

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD REMOTELY ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020 AT 2:00 PM
Zoom Video Teleconference Meeting

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Terry Connolly
Arnold Lenk
Mike Lewis
Jim Waters

OTHERS PRESENT: Laureen Barthman-Thompson, DFW
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Michael Koohafkan, DWR
Kelli Perez, SRCD
Melissa Riley, DFW
Orlando Rocha, DFW
John Takekawa, SRCD
Jeff Taylor, SRCD
Larry Wyckoff, DFW

1. Call to Order ~ Mr. Connolly called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ None.

3. Open Session ~ Mr. Connolly opened the November 12, 2020 Board of Directors meeting and asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the October 14, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2020 Board meeting was made by Mr. Lenk and seconded by Mr. Waters; all were in favor and the motion was carried by a roll call vote.

4. Financial Reports ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for October 2020 ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the October 2020 General Fund vendor claims totaled \$246,022.57. These expenses include DWR duplicate payment for 2019 mosquito abatement, purchasing zincs for fish screens, phragmites pest weed costs, and landowner SMPA PAI project cost share reimbursements. Mr. Connolly moved to approve the claim, Mr. Lenk seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Mr. Chappell reported the October 2020 Lower Joice Island vendor claims for \$10,086.22 of normal operational expenses. Mr. Connolly moved to approve the claim, Mr. Lenk seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Mr. Chappell reported the October 2020 Special Revenue vendor claims total as \$23,940.22 of normal operational expenses. Mr. Connolly moved to approve the claim, Mr. Lenk seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried on a roll call vote.

b) Revised Water Manager Vendor Claim Summary for September 2020 ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the September 2020 Water Manager vendor claims summary required a revision. A charge of \$70.34 for the annual property tax on the copy machine was not included on the September vendor claim summary. The revised total for the September 2020 Water Manager's Vendor Claim Summary is \$30,513.16. Mr. Connolly moved to approve the correction, and Mr. Lenk seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried by a roll call vote.

c) Budget Summary Review~1st Quarter FY 2020/2021 ~ Mr. Chappell reviewed the SRCD budget summary for the 1st quarter of FY 2020/2021, 25% through the fiscal year. Lower Joice salary costs were at 20% and on target for the operating costs which included purchase of the Kioti tractor. The FEMA reimbursement is still outstanding. The Water Manager Program was moved from Special Revenue Department to the General Fund. There are some expenses that will need to be transferred from Special Revenue to the Water Manager's department in the General Fund mostly salaries paid

in the first quarter. The Fish Screen Maintenance budget included a negative balance for the boom truck that will be reimbursed from the Essential Fish Screen grant. The NFWF Mouse grant has a positive balance. The Pest-Weed Control Program has a balance for Phragmites treatment that will be billed to the landowners supplemented with a grant. The PAI fund has a balance that will be used to reimburse the landowners. The DWR Mein's Landing contract covers the caretaker costs and 2 projects that were billed to DWR. The General Fund includes salaries and benefits that are 29% for the first quarter of the fiscal year which includes lump sum payment of the annual CalPERS unfunded liability, but overall, we are at 19% of the general operating budget. The SMPA cost share includes salaries in the old account that will move to the Water Manager Program. The Portable Pump Program will have reimbursements from landowners.

5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report ~ The DFW report was submitted by Mr. Orlando Rocha. The Wildlife area check station operations during the start of the waterfowl season have gone well, and hunters have adapted quickly to the physical changes at the check station and for the check in process due to Covid. Most of the comments from the hunters were the normal, "water is too high", "water is too low" type of comments, and there were a few who grumbled about the Covid protocols, but most are just happy that the department and our staff made the adjustments needed to open our public areas to waterfowl hunting. The opener had a slight feeling of fall due to the weather, but the high temperatures and lack of wind showed back up and the November doldrums are here. There were fewer hunters but similar take this year (see table). Also, there have been new hunters at the wildlife area.

