

**SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13th, 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
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Kevin Clark, DWR
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Fred Riedel, Fleetside
Orlando Rocha, DFW
John Takekawa, SRCD
John Telfer, SRCD Assoc. Dir.
Randy Weinrich, DFW

1. Call to Order ~ Mr. Waters called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ There were no public comments.

3. Open Session ~ Mr. Waters opened the November 13th, 2024, Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Waters asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

- a) Approval of the October 9, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Waters asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2024 Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Hansen and seconded by Mr. Vanderkous to approve; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

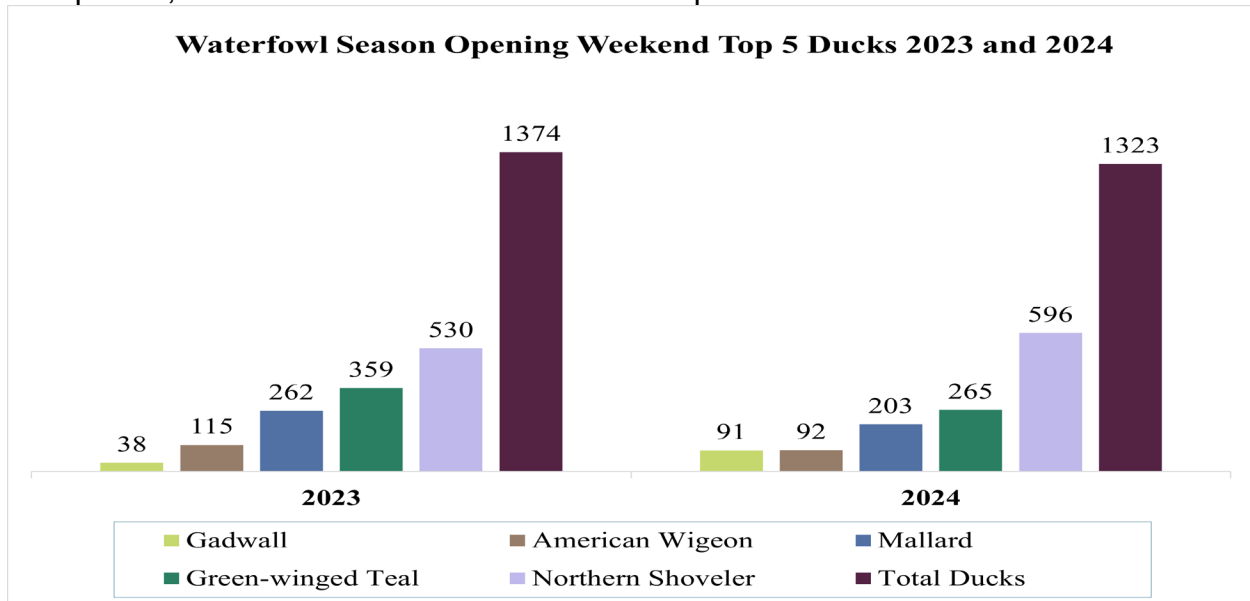
- a) Approval of Vendor Claims for October 2024 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the October 2024 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$242,150.76 including several contract and grant project expenses. All other expenses are regular general fund operations, salaries, or reimbursable expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the October 2024 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$16,675.75. All expenses were normal LJI operational, salary expenses, and items to prepare for waterfowl season. Mr. Chappell reported the October 2024 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$29,614.52. All expenses were normal Water Managers operational and salary expenses. Mr. Hansen moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, Mr. Lewis seconded the motion, Mr. Vanderkous abstained, all others were in favor, and the motion carried.
- b) Board Consideration for Disposal of SRCD Fixed Asset ~ 2006 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado (VIN 3GCEK14V46G178249): Mr. Chappell reported on the 18-year-old vehicle used by the Lower Joice Island caretaker for the past 7 years proposed for disposal. The vehicle is beyond its useful life, and Gene's Auto in Vallejo estimated that the several thousand dollars in repair costs for the transmission and engine repairs will not be worthwhile to undertake. Mr. Vanderkous moved to approve the disposal, Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, all others were in favor, and the motion carried.

5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report ~ Mr. Orlando Rocha provided the DFW report.

