

**SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, AT 2:00 PM  
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS  
675 TEXAS STREET  
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Kent Hansen  
Mike Lewis  
Dick Vanderkous  
Jim Waters

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Laureen Barthman-Thompson, DFW  
Dennis Becker, SRCD Assoc. Director  
Steven Chappell, SRCD  
Kevin Clark, DWR  
Tim Edmunds, SRCD  
Kelli Perez, SRCD  
Fred Riedel, Landowner  
Jamel Stewart, DWR  
John Takekawa, SRCD  
Jeff Taylor, SRCD  
John Telfer, SRCD Assoc. Director  
Randy Weinrich, DFW

**1. Call to Order** ~ Mr. Waters called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:07 PM.

**2. Public Comments** ~ There were no public comments.

**3. Open Session** ~ Mr. Waters opened the August 14, 2024, Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Waters asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of July 10, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Waters asked for a motion to approve the July 10, 2024, Board Meeting minutes a motion was made by Mr. Hansen and seconded by Mr. Lewis, all were in favor and the motion carried.

**4. Financial Reports** ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for July 2024 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the July 2024 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaling \$431,909.47. All expenses are regular general fund operations with a large claim #11 for reimbursement to Ducks Unlimited from our SFB Restoration Authority fish screen grant, #9 for the Delta Conservancy grant, and #13 for our DFW annual office space lease. Mr. Chappell reported July 2024, Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$8,479.58. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the July 2024 Water Manager Program vendor claims totaled \$28,504.47. All claims were normal operational and salary expenses. Mr. Lewis moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, and Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, Mr. Vanderkous abstained; all others were in favor, and the motion carried.

b) 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Fiscal Year 2024-2025 ~ Budget Summary Review ~ Mr. Chappell provided the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter budget summary review of SRCD fiscal year 23/24. The report is the Solano County Integrated Financial Accounting system report, which the County is still making year end adjustment to. So, this report is a general representation of SRCD year end fiscal position, but further adjustments will be made before closing the books for the yearly audit. Mr. Chappell reviewed each SRCD General Fund Departments salary and operational expenses and offsetting revenues. Mr. Chappell reviewed each grant program expenditures and revenues and provided a summary of the 2023/2024 General Fund budget and actual revenues for the year. The actual General Fund shows a deficit for the year, but this is off set with grant revenues for staff time and overhead in other funds that roll up to the General Fund. Discussion ensued.

c) Bi-Annual Conflict of Interest Code Review ~ Mr. Chappell reported the SRCD Bi-annual Conflict-of-Interest-Code is up for review and requires the Executive Director and Board Members to review the current Code for accuracy. The Board reviewed our current code and Mr. Lewis made a motion that no changes were needed, and Mr. Vanderkous seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report** ~ Mr. Orlando Rocha provided the DFW report, which was presented by Mr. Randy Weinrich.

**Elk Season:** The Fundraiser Tag hunt began on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the hunter has not taken an animal yet. He's waiting for a couple specific bulls to show up, so hopefully that happens soon. Our general hunts began yesterday, and 2 lucky hunters are already headed home with their tule elk, including a 12-year-old first time big game hunter. He and his dad had a great time and were super appreciative of the opportunity to get out and hunt at Grizzly. We have a break in the hunts from August 20<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup>, staff and contractors will use the time to finish up remaining dirt work and mowing before fall flood up begins.

**Grizzly Island Wildlife Area:** Thomas Horne is starting as a new GIWA staff member. Weed control conducted by staff and contractors for the upland pollinator project via disking has been ongoing. We are not entirely satisfied with the level of weed control reached, so final planting will likely be pushed back, there is a possibility we will plant a cover crop this fall, which will depend on conditions as we move forward.

Pump replacements and installations are continuing. Pump 2 has been rebuilt and reinstalled, and pump 7 has been pulled and is being rebuilt. The installation of a new flood pump for pond 15 is underway. The dredging project on the Montezuma has been underway and is going well, with the crew on schedule to finish Friday.

We normally begin early flooding up of select ponds (Ponds 11, 16) for early migrants like pintail, but this year we held so much summer water, we won't be flooding any new ponds up early. We have been seeing a good number of flighted waterfowl broods, and a few late gadwall broods utilizing our new reverse cycle brood ponds and I'm sure we will begin seeing pintail joining them soon.

**6. Department of Water Resources Report** ~ Jamel Stewart presented the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet.

