MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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:       Steven Chappell, SRCD
                       Tim Edmunds, SRCD
                       Kent Hansen, Associate Director
                       Michal Koller, DWR
                       Kelli Perez, SRCD
                       Orlando Rocha, CDFW
                       Steve Roerden, Montezuma Duck Club
                       John Takekawa, SRCD
                       Jeff Taylor, SRCD
                       Laureen Thompson, CDFW
1. **Call to Order** ~ The Suisun Resource Conservation District, Board of Directors meeting called to order at 2:01 PM.

2. **Public Comments** ~ None.

3. **Open Session ~**
   a) **Approval of the October 10, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes** ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2018 Board meeting was made by Mr. Lenk and seconded by Mr. Connolly; all were in favor and the motion carried.
   b) Mr. Chappell noted the public notice for vacancy has been posted for the SRCD Board of Directors for 3 positions. Appointment will be made by the Solano County Board of Supervisors.
   c) Mr. Chappell also noted that staff is drafting an article for the next Newsletter extending an invitation for new SRCD Associate Directors. Mr. Steve Roerdon from Montezuma Duck Club introduced himself and volunteered to be a new SRCD Associate Director.

4. **Financial Reports ~**
   a) **Approval of Vendor Claims for September and October 2018** ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the September 2018 General Fund vendor claims total was $229,323.20. Larger amounts were included for PAI reimbursements, two DWR Support Contract expenses, and a Low DO reimbursement expense under the EPA grant. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the September General Fund vendor claims for $229,323.20, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the September 2018 LJI vendor claims for $6,026.95 of normal expenses. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the September 2018 LJI vendor claims for $6,026.95, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the September 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total as $105,901.18, which includes the replacement of 2 Chevrolet pick-ups and accessories under the SMPA Water Manager Program. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the September 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total for $105,901.18, and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported that the October 2018 General Fund vendor claims total was $94,909.64. A claim was included for a replacement pick-up for the Executive Director. Mr. Connolly asked for clarification on the increase of the SRCD petty cash amount to $10,000. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the October General Fund vendor claims for $94,909.64, and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the October 2018 LJI vendor claims for $20,653.57 of normal expenses. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the October 2018 LJI vendor claims for $20,653.57, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Chappell reported the October 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total as $21,474.41. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the October 2018 Special Revenue vendor claims total for $21,474.41, and Mr. Waters...
seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

b) Fiscal Year 18/19 ~First Quarter Budget Summary Review ~ Mr. Chappell presented the first quarter budget summary review. Stating that Lower Joice Island – at 27% of budget for salaries, 42% for services and supplies because of fieldwork and preparing for hunting, equipment repair exceeded budgeted amount for work on the excavator and bulldozer, and the material for 100’ of new bulkheads. Mr. Connolly asked about the FEMA funds and expenses. Mr. Chappell presented the other SRCD departments of the General Fund including, pest weed control, ABAG water quality improvement grant, SRCD General Fund, DWR Support grant expenses. Mr. Waters asked about insurance coverage for the RTK GPS unit that was purchased under the DWR Support Grant.

c) Fixed Asset Disposal: 1995 Chevrolet Truck ~ VIN #1GCEK19K6SE271824, and 2000 Ford Truck ~ VIN #FTZF1720YNB22312 ~ Mr. Chappell presented the proposal to dispose of two older high mileage trucks. 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 report. Stating that Mr. Karl Wahler retired after nearly 20 years DFW, and Mr. Rocha provided thanks for his dedicated work on the hunting area with a steep learning curve for new staff trying to follow him. Pump issues have been a major issue on the Wildlife Area - only a few cells in Pond 12 closed zone are flooded as the pump is running only intermittently. A new motor was received for Pond 11 (spaced blind pond) to replace the motor that failed last year, and the pump should be running by the end of next week. Waterfowl season opener harvest was 1,225 total ducks and 1 goose with a Saturday average of 3.29 (vs. 4.6 average in 2017) with 373 hunters taking 572 shovelers, 393 mallards, 323 green-winged teal, 73 gadwall, and 26 cinnamon teal. Pheasant season opened during this past weekend with only 17 birds taken (2017 was 25 birds). Birds are in the area, but hunting has not been good, as hunter effort is down (125 hunters on opening day this year compared to 225 in 2017). November 17th is the Junior Pheasant hunt this year, with openings still available. The fire that burned Upper Joice Pond A has resulted in damage to the exterior water control structure to flood the pond. DFW was able to add water through a drain gate and push water uphill, resulting in the pond being at full capacity. Phragmites already is 1.5’ tall and is growing quickly. At Island Slough the fire uncovered an old pipe that is now adding water, and DFW is working to plug it. Monday night, there was another fire between parking lot 6-7 burning 2 power poles. Power was off at Pole Line Road and restored today. However, since the pumps were without power, the intakes were shut. Poles were replaced today, and pumping will
resume. Discussion ensued.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Koller distributed the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of October, the standard salinity target was 19.0 mS/cm. Salinities ranged from 8.7 to 17.4 mS/cm, so the standard was met in compliance stations. Belden’s Landing data was not available with fire destroying the station, and it will be rebuilt in the same spot. DWR has deployed temporary data collecting instruments, but a is not yet online. Net delta outflow was 5,236 with Sacramento tributary inflow of 11,178 cfs with San Joaquin at 1,847 cfs, with total exports >7,700 cfs. Values for November 12th were higher than October including compliance stations. Western marsh salinities are increasing. Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) coordination meetings were completed and system is in normal operation. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG) operations were tidally operated since 17 October. Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) is in flood-up mode and gates opened 9 October. Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) intakes are cleaned monthly as needed.