We are taking advantage and continuing some work while levees are still dry. We are beginning to mow hunter strips for pheasant season and planning our upcoming Jr. and Family pheasant hunts on the 21st. For the first time in years our junior hunt is full after the drawing, hopefully this is an indication of a renewed interest in upland gamebird hunting.

Waterfowl summary of birds harvested opening weekend 2019/2020-2020/2021 Seasons

2020/2021 Opening Weekend Summary					
Date	Total waterfowl Hunters	Total Ducks	Total Geese	Total Waterfowl	Average

10/24/2020	362	744	7	751	2.07
10/25/2020	128	139	1	140	1.08
Top Five Birds for opening Weekend 2020/2021					
Bird	Northern Shoveler	Green-Winged Teal	Mallard	American Wigeon	Gadwall
Number	297	241	218	70	22
2019/2020 Opening Weekend Summary					
Date	Total waterfowl Hunters	Total Ducks	Total Geese	Total Waterfowl	Average
10/19/19	391	903	1	904	2.31
10/20/19	129	173	4	177	1.37
Top Five Birds for opening Weekend 2019/2020					
Bird	Northern Shoveler	Mallard	Green-Winged Teal	Gadwall	American Wigeon
Number Harvested	530	294	167	29	21

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Michael Koohafkan presented the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of October, the salinity standard was 19 mS/cm. Salinities in the Marsh ranged from 9.9 to 18.4 mS/cm. At the end of October, net Delta outflow was 4,377 cfs. The salinity standard for November was 15.5 mS/cm, and salinity values on November 8th were 8.7 to 19.3 mS/cm, while Delta outflow was 6,060 cfs. There is intermittent data from the Belden's Landing salinity station. Reservoir capacity ranged from 41-54% in the northern Sierra and in the southern Sierra 21-94%. Precipitation year to date was 6% of normal in the northern Sierra and 21% in the southern Sierra.

DWR Suisun Marsh staff continue to coordinate with Delta Field Division (DFD) about maintenance and debris removal at the inlet of Goodyear Slough Outfall (GSO). Staff is working with DFD to develop a plan to fix the sheet piles surrounding the GSO inlet. For

the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates, tidal operations began on October 9th. DFD will refurbish Gate 3 the week of November 16th, when all gates will be closed. Water levels and levees in the Roaring River Distribution System continued to be monitored with minor levee work through November and flood up for the season was completed. Morrow Island Distribution System levee maintenance has been ongoing. Discussion ensued.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement Update and 2020 PAI Grant Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the SMPA agreement and PAI grant program continued to be administered. DWR has paid 5 of the 7 invoices submitted for PAI project reimbursements, and we are told the other 2 invoices are being processed. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Waters have continued weekly calls with Mr. Dean Messer at DWR to address DWR payment of SRCD's invoices and reimbursement of PAI projects. DWR is drafting a response to the letter that was written by attorney Nick Jacobs on behalf of SRCD. Since the letter was sent, DWR has paid 14 of their past due invoices, but still have not paid the largest invoice for the Water Manager's 4th quarter expenses of fiscal year 19/20. SRCD Water Managers program expenses are now being submitted monthly to DWR. Discussion ensued.
- b) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. October 8th was the monthly Principals meeting. On October 27th, Phase 1 of Montezuma Wetlands dredge disposal tidal restoration project was breached. The SMP Adaptive Management Advisory Team meeting will be held next Tuesday, November 17th to discuss early results of the Tule Red Restoration project.
- c) USACE Permits - RGP3 & LOP Permit Update ~ The single application for dredging this year was reviewed by SRCD authorized by the Corps, RWQCB, and BCDC. The RGP3 post construction report request was sent to the landowners and the actual work completed reports are being returned to SRCD.
- d) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the Water Manager Program. The final dredging permit was returned from BCDC on October 21st. The Water Managers contacted all individual clubs on the Delta Watermasters delinquent list to advise them to complete their diversion reports. We changed the oil and replaced the cracked windshield on the 2008 Tahoe.