For the month of July, there were no salinity standards for the Marsh. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 1.9-10.8 mS/cm. At the end of July, net Delta outflow was 10,208 cfs. As of August 12<sup>th</sup>, there were no salinity standards for the month, and salinities ranged from 2.1-9.5 mS/cm, and Delta outflow was at 9,861 cfs. The Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) levee inspections were conducted by DWR staff and Delta Field Division (DFD) conducted fish screen cleaning. For the Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS), DWR conducted levee inspections. DFD staff concluded annual maintenance including mowing, spraying, and laying A/B gravel. Levee inspections also were conducted at Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO), and environmental staff completed clearance for debris removal. DFD conducted debris clearing and began annual maintenance. At the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG), 60 days of SMSCG operations began on July 1 and continues through

August 30. The 100 TAF (thousand acre-feet) block of water now will not be used and fall X2 (2 ppt from Golden Gate) requires a 30-day average to be  $\leq 80$  km (near Collinsville) in September-October. Flashboards will remain installed this summer, and out of water work will begin this month. Gate 2 remains out for refurbishment but will be reinstalled this fall. A vegetation update will be provided in November.

California reservoir capacity in July ranged from 83-92% of average in the northern Sierra and 82-93% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 90.0% of average in the northern Sierra and 83% in the southern Sierra. Discussion ensued.

## **7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~**

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement: Mr. Chappell reported no activity to report.
- b) PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update for the PAI cost share program. DWR funding approval was obtained on July 18<sup>th</sup> for 9 projects with 2 projects submitted for budget amendments and 2 projects in revision. Funding will be reviewed prior to releasing a program next year. Discussion ensued.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. The Principal's meeting call was held on July 11<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup> with the AMAT meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The quarterly ACT Meeting will be next week on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has decided to list longfin smelt and western pond turtle. SRCD, DWR, DFW and USBR are preparing a new Biological Assessment (BA) under the Suisun Marsh Plan to give Section 7 Endangered species take authorization for the newly listed longfin smelt. A second BA will be prepared for western pond turtle later this year. Any changes to existing permits requirements will be addressed at the fall or spring Landowner Workshop. Discussion ensued.
- d) USACE Permits – RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ SRCD Resolution No. 2425-2 ~ Delegation of Authority to enter a Lease #9117 with CA State Lands Commission ~ SRCD continues to administer the RGP 3 and Letter of Permission Dredging permits with a new person at the USACE. Mr. Chappell requested the approval of the draft Resolution 2425-2 to allow delegation of authority to SRCD Executive Director to enter into a 10-year lease with the CA State Lands Commission. The draft resolution was read, and discussion ensued. Mr. Vanderkous made a motion to approve the resolution, and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. A roll call vote of the individual Board Members was conducted, all were in favor, and the resolution was adopted.

- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa presented the Water Manager Program update. The Water Managers have wrapped up the 2024 pumping season and handled demobilization and transport of the pumps to the yard and prepared work packages for the monthly USACE submittal. They completed delivery of chemicals to their landowners for the Phragmites program, and they removed old equipment for fish screens 425 and 506 in advance of the renovation work under the SF Bay Restoration Authority grant. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Takekawa worked to lift fish screens 525W and 525E after the club cleared and leveled the area behind the bulkhead so the boom truck could park closer. We had to remove a large build-up of sediment on 525W before we were finally able to lift it for cleaning. Mr. Edmunds and Mr. Taylor assisted the mechanic in finishing repairs on the navigation boat and successfully test drove it. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Chappell, Ms. Guzman, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Takekawa met with the Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District to discuss coordination of clubs with their water operations for fall flood up.

Mr. Edmunds worked on coordinating the Phragmites program treatments and worked with the helicopter vendor to find a day this month with light winds to conduct spraying. Mr. Edmunds and Mr. Taylor staged the chemicals in advance at landing sites. He also helped the contractor for the SFBRA fish screen project with site preparation. He worked on replacing the inverter for fish screen 625. On August 12<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Edmunds conducted a site visit with Leading Edge drone pilot Dan Seaman to prepare for possible spraying at Blacklock Tidal Restoration in October.

Mr. Taylor submitted the July package to the USACE on July 31<sup>st</sup>. He completed exterior notifications for May-July on August 12<sup>th</sup>, and he provided dredging updates for landowners and contractors. He pulled the water quality sonde housings at Boynton Slough and Pierce Harbor and cleaned and prepared them for redeployment. Mr. Taylor also reviewed the State Lands lease agreement and worked on a response to comments. He managed scheduling and maintenance of SRCD trailers brought to Les Schwab, and he drafted an article for the next newsletter.

