reported the November 2018 General Fund vendor claims total was $142,391.37 with the largest claim to Solano County Mosquito Abatement District for 2018 treatment costs and Sweetwater Construction claim for work at Mein’s Landing under the DWR support contract. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the November General Fund vendor claims for $142,391.37, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the November 2018 LJI vendor claims for $5,524.43 all normal expenses. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the November 2018 LJI vendor claims for $5,524.43, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the November 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims for $30,564.93. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the November 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total for $30,564.93, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

   b) **Revised Vendor Claim Summary for September 2018** ~ Mr. Chappell stated there was a revised vendor claim amount to Sierra Truck and Van previously approved in the September Special Revenue Vendor Claim Summary. The vendor claim amount was increased by $1,101.11, thereby increasing the previously approved September Special Revenue Vendor Claim Summary total amount of $105,901.18 to $107,002.29. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve September’s Special Revenue Revised Vendor Claim Summary as presented, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

   c) **Fixed Asset Disposal: 2006 Chevrolet Pickup 2500~VIN#1GCHK24U96E109803** ~ Mr. Chappell reviewed the proposal to dispose of an older water manager field truck that was being replaced. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the fixed asset disposal, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

5. **Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report** ~ Mr. Rocha presented the DFW Grizzly Island Wildlife Area report. Stating the waterfowl harvest for the week of December 5th was 2.2 birds per hunter, December 8th was 1.6 birds per hunter, and December 9th was 1.3 birds per hunter. Hunter success is consistent, but slower than
last year (1.6 bird/hunter average in 2017-2018). Top birds were wigeon (880), teal (741), and mallard (784), and 2,319 hunters came through taking 3,372 birds (3,351 ducks) for a 1.45 average for the year so far. The Junior Hunt will be held on 26 December and all assigned blinds will be reserved to juniors and their chaperones. The Pond 11 pump was replaced a few weeks ago, and it has been running constantly, so the area was flooded and 5 of 10 blinds are huntable. The Crescent Family Unit (former Mendoza Club) was opened on Saturday – 3 blinds were hunted (1 blind has popped and is not usable this season). The former Bent Barrel Club will likely not be hunted until next season. Pheasant season harvest included 59 wild birds and 90 planted pheasants with good success for the junior hunters. Two units in Pond 12 were being flooded as much as possible before new gates were acquired. Discussion ensued.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Koller distributed the DWR Suisun Marsh Briefing packet. For the month of November, the standard salinity target was 15.5 mS/cm. Salinities ranged from 9.7 to 18.2 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 but is not yet online. Net delta outflow was 7,500 cfs with Sacramento tributary inflow of 10,000 cfs with San Joaquin at 1,500 cfs, with total exports 3,800 cfs. Values for December 10th were lower than November including compliance stations. The salinity control gates were in operation all month. Current net delta outflow had a balance of about 4,000 cfs, while CVP and SWP exports were at about ~7,700 cfs. Salinity was within the standard. Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) coordination meetings were at normal operation. Operation of the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG) has been tidally operated since 17 October, and Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) intake gates were closed on 11 December. There were no updates for the Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO).

The reservoir storage was reported with levels ranging from 28-87% of historical averages (outside of Oroville), and Shasta was below the historical average for November. Cumulative precipitation for the current water year starting in November was reported for the Northern Sierra at below the historical averages, while Southern Sierra is near the long term historical average. 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 PAI grant program continued to be administered. Almost all 2018 PAI projects have been completed and submitted for reimbursement processing. 2018 Projects approved but not completed will roll forward to the 2019 work season. SRCD just received DWR checks for PAI
landowner reimbursements and are being processed for distribution to landowners. Discussion ensued.

b) **Suisun Marsh Plan Update** ~ Mr. Chappell attended a Principal's meeting on 15 November. On 27 November, Mr. Chappell attended a quarterly adaptive management advisory team (AMAT) meeting for proposed projects at Rush Ranch. Discussions included environmental permitting, sensitive species surveys, possible work season restrictions to coordinate for construction scheduling of restoration projects. ACT and ECAT met on 11 December. The next AMAT will be held in February 2019 including discussion on progress of the Bradmoor Island restoration and Montezuma Wetlands project will be discussed at the March 2019 meeting. Discussion ensued.