Ms. Collins and the Water Managers completed the last of the individual management plan meetings totaling 123 reviews. We are working on the final IMP drafts – 49 drafts have been initiated, 18 drafts were sent to landowners, 6 are in final revision, and 5 are complete. Ms. Collins also worked on the DWR salmon study analysis on relationship of managed wetland drains to benefit fish populations.

We conducted several elevation surveys with the RTK GPS system. We surveyed staff gauges at Island Club #501, Sprig Farm #803, and St. Germain #804 and are working on the report. At the request of DWR, we installed an elevation benchmark at Collinsville on October 21st, and a benchmark at the office on November 4th. Ms. Collins conducted an initial survey of Belden's Landing for a benchmark on November 5th.

Initial work began in mid-October on club #634 pilot project for the Measure AA Essential Fish Screen grant as Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, and Mr. Edmunds assisted Ducks Unlimited with logistics. Work has progressed with the pipe replacement, but there have been some delays in installing the butterfly valve gate. On October 16th, Mr. Takekawa participated on a call to update Belden's Landing NFWF project, also we are planning to help install kayak launches on the main dock at Belden's Landing in late November. On October 20th, Mr. Takekawa and Mr. Rus hosted a meeting of the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Team to discuss the NFWF mouse project grant and mid-year report that was completed and submitted on October 31st. On October 21st, Mr. Takekawa attended a job walk for a request by DWR to repair the levee at Mein's Landing #631.

On October 23rd, BCDC staff Ms. Shannon Fiala and new BCDC planner Mr. Yair Chaver visited the office and talked with Mr. Chappell and Ms. Collins about ongoing management plan work. On October 27th, Tech 2U came to fix some problems with our network connectivity. On October 28th, Mr. Takekawa gave an online talk for the California Invasive Pest Council annual meeting on lessons learned from spray-drone efforts. On November 3rd, Mr. Takekawa attended a webinar on new approaches to seeding native wetland plants following Phragmites removal. The first gate monitoring check of the year was completed on November 3rd with good gate compliance. On November 9th, water managers attended a regional meeting on the control of alligator weed in the Delta and Suisun. Discussion ensued.

e) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. We finalized preparation of the facilities for the hunting season, and Mr.

Mouton adjusted water levels in the north and south unit to bring them to shoot level. Suburban Propane came out to the island on October 15th to service and lite the pilots for all the appliances. On October 20th, Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, and Mr. Mouton spent the morning working on repairs to the main dock and walkways.

Eight hunters from the club attended opening weekend and all total 97 birds have been taken through 11th of November, for an average of 2.62 birds per hunter-day. The harvest included 7 mallards (7.2%), 3 sprig (3.1%), 5 wigeon (5.2%), 3 gadwall (3.1%), 38 teal (39.2%), and 38 spoonbills (39.2%). The 2020 results compare favorably to 2019 with the same average take (2.6 birds/hunter) but with fewer mallards (7 vs. 26) and more teal (38 vs.7) and spoonbills (38 vs 20).

The week after opener, the pontoon boat shared with Mr. Greg Daniel (Miramonte #419) was brought to Veejay Marine in Pittsburg where it was cleaned and painted with anti-fouling paint and returned on Halloween. On October 23rd, we obtained the donation of a small boat and motor from the owner of Wings Landing for use at Lower Joice Island. Mr. Mouton repaired small holes in the hull, and we had the motor tuned-up for use during the season.

f) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~

Mr. Chappell indicated SRCD has met all our obligations with meetings while maintaining Covid-19 social distancing measures. All the meetings have been held virtually by Zoom. The Pacific Flyway Center has submitted their USACE wetland development permit. Discussion ensued.

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 ~ No report.
- e) Associate Directors Committee ~ No report.

9. Adjourn ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Lenk and seconded by Mr. Waters; all were in favor and the motion carried by a roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 2:56 PM.