

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 AT 2:00 PM  
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS  
675 TEXAS STREET  
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Tony Vaccarella  
Mike Lewis  
H. Kent Hansen  
Dick Vanderkous  
Jim Waters

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steven Chappell, SRCD  
Kevin Clark, DWR  
Marina Guzman, SRCD  
Desmond Mackell, SRCD  
Fred Reidel, SRCD Assoc. Dir  
Melissa Riley, DFW  
Orlando Rocha, DFW  
Jamel Stewart, DWR  
Kathy Su, DFW  
Jeff Taylor, SRCD  
Randy Weinrich, DFW

1. **Call to Order** ~ Mr. Vaccarella called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:03 PM.
2. **Public Comments** ~ Mr. Vaccarella asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.
3. **Open Session** ~ Mr. Vaccarella opened the Board of Directors meeting for August 13, 2025. Mr. Vaccarella asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.
  - a) Approval of the July 9, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Vaccarella asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of July 9, 2025. A motion was made by Mr. Waters and seconded by Mr. Lewis to approve; all were in favor and the motion carried.

#### **4. Financial Reports ~**

- a) Approval of Vendor Claims for July 2025 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the July 2025 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$184,401.32. Expenses were regular general fund operations, SRCD salaries, or reimbursable contract expenses. Claims 2, 9, 15 were under DWR Mein's Landing or FRPA Grants and are reimbursable expenses. Claims 10, 11 and 14 were for drought response or PAI landowner reimbursements. Claim 12 was for the purchase of chemical for the Pest Weed Program. Mr. Chappell reported the July 2025 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$29,317.50. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses. Claim 2 was the purchase of a new outboard motor for the caretaker's boat. Claim 6 was for excavator diagnostics and repairs. Mr. Chappell reported the July 2025 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$33,332.18. All expenses were Water Managers operational and salary expenses. Discussion ensued. Mr. Waters moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.
- b) Board consideration of Disposal of Fixed Asset ~ 2018 60HP Outboard Mercury Motor (Serial #1C505171). Cost of repairs is more than the asset is worth. Discussion ensued. Mr. Lewis moved to approve the disposal as presented. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.
- c) SRCD Fiscal Year 24/25 Review ~ Mr. Chappell presented the SRCD fiscal year 24/25 - year end summary. He reviewed the Solano County Integrated Fiscal System Report comparing the approved budgets with the actual expenditures for each department and grant programs. Discussion ensued.

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

### **Ducks**

Duck banding this summer has been going smoothly. We have banded 188 mallards and 1 cinnamon teal! Additionally, USGS has joined us to add radio transmitters to 9 adult mallards.

### **Elk Season**

The fundraiser tag hunt began on Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The hunter has not taken an animal yet but has some specific bulls in mind.

Our general hunts began August 12<sup>th</sup> for antlerless. As of this morning, all hunters in period 1 including both apprentice hunters harvested nice mature cows from the herd. The second period begins August 14<sup>th</sup> for spike bulls. After that, we have a break from August 18<sup>th</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup> where staff will continue mowing and preparing for fall flood-up and waterfowl season.

### **Grizzly Island Wildlife Area**

The contract is being signed for road and interior levee repair for Joice Island. The exterior levee breach on our neighbor's property is still not repaired, but we are going to repair the road where we can. We will repair the remainder of the road when the water recedes. Work should begin early next week.

Final preparations are being made by Dutra, for the Grizzly Ditch Fish Screen intake project work. They are mobilizing this week to complete interior water control structures. The plan is to begin as soon as the exterior work window begins on Sept 1. This work will likely affect our flood-up for waterfowl season, I expect that our spaced blind unit, pond 11, will not be flooded by opening day.

### **Public Hunter Meeting**

Grizzly Island and Yolo Wildlife Areas will be holding our fall public hunter meeting. Both Wildlife Areas will use this meeting to update hunters about habitat conditions, work being completed and future projects. To attend the meeting speak to me and I can forward to you the Teams meeting link. The meeting will be held next week on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-7:30 pm.

**6. Department of Water Resources Report** ~ Mr. Jamel Stewart presented the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 1.7- 7.4mS/cm. Salinity monitoring station S-97 remained offline while Cygnus was at 9.4 mS/cm. At the end of July, the net Delta outflow was 12,127 cfs. As of August 10<sup>th</sup>, salinities in the Marsh ranged from 2.2-9.1 mS/cm, and Delta outflow had decreased to -28,631 cfs. As of August 13<sup>th</sup>, the Delta outflow is at 8,119

cfs. There are no Suisun Marsh salinity standards for the month of August.

DFD staff cleaned fish screens at RRDS on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. Staff conducted a dive at the fish screens and reported that infrastructure is intact but there is some sediment deposition. DWR will evaluate removing the sediment next year under RGP 47. DFD staff also opened the East and West drains on July 23<sup>rd</sup> due to high Roaring River stages.

The Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) had vegetation cleaned up and herbicide applied, as well as grading and applying AB rock to the levee service road where needed.

Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) DFD staff conducted a clearance survey for upcoming removal of floating debris in front of the inlet. DFD staff also cleaned intakes on July 8<sup>th</sup>. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates continue tidal operations for Summer-Fall Action. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gate will run for at least 60 days of operations. Additional operations is awaiting a decision. Discussion ensued.

California reservoir capacity in July ranged from 53-83% of average in the northern Sierra and 29-95% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 105% of average for the northern Sierra and 78% for the southern Sierra.