c) **USACE Permits -- RGP3 & LOP Permit Update** ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the 2018 work season has ended and SRCD is compiling end of year information to prepare the annual required permit compliance reports. For 2019, SRCD will need to obtain a new 401 certification for the Letter of Permission Dredging Permit. The next 100,000 cubic yards will likely be at a higher cost per cubic yard.

d) **Review SRCD Draft Five-Year Long Range Work Plan and Annual Report** ~ SRCD staff has drafted a five year strategic plan. The audience is broad which makes it difficult to write for the general public and for the landowners without some repeated information. SRCD has prioritized objectives from questionnaires completed by Suisun Marsh landowners, and grouped activities under common themes. In general, the District has been providing good assistance and landowner support, but improvement in our method of communication was highlighted. Mr. Chappell noted that we do not have staffing to effectively use social media, but we are looking at all other avenues to improve outreach and landowner communication. The core issues in the work plan were organized under environmental permitting, technical assistance, and cost share programs for wetland enhancement. Mr. Connolly felt the benefit of the work plan is that it organizes our thinking, and Associate Director Rearden suggested that SRCD contact information be added to the plan. SRCD staff is also preparing an SRCD 2018 Annual report for review at the January Board Meeting. Mr. Connolly noted that information on SRCD revenues and expenses will be provided from the most recently completed FY16/17 SRCD audit. Discussion ensued.

e) **Water Manager Program Update** ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the Water Manager Program. Two new water manager trucks finally arrived at the end of November and were recently outfitted with tanks, cabinets, and air shocks. The trucks now are ready for fieldwork. Mr. Takekawa worked with Mr. Chappell and Ms. Tortosa to complete the draft of the SRCD 5-year long range work plan which was distributed in the December package for Board comment with the goal of approving the final version at the January Board meeting. Gate checks were conducted on 16 November and 4 December, and water quality monitoring continued every 2 weeks. The parking lot and
gate at Meins Landing was completed by Sweetwater Construction on 21 November, inspected and approved by DWR for payment. Mr. Takekawa participated on a conference call with Solano County Parks and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) on 10 December, when NFWF indicated that they would support the proposal for improving Belden’s Landing if the County provided final confirmation of the status of earlier mitigation. Mr. McKinney has completed the draft December SRCD Land of the West Wind newsletter scheduled for mailing this week. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa worked on the final Delta Conservancy Prop 1 proposal due on 18 December to request funding for drainage infrastructure improvements on 13 projects.

f) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. Since the last Board meeting on November 12th through last Sunday, the Lower Joice members club bagged 89 ducks / 35 hunters or 2.5 bird/hunter day. This included 26 teal, 21 wigeon, 15 mallards, 15 spoonies, and 12 pintail. This compared to 73 ducks bagged / 33 hunters the first month of the season or 2.2 birds/hunter day. Mr. Mouton continues to work on organizing supplies and tools, and performed a 100-hour service that included power-washing the bottom of the boat. Service and bottom cleaning will be scheduled for the pontoon boat next month.

g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the Pacific Flyway Center development plan and annexation went before the Fairfield City Council with unanimous approval. LAFCO will the review the project’s environmental permitting as the next step for the wetland enhancement and creation.

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 reported that the stock market did not perform very well this year. He noted that the Lower Joice Island endowment is being depleted, and he suggested that we should explore opportunities for sustaining the property. Mr. Chappell noted that a subcommittee meeting (that included Mr. Connolly and Mr. Lenk) has not yet been held but may be possible to schedule after the holidays. Also, Mr. Connolly noted that he is no longer doing the finances of the Suisun Conservation Fund, and a proposal from a contractor has been circulated. Discussion ensued.

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

9. Adjourn ~ 3:16 PM