Waterfowl Season: Waterfowl season started on the 26th of October. On opening day, DFW had 336 hunters harvest 1,093 ducks and 13 geese, which resulted in a 3.25 waterfowl average. Since then, waterfowl harvest numbers have slowed down. In total, we've had 1,148 hunters harvest 2,264 ducks and 22 geese resulting in a 1.99 average for the season, so far whereas last year at this time we were at a 1.97 average for the

season.

For opening weekend, Northern Shoveler, Green Wing Teal, Mallard, Gadwall, and American Wigeon were the top 5 birds and have continued to be our most harvested species. DFW is collecting DNA samples for all greater white-fronted geese harvested for the waterfowl program, this is to genetically determine harvest of the Tule goose subspecies, so far we have collected 7 total samples.



Bar graph showing the top 5 harvested birds for 2023's and 2024's waterfowl season opening weekends.

Pheasants: Last Saturday was the pheasant opener. 10 pheasants were harvested on Saturday and 2 more were harvested on Sunday. We had 22 pheasant hunters check in across both days. Harvest numbers are twice as high this year compared to last, but we had about half as many hunters. We are not sure why this is but hope to see more hunter participation in the next few weeks. This Saturday, DFW will be holding our Family Pheasant Hunt and Junior Pheasant Hunt and will be planting 140 birds in our upland fields. There are 40 hunters registered for the Family Hunt and 16 junior hunters registered for the Junior Hunt. There are some open spots for the Junior Pheasant Hunt, and we are still trying to fill those so if anyone knows any junior hunters that would be interested, let me know. Future hunts may lean towards apprentice hunters (< 5 years of experience) rather than junior hunters.

Wildlife Area: We are continuing regular maintenance work including mowing of the levees. Many of our staff members have been kept busy working the check station, and we just hired a new seasonal aid who will be helping with check station as well. Renovations on our check station building finished the week before opening waterfowl season and the new building has been working great for us. The hunters also seem to

like the renovations and have commented on how nice the new building and set up is.

Projects: Long Point property is fully operation for the first time since DFW has owned it, all water control structures are working and it is fully flooded. It's going to remain a sanctuary for the time being, and next summer, we plan to replace blinds, and we are considering running a special drawing hunt in those blinds. Beginning this week, we will begin flooding pond 15 and plan to have it at a huntable level by December. This will be the first time it has been flooded in over 20 years, so we are interested in seeing how the birds and hunters respond to this new development.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Kevin Clark presented the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of October, the salinity standards were 19 mS/cm for the east and west stations in the Marsh. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 4.6-1 4.6-1.7 mS/cm. At the end of October, net Delta outflow was 4,358 cfs. As of November 11th, salinities in the Marsh ranged from 8.0-17.3 mS/cm, and Delta outflow was at 4,403 cfs. For November, the salinity standards were 15.5 mS/cm in the eastern Marsh and 16.5 mS/cm in the western Marsh.

The Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) staff began preparing reporting for RGP3 activities in 2024. No Delta Field Division (DFD) report was available due to technical issues and personnel absences. For the Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS), there was no update. Environmental staff submitted a report to SRCD summarizing DWR's efforts to improve water quality at Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO), and DFD conducted debris clearing. At the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG), Gate 2 remains out for refurbishment but is currently being reinstalled. Environmental staff conducted a pre-construction survey for the refurbishment project. Dredging has been completed, and the gates are now in the closed position, but tidal operations will begin once the reinstall is complete. Fleet monitoring station (A-96) has been discontinued while the platform is being rebuilt. Discussion ensued.

California reservoir capacity in October ranged from 48-87% of average in the northern Sierra and 40-98% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 40% of average in the northern Sierra and 20% in the southern Sierra. Discussion ensued.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~ Mr. Chappell reported that he participated in a SMPA call on October 10th. ACT meets in November and will participate in the ECAT meet in December.

- b) 2024 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell reported on the 2024 PAI program. The project reimbursement requests continue to be submitted. The status of the program in 2025 is yet to be determined.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. Mr. Chappell will attend the monthly SMP Principal's meeting on November 14th.
- d) RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ SRCD continues to administer the RGP 3 and Letter of Permission Dredging permits. The actual work completed letter was distributed in October. A small work package was submitted and approved in late October. The dredging permit Public Notice was reviewed and edited and returned to The USACE in mid-November. It was determined that special Coastal Zone Management Act will not be required by BCDC. It will be completed yearly as part of the BCDC dredging program Marsh Development Permit. Discussion ensued.
- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa presented the Water Manager Program update. In the last month, the Water Managers completed fall flood-up coordination. Ms. Guzman, Mr. Chappell, and Mr. Takekawa attended the weekly 2024 Roaring River Distribution System flood-up coordination call in early November.