The reservoir storage was reported with levels ranging from 25-83% of historical averages (outside of Oroville), and Shasta changed from 52 to 47% of the historical average from October. Cumulative precipitation for the current water year starting in November is reported for the Northern Sierra at below the historical averages at about 18% of historical average at only 1”, and the Southern Sierra is at 20% of the historical average. El Nino may provide moisture but there is no guarantee.

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. We are now receiving landowner invoices, working on post construction inspections and claims for reimbursements. The PAI program and projects are wrapping up. There were 42 2018 approved applications: from the 75/25 Program 18 were completed, from the 50/50 Program 6 were completed, and from the JUF Program 6 were completed. We hope to have 32 projects processed to paid out in December, 4 processed in January, and 8 projects that were not completed carried into 2019 construction year. Total cost share amount for 2018 is ~$639,000.

   b) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported that there was a SMP Principals meeting on October 18th with the next meeting scheduled this week. Earlier today Mr. Chappell presented for the Delta Stewardship Council on the successes of the Suisun Marsh Plan, the environmental permitting structure and Adaptive Management Science approach. On November 27th, the quarterly Adaptive Management Advisory Team Meeting will be reviewing and discussing Rush Ranch Restoration Project and next meeting in 2019 will be the Montezuma Wetlands Project. Discussion ensued.
c) **USACE Permits -- RGP3 & LOP Permit Update** ~ Mr. Chappell reported that we are reaching the end of the work year and have been compiling end of year reports. All construction projects are completed except one exterior levee repair / dredging project continuing into November. SRCD will be sending out the 2019 RGP3 in early January and the PAI Cost Share application around the end of waterfowl season. Gate monitoring started on November 1st. Mosquito Abatement treated 2,809 acres of managed wetland this year, for a total cost of $50,012. The usual treatment cost is typically around $40K. This year’s increase is thought to partly attributed to this fall’s warm weather. Dept. of Conservation grant is coming to completion early next year, and we have been developing an annual report and a 5-year work plan. A draft of the Work Plan will come to the Board in December for further review and adoption at the January meeting. Mr. Chappell provided a format of what the report will look like to the Board. The landowner questionnaire responses were summarized in the Plan the respondents list of SRCD’s strengths and weaknesses were captured. A short annual report will also be produced including a breakdown of recently audited SRCD annual finances. Discussion ensued.

d) **Water Manager Program Update** ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the Water Manager Program. Pumping season ended with the start of hunting, and several SRCD pumps were driven to Dixon for repairs that are underway. Total pump use in 2018 was 6588.5 hours (29% more than 2017 (5,103 hours) and 9% more than in 2016 (6,895 hours) with peak use (1,852 hours) in April. We held our quarterly staff meeting on October 30th, attended by Director Lewis with reviews, RTK GPS training led by Ms. Tortosa, and a birthday celebration for Mr. McKinney. Ms. Tortosa completed the ground-truthing surveys of elevation and vegetation for the DWR LidAR flight and has been working on editing the data for analyses. We completed the Managed Wetland Assessment final report and submitted it to the Delta Conservancy on October 31st to close-out this project. Mr. Takekawa and Mr. Edmunds completed the first gate checks of the year on November 2nd with compliance on nearly all gates and only a few needing adjustments. Mr. McKinney attended the last Roaring River Distribution System coordination meeting on November 8th after a successful flood-up of the duck clubs. Ms. Tortosa conducted an elevation survey of the Roaring River Distribution System levee at the request of Mr. Koller at DWR. She conducted the survey riding on an ATV mounted with the new RTK GPS. She was accompanied by DWR Engineer Yuanwen Lin and successfully finished the survey on Thursday, November 8th. Mr. McKinney has continued downloads of slough water quality sondes for the EPA water quality monitoring work. Last Friday, Mr. McKinney and I worked with our webmaster Mr. Charles Fox and GoDaddy to update our website which included converting it to a secure https site. Mr. McKinney is working on drafting the next newsletter which we hope to send for comment on December 7th with a final version distributed at the next Board meeting December 12th. Any article suggestions are welcome. Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, and Ms. Tortosa worked on the SRCD 5-year long range work plan draft last week and are hoping to have an initial draft
completed by next week. This will be reviewed by staff and provided to the Board for comment next month with a goal of obtaining Board approval at the January meeting. Abel Chevrolet said our new water manager trucks were shipped to Milpitas, so we expect to receive them by the end of this week or early next week.

e) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. The club had a good opening weekend with 49 ducks taken by 15 hunters for a 3.3 bird average. Overall through last weekend, 9 of the first 12 days were hunted totaling 33 hunter-days, and 73 ducks were bagged including 31 teal, 30 spoonbills, 4 wigeon, 4 mallards, 3 sprig, and 1 bufflehead for an average of 2.2 birds/hunter day. Mr. Dan Smith of UC Davis visited the island on November 9th and collected seed samples as part of his research on duck food. The dozer was not idling correctly, so our mechanic rechecked it and is working on a specialist to come out to reprogram the three new injectors replaced last month. Facility maintenance and upkeep continues.

f) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported that he met with the managers of the other two Solano RCDs in early November. The local LAFCO has been interested in the efficiencies of these Districts. Dixon RCD is a drainage canal management group, while Solano RCD is primarily providing assistance to the farming community. There may be a joint workshop of the Special Districts in the future. Discussion ensued.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~
   a) Agency Committee ~ Mr. Lenk reported that the water bond was defeated during the election. Discussion ensued.
   b) Legal Committee ~ No report.
   c) Personnel Committee ~ Mr. Lewis mentioned his attendance at quarterly staff reviews on October 30th.
   d) Finance Committee ~ No report.
   e) Associate Directors Report and Public Relations Committee ~ No report.


10. Reconvene ~ Mr. Vaccarella reported out of the closed session, that there was nothing to report.

11. Adjourn ~ 4:05 PM