

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 2025 AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tony Vaccarella
H. Kent Hansen
Mike Lewis
Dick Vanderkous
John Eudy

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Chappell, SRCD
Kevin Clark, DWR
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Mike Frost, Frost Ranch
Marina Guzman, SRCD
Desmond Mackell, SRCD
Caitlin Perez, SRCD
Kelli Perez
Melissa Riley, DFW
Fred Riedel, SRCD Assoc. Director
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Jamel Stewart, DWR
Jeff Taylor, SRCD
John Telfer, SRCD Assoc. Director
Laureen Thompson, DFW

1. **Call to Order** ~ Mr. Vaccarella called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:05 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 November 12, 2025. Mr. Vaccarella then asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.
 - a) Approval of the November 12, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Vaccarella asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of November 12, 2025. A motion was made by Mr. Hansen and seconded by Mr. Eudy; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

- a) Approval of Vendor Claims for November 2025 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the November 2025 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$367,247.24. Expenses included regular SRCD office and general fund operations, SRCD salaries, and reimbursable contract expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the November 2025 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$10,728.91. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the November 2025 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$30,196.33. All expenses were Water Managers operational and salary expenses. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hansen moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented. Mr. Vanderkous seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.
- b) Fiscal Year 24/25 Audit Update ~ Mr. Chappell gave an update on the initiation of the FY 24/25 audit. Fechter & Company began field work on October 27th. Prior to the SRCD office visit SRCD staff had work extensively with Auditor staff to respond to questionnaires, provide financial statements, prepare requested documents to be tested. We are in the final stages of reconciliation of accounts receivables in QuickBooks and the county financial system. SRCD expects to have a draft audit for Board review in January 2026. Discussion ensued.

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

Waterfowl Season 2025/2026

Grizzly Island Wildlife Area current numbers: 2,094 hunters shooting 2,626 ducks, and 71 geese for an overall waterfowl average of 1.29.

Last Season -2024 at this same point had 2,359 hunters harvest 4,206 ducks and 45

geese for a 1.80 waterfowl average.

For the 2023 season at the same time period: saw 2,371 hunters harvest 3,297 ducks and 36 geese resulting in a 1.41 waterfowl average.

At this point the top 5 species for the 2025 Season are:

NSHO-822 AMWI-549 AGWT-449 MALL-337 NOPI-126

Compared to 2024:

NSHO-1679 AMWI-772 AGWT-564 MALL-555 GADW-240

Joice Island

Joice Island opened this past Sunday on the 7th of December, with reduced hunter capacity due to the levee breach on our neighbor's property affecting half of our regular hunt area. In a regular year, DFW would issue 20 reservations, but this year we only issued 10 reservations. We had 12 adults and one junior hunter take 46 ducks for an average of 3.54 ducks per hunter. The top duck was Green-winged Teal, followed by Mallard, and American Wigeon.

Pheasants

On November 15th, we held three planted bird pheasant hunts. Our junior and new Veteran hunts were held in the morning, and a family hunt was held in the afternoon. Hunters reported having a great time and we appreciate their interest in coming out for this event.

Pheasant Harvest Stats				
Hunt	# of hunters	# hunters allotted	# birds	Average
8 AM JR only	12	15	12	1
8 AM Veteran	9	15	11	1.2
1 PM Family	40	40	30	0.75

Wildlife Area Updates:

At this time of year, most of our staff are kept busy working check station. The remaining time is spent continuing regular maintenance work, including checking water, picking up trash, and reposting signage.

Projects

Pond 15 Pump and Flooding- We have successfully flooded pond 15, we now need to learn what the best management strategy for that pond will be since it has not been flooded in over 20 years.

Grizzly Intake replacement project- Ducks Unlimited and Dutra are finishing up the installation of our new fish screens, and we have a meeting set to do a semi-final walk-through next week. PG&E has a bit of a backlog, so we won't have power to the screens for about a month, but we are looking forward to having better control of our water intake system to the Wildlife Area.

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

The Progressive Daily Mean salinities in the Marsh ranged from 8.2-16.5mS/cm. Salinity monitoring station S-97 remained offline while Cygnus was at 17.2 mS/cm. At the end of November, the net Delta outflow was 8,929 cfs. As of December 7th, salinities in the Marsh ranged from 8.9-16.3 mS/cm, and Delta outflow had decreased to 8,020 cfs. The current Suisun Marsh salinity standards for the month of December are 15.5 mS/cm for Eastern Stations and 15.5 mS/cm for Western Stations.

Environmental staff completed an extension of the clearance for routine levee maintenance and mowing in November at Roaring River Distribution System. Delta Field Division (DFD) staff coordinated with environmental staff to obtain actuals for RGP3 reporting. DFD staff performed fish screen cleanings on November 5th and 11th.