Mr. Edmunds finished maintenance needs on several fish screens. He prepared USACE work completion reports and began taking a series of required online continuing education classes for his applicator's license with the Department of Pesticide Regulation. He conducted maintenance on the older Tahoe SUV to restore it to running condition, and he diagnosed that a woodchipper from Lower Joice Island had a failed engine.

Mr. Taylor submitted an October RGP3 package on October 25th which was approved on October 29th. He completed inspections of two 2024 PAI projects, and he submitted paperwork for three clubs for drought response funds reimbursement claims. Mr. Taylor completed data downloads and sonde swaps on October 22nd and 31st on Boynton and Goodyear Slough, and initiated the write-up of the water quality report. He coordinated preparations for gate monitoring that was initiated on October 29th but ended early after a boat engine problem occurred. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Chappell attended a call for the 10-year renewal of the USACE Letter of Permission, and Mr. Taylor followed up with the Water Board on the current status.

Ms. Guzman printed and mailed the latest edition of the West Wind Newsletter on October 11th. On the week of October 14th, she worked on diagnosing and repairing a water logger at Mein's Landing by shipping it to the manufacturer in Canada for repairs. She installed staff gauges at 2 clubs the week of October 21st, and on the week of

October 28th, she worked on organizing the shop and garage at the office. She led the gate monitoring boat survey on November 12th.

Ms. Collins completed reporting for the Delta Stewardship Council grant on October 31st. She assisted in submitting the final report and invoice for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Phase 2 mouse grant on October 31st, and on November 8th, she prepared and submitted the progress report for Phase 3. She worked to assist the Department of Fish and Wildlife in preparation of updates on Individual Management Plans for their wetland properties, and she completed the final figures for her methods paper examining Suisun Fish biomass related to managed wetland drainages.

Ms. Brandon continued working on occupancy models, and she was able to complete the final programming of the R-code to run the analyses. The analyses will take many days to run, so she assessed the use of cloud computing to speed up the processing time. She completed setting up a camera trap for monitoring water levels, and she worked on developing a standard procedure for field use. She assisted in preparing the NFWF Phase 2 grant mouse report which was submitted on October 31st. She completed an inspection and photographs of the road repairs on Tule Red.

Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. Mr. Mouton continued to maintain the facilities and habitats on the island. Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, and Mr. Mouton attended the walkthrough and sign-off with Mr. Herron from the lease club on October 11th. Additional work continued on cleaning up the facilities over the next 2 weeks. SRCD and the club each acquired 2 20'-shipping containers to improve storage on the island, and from October 22-24, we barged the containers to the island, placed them near the equipment shed, and leveled them. The week of November 4th, we brought in a dumpster, and Mr. Mouton moved 2 barge loads of garbage from the island for disposal with the assistance of Mr. Taylor, Ms. Guzman, and Mr. Takekawa. Mr. Mouton repaired a damaged propane line to the generator. Mr. Mouton adjusted water levels for the opening weekend on October 26th and 27th, and the club had good success with 8 hunters taking 26 ducks including 16 teal, 7 mallards, and 3 northern shovelers for a 3.2 bird per hunter average on Saturday and 4 hunters taking 18 ducks including 10 teal, 6 mallards, a northern shoveler and a gadwall for a 4.5 average on Sunday and a total of 44 ducks. In comparison, the 2023 opener bag was 59 ducks, 2022 was 53, and 2021 was 49. The average for the first 3 weekends was 75 birds including 15 mallards and 23 teal with the estimated take of 2.3 birds/hunter which compared with 2.9 birds in 2023, 5.2 birds in 2022, and 2.6 birds in 2021.

- f) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell attended the Delta Conservancy Board meeting on October 23rd. On October 26th, the SFB Restoration Authority project manager was hosted on a fieldtrip to see the final project results for the fish screen rehabilitation. On October 31st, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with John Durand, Alice Tung, and Kyle Phillips to discuss managed

wetlands operations, and they planned to come out on November 15th to discuss pond modeling. We will host a tour with the Delta Watermaster on December 6th. 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 Director's Committee ~ No report.

- 9. 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 3:14 PM.