Ms. Guzman completed printing and preparing the newsletter for mailing on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, updated the standard operating procedure for postal service changes in mailing, and uploaded it on the website. She made an inventory of prints available for the fun shoot, and she met with CWA and the new Gray Island landowners to discuss water management improvements. She downloaded water logger data and prepared the water level datasets to send to our RMA hydrology partner in the Delta Conservancy grant. She met with landowners on BCDC permits and PAI projects, and she worked with CWA to schedule listed plant surveys. She completed photographs of Chipps Island exterior work.

Ms. Collins completed admin. tasks including summarizing quarterly grant hours,

preparing DWR and DFW reports, and drafting grant reports and bills. She updated the SRCD federal System for Award Management (SAM) registration and the contract for our Leica RTK survey equipment. On July 18<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Collins and Mr. Takekawa met with Karen Thorne at USGS and her staff to work on preparing a joint proposal on blue carbon to the Delta Stewardship Council due on August 26<sup>th</sup>. On August 13<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Collins assisted Laurel Richardson from DWR to obtain shapefiles for a Phragmites treatment at Blacklock Tidal Restoration, and Ms. Brandon provided technical assistance for DWR on analyses to determine the extent of Phragmites from survey drone imagery. Ms. Brandon continued compiling datasets in ArcGIS Pro for the multi-species occupancy modeling analysis. She and Mr. Taylor conducted a levee inspection at Wings Landing on July 17<sup>th</sup>, and she mapped road repair areas at Tule Red. She worked with Mr. Taylor and Mr. Edmunds to develop a Phragmites growth calendar to maximize photo timing for imagery analyses, and she worked with Ms. Collins, Ms. Guzman, and Mr. Takekawa on tracking upcoming grants. She finished a draft final report for the NFWF Phase 2 grant.

Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa had our monthly update meeting with the DWR Fish Restoration Program staff on July 16<sup>th</sup>. On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mr. Takekawa met with the Greater Bay Area Conservation Hub resource conservation districts. SRCD staff set up for the fun shoot on July 25<sup>th</sup> and hosted it on July 26<sup>th</sup>. On July 29<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with UCD PhD student Elsie Platzer to discuss her research on wetland management and tidal restoration in Suisun Marsh and the Delta. We held the SRCD annual review and staff meeting with Mike Lewis on July 30<sup>th</sup>. On July 31<sup>st</sup>, I distributed a scope of work for road repairs at Tule Red to SRCD pre-approved contractors, and on August 7<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Takekawa hosted a job walk with DWR staff and contractors interested in bidding. Ms. Collins and Mr. Takekawa hosted a meeting of our Phragmites control socioecological project to discuss timing of the final products and report on August 9<sup>th</sup>. On August 13<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa inspected 4 new HDPE plastic flap-gates for our Delta Conservancy project at Wheeler Island delivered by Go-Sep, an engineering company from New Jersey. The gates were delivered in good shape and looked to be of high quality.

- f) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. Mr. Mouton continued to maintain the facilities and habitats on the island. We had a mechanic out to adjust the all-wheel-drive mechanism for the recently acquired Polaris Pro XD 2000D. We worked with Suburban propane to obtain a new fuel gauge for a propane tank. He treated the Phragmites with herbicide along the south levee and used the dozer to remove patches on the levee road and in the main ditch. Mr. Takekawa worked with Mr. Mouton to load the newly purchased Kubota M9000 on the barge and brought it to the island on July 19<sup>th</sup>. We transported our old Massey-Ferguson on the barge and brought it to Pierce Harbor on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. On

August 9<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa helped clean the old tractor and repair a leaking front tire prior to having it transported to the Ritchie Brothers Auction yard in Dunnigan. He worked on coring and regrading the levee near the water control structure on Suisun Slough in the south unit.

- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the East Solano Plan was withdrawn from the November ballot. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa attended the Central Valley Joint Venture Suisun Marsh workgroup meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> in Suisun Marsh. The Suisun Conservation Fund Fun Shoot and Social event was successfully held on Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at Birds Landing. The event had 98 shooters with 115 for lunch and raised \$30,696, which was better than all previous years. The Fall Landowner Workshop will be on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. Discussion ensued.

**9. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~**

- a) Agency Committee ~ No report.
- b) Legal Committee ~ No report.
- c) Personnel Committee ~ Mr. Lewis participated in annual SRCD staff evaluations.
- d) Finance Committee ~ No report.
- e) Associate Director's Committee ~ No report.

- 10. Meeting Adjournment** ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Vanderkous seconded by Mr. Hansen; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 PM.