

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19<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  
Kent Hansen  
Mike Lewis  
Dick Vanderkous  
Jim Waters

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dennis Becker, SRCD Assoc. Dir.  
Steven Chappell, SRCD  
Kevin Clark, DWR  
John Eudy, SRCD Assoc. Dir.  
Marina Guzman, SRCD  
Melissa Riley, DFW  
Orlando Rocha, DFW  
Jamel Stewart, DWR  
John Takekawa, SRCD  
Jeff Taylor, SRCD  
Andy Vaccarella

**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** ~ There were no public comments.

**3. Open Session** ~ Mr. Vaccarella opened the Board of Directors meeting for February 19, 2025. Mr. Vaccarella asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the January 8, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Vaccarella asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of January 8, 2025. A motion was made by Mr. Vanderkous and seconded by Mr. Lewis to approve; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**4. Financial Reports** ~

- a) Approval of Vendor Claims for January 2025 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the January 2025 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$208,891.93. All expenses were regular general fund operations, salaries, or reimbursable contract expenses with claims for landowner reimbursements, DWR contracts, and a CWA invoice for the Delta Conservancy grant. Mr. Chappell reported the January 2025 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$12,161.37. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the January 2025 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$45,296.23. All expenses were Water Managers operational and salary expenses with Claim 38 purchasing a replacement boat hull for gate monitoring with final costs offset from the Potrero Hills Landfill fund. 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: Resolution No. 2425-2 approving SRCD to enter into a new DWR'S Mein's Landing Property Technical Assistance and Support Contract ~ Mr. Chappell presented a resolution to enter into a new 5-year support contract with DWR for Mein's Landing for \$675,263.00. Discussion ensued. All five board members voted in favor of the resolution by a roll call vote, and the resolution was approved.
- c) Fiscal Year 2024-2025 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Summary Review ~ Mr. Chappell provided a summary of the SRCD 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter budget summary. For all Departments – not all revenues have been recorded for the fiscal year, as we have to incur the cost and be reimbursed in arrears. For the general fund we are at 48% of budgeted salaries and 32% for operational expenses. Operational expenses are low, because yearly insurance is billed in April, and accounting and payroll services will be paid to the County at end of the fiscal year. The Lower Joice Island fund is at 45% for budgeted salaries and 80% for operational

expenses. These higher operational expenses in the first two quarters of the fiscal year are expected, because most expenses are incurred in preparation for waterfowl season and completion of annual pond work. 47% of expected yearly revenues have been received, which includes the annual hunt lease payment. The Water Manager's Program salaries are at 47% and operational expenses are at 38% of projected budget amounts. Insurance costs will be coming in April and computer costs spread into two budget categories. Most fish screen expenses and reimbursements will be later. For the NFWF mouse grant, we are at 46% of salary and 30% of supplies. Mr. Chappell reviewed the other SRCD Departments revenues and expenses to date and discussion ensued.

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

**Joice Island Pig Hunt:** The annual Joice Island pig hunts will begin on March 1 with the youth pig hunt and continue through the weekend of May 31st. The period 1 pig hunt application window closed February 8<sup>th</sup>, and period 2 is now open and will close March 15. Period 3 will open in March and close April 12. This year, 52 hunters will have the opportunity to harvest pigs. Last year we had 51 hunters harvest 14 pigs, resulting in an average of 0.27 pigs per hunter. We hope to see more pigs harvested this year.

**Waterfowl Season Summary:** The regular waterfowl season ended on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. DFW had 5,017 hunters harvest 10,049 birds resulting in a 2-bird average for the season. Our top 5 birds were Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, and Gadwall. The following Saturday and Sunday for the youth hunt, we had 18 hunters harvest 38 birds resulting in a 2.11 waterfowl average. The top bird was American Wigeon, followed by Northern Shoveler. We had fewer hunters come out for the youth weekend than last year, when we had 33 hunters harvest 21 birds with the top two birds being the same as they were this year. Over the veteran's weekend, we had 38 hunters harvest a total of 85 birds resulting in a 2.24 waterfowl average. The top species harvested was Shoveler (28), followed by Wigeon (13). The turnout for the veteran's hunt was better than last year, when we had 25 hunters harvest 64 birds and the top two harvested birds were American Wigeon and Mallard. While attendance for these hunts has been decent, we'd like to see more hunters come out.

For the year, the Wildlife Area saw 5,073 hunters harvest 10,079 ducks, 93 geese, 10,172 total waterfowl, for a 2.01 average for the 2024-2025 season. All in all, we had a successful waterfowl season. While hunter turnout this year was a little lower than last year, harvest went up quite a bit resulting in a higher average. There are graphs and

tables summarizing harvest results below if anyone wants to take a look.

#### Youth Hunt Weekend Harvest Numbers

2024/2025					
Date	# of youth hunters	# of ducks	Waterfowl Average	#1 Species	#2 Species
2-1	12	29	2.42	AMWI	NSHO
2-2	6	9	1.50	AMWI	AGWT
2023/2024					
Date	# of youth hunters	# of ducks	Waterfowl Average	#1 Species	#2 Species
2-3	25	18	0.72	AMWI	NSHO
2-4	8	3	0.38	NSHO	NOPI