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

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~Mr. Chappell reported that the CA State Water Resources Control Board is requesting public comments of the update of the San Francisco Bay / Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed Water Quality Control Plan. Deadline for comments will be September 29<sup>th</sup>. Water Quality Control Plan will result in a Water Rights Decision and require DWR and USBR to meet Suisun Marsh Salinity Standards and Delta outflow objectives. The upstream water users and DWR are proposing voluntary agreements to meet Delta outflow and habitat enhancement objectives. Mr. Chappell is unsure what voluntary agreements are and has requested a briefing from DWR and DFW. SRCD will be preparing a comments letter with review from SRCD's water attorney, prior to submittal. Discussion ensued.
- b) 2025 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update of the PAI programs. 2 projects were completed and reimbursed. Several clubs were approved for 2025 construction. Discussion ensued.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell attended Principle's meetings on July 10<sup>th</sup> and will attend on August 15<sup>th</sup>. On August 12<sup>th</sup> was the Adaptive

Management Advisory Team meeting there will be another meeting later this month to discuss habitat restoration site monitoring programs and data analysis. All required environmental reporting is current. Discussion ensued.

- d) USACE Permits ~ RGP 3 and RGP 47 updates. SRCD continues to administer the RGP 3 permit. The July RGP 3 package was submitted on August 1<sup>st</sup> and approved on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The dredging program permit was issued under a 5 year RGP 47. Dredging work window opened August 1<sup>st</sup>. SRCD does not have the 2025 BCDC Marsh Development Permit yet. A presentation will occur at the Fall Landowner Workshop to discuss the new RGP 47 Dredging permit and BCDC permitting requirements. Discussion ensued.
- e) SRCD 5 year Strategic Plan Update. ~ Mr. Mackell and Mr. Taylor have finalized a new 5 year plan and distributed it to Board in their packages. Discussion ensued.
- f) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Mackell presented the Water Manager Program update.

In the last month, Mr. Taylor installed and picked up the remaining portable pumps and worked with Caitlin to prepare invoices for them. He completed and submitted the July 2025 RGP package for approval. Mr. Taylor provided supplemental packages for the BCDC dredging application and received RGP 47 approvals from the Regional Board and USACE. He coordinated with DWR and the Regional Board for water quality monitoring equipment, sent out the Fall Burn Letter, scheduled the Fall Flood meeting with Solano County Mosquito Abatement, and attended a CDFW rare and endangered plant identification training.

Mr. Edmunds continued to prepare for and implement the Phragmites control program, including obtaining chemicals and scheduling with landowners. Working with DWR, he coordinated and carried out a pilot study using our spray drone to treat invasive Phragmites in a tidal marsh restoration area. Mr. Edmunds reviewed and oversaw USACE permits for ongoing work and made sure jobs were covered under permit allowance. He also coordinated 2025 fish screen maintenance.

Ms. Guzman mailed out the quarterly newsletter and posted it on the SRCD website and assisted in the removal and cleaning of the fish screens. She held meetings with new landowners to assist in generating updated management plans. She completed her rare and endangered plant identification training with CDFW, began coordinating with Roaring River adjacent landowners regarding fall flood up schedule, and maintained water quality monitoring stations.

Ms. Brandon completed final revisions of the salt marsh harvest mouse distribution modeling manuscript, coordinated with coauthors, and submitted the paper for

publication in a scientific journal. Her last day was July 31<sup>st</sup>. She worked to offload any existing data to storage backups and wrapped up all ongoing tasks.

Ms. Collins oversaw quarterly grant and contract hours, budget tracking, and submitted payroll. She provided support for the fall Bird Returns pilot project in Suisun, attended weekly monitoring meetings, and completed site verification visits. She worked with BCDC on GeoMarsh updates, including the addition of managed wetland and proposed dredging site layers. She downloaded and processed Delta Conservancy pipe elevation data, completed levee monitoring training, and created flight plans for drone-based phragmites spraying in coordination with DWR. She also submitted a final report to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the salt marsh harvest mouse study.

g) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Mackell presented the Lower Joice Island update.

Mr. Mouton continued ongoing maintenance of Lower Joice Island, including mowing, invasive plant control, and ensuring the island was prepped and properly dried out for heavy equipment use. He started mowing the ponds and doing blind maintenance in the south. He completed recurring equipment services such as oil changes, installed a new outboard on the caretaker boat, and worked with mechanics to troubleshoot issues with the excavator. He provided general cleanup of the clubhouse and the surrounding area.

h) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations

Mr. Chappell reported on meetings. Mr. Chappell attended the Delta Conservancy meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The 21<sup>st</sup> annual SCF Fun Shoot was successful on July 25<sup>th</sup>. The Fall Landowner Workshop is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup>. Discussion ensued.

## **8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~**

- a) Agency Committee ~ No report.
- b) Legal Committee ~ Attorneys will be engaged to review the update of the Water Quality Control Plan.
- c) Personnel Committee ~ Annual staff evaluations were completed on July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- d) Finance Committee ~ No report.
- e) Associate Director's Committee ~ No report

## **9. Closed Session ~**

- 1) Conference with Legal Counsel: Existing Litigation (Pursuant to Government Code §54959.9(a))- Sweeny, et al. v. Carringer, et al. (United States District Court, Northern District Court of California, Case No. 4:25-cv-03148-JST)

- 2) Conference with Labor Negotiators: Agency Representatives: Directors Tony Vaccarella, Dick Vanderkous, H. Kent Hansen, James Waters, and Mike Lewis.  
Unrepresentative Employees: Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, Water Managers, Biologist, and Lower Joice Island Resident Caretaker.

**10. Reconvene~ Report on any action from Closed Session, if applicable.**

- 1) Closed Session Item #1 - Nothing to report.
- 2) Closed Session Item #2 - A motion was made to adopt the recommendations of the Chair of the SRCD Personnel Committee (Mr. Mike Lewis) by Mr. Vanderkous, seconded by Mr. Hansen; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**11. Meeting Adjournment ~** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Lewis; all who were present were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 PM.