Environmental staff coordinated with DFD to obtain actuals for RGP3 reporting at the Morrow Island Distribution System, Goodyear Slough Outfall, and Montezuma Day Use Areas.

The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates are currently operating in tidal mode as of December 2nd due to rising salinities. Gate 1 is having technical difficulties and has been placed in closed position.

DWR submitted a BCDC Permit amendment renewal to cover facilities maintenance work. A notice to amend the permit was posted on November 21st. Discussion ensued.

California reservoir capacity as of December 8th ranged from 47-73% of average in the northern Sierra and 32-94% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 100% of average for the northern Sierra and 126% for the San Joaquin area.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell participated in the quarterly Applicant Compliance Team Meeting on November 18th; all monitoring and compliance reporting is up to date. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell attended the December 9th Environmental Compliance Applicant Team meeting. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell also attended the SMPA 5-year review kick off meeting on December 9th. Discussion ensued.
- b) 2025 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update of the PAI programs. We are coming to the end of the 2025 construction season. SRCD is waiting for proof paid contractors invoices in order to process landowners project reimbursement request to DWR. SRCD will process these reimbursement request to DWR, once post project inspections are completed. For next year 2026, SRCD will reconcile the remaining program funds with projects completed this calendar year. This information will be used to determine next year's remaining available funding for the 75/25 and 50/50 cost share program. Once remaining funds have been reconciled, Mr. Chappell will ask the Board to weigh in on how to prioritize projects based on an established criterion, if funding availability is less than the total eligible project costs. 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 November 13th meeting and will attend the next meeting on December 11th. November 18th was the Adaptive Management Advisory Team (AMAT) meeting. Discussion ensued.
- d) USACE Permits ~ RGP 3 and RGP 47 updates. SRCD continues to administer the RGP 3 permit. On December 9th, an emergency exterior levee repair permit was issued for property #219. The 2025 dredging activities authorized under the RGP 47 permit closed at the end of November. One project was not completed due to contractor equipment breakdown after the levee had been graded for material placement. There has been an extension requested for this one project. SRCD will then compile the annual report for this permit. Required dissolved oxygen monitoring and has been completed. A report will be prepared for submittal in January. Discussion ensued.
- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Mackell presented the Water Manager Program update.

Mr. Taylor has been completing inspections and compiling post photos of dredging work, going over contractor agreements, and verifying volume estimations. He is training the other water managers to complete RGP3 end-of-year reports for the work completed. He assisted with gate monitoring and the compilation of compliance reports. He helped remove our damaged fish screen at Club 525 and met with a property owner in the marsh to discuss enrolling new acreage within SRCD's managed wetland area.

Mr. Edmunds also helped pull out the damaged fish screen at Club 525. He attended the 2025 Delta Invasive Species Symposium, where researchers and agencies presented on the modeling and management of invasive species in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. He met with DWR staff to plan 2026 phragmites spraying plans, contacted landowners to compile work completed under the RGP3 permit, and has been working with the FAA to renew the paperwork for our spray drone operations.

Ms. Guzman has assisted with gate monitoring and diversions reporting, compiled post dredging photos, and contacted landowners to confirm the actual work completed totals under the RGP 3 permit. She completed routine maintenance and upkeep on district vehicles and has worked with DWR staff to address a leak in a water structure along Roaring River.

Ms. Collins has continued to provide administrative support for the District, including ongoing grant and budget tracking. She updated SRCD website and landowner databases with current information. Additionally, she has helped compile a draft grant application to secure funding for the repair of damaged fish screens. She attended our meeting with DWR to help plan our collaborative invasive plant program and has been working on resubmitting her manuscript on nutrient flows from managed wetlands for publication.

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

Mr. Mouton built a covered area to house the hunt group's generator and integrate it into our power system as a backup source. He reinforced low spots along the levee with dirt in preparation for the king tides in early December. He received and transferred a new propane delivery to the island, pumped standing water from a low spot in the yard, and he continues to work with the hunting group to ensure everything is running smoothly. Mr. Chappell asked if there would be two Board members willing to for a subcommittee to review the request to renew the JLI hunt Group use Agreement, including a site visit at the club. Mr. Hansen and Mr. Vanderkous offered to participate in the LJI Hunt Use Agreement renewal subcommittee.

g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell attended the Suisun City Notice of Preparation for a Draft EIR and scoping meeting

for the proposed California Forever project on December 8th. The Suisun City DEIR is targeting the annexation of the California Forever project into Suisun City. Mr. Chappell has been in contact with several Reclamation Districts regarding FEMA claims from last year's storm damages. Staff attended a meeting at the Delta Watermaster's office to discuss the new diversion reporting system and how to assist landowner in filing required yearly reports. Discussion ensued.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~

- a) Agency Committee ~ No report.
- b) Legal Committee ~ No report.
- c) Personnel Committee ~ Triannual staff reviews were completed on November 21st.
- 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. Eudy; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 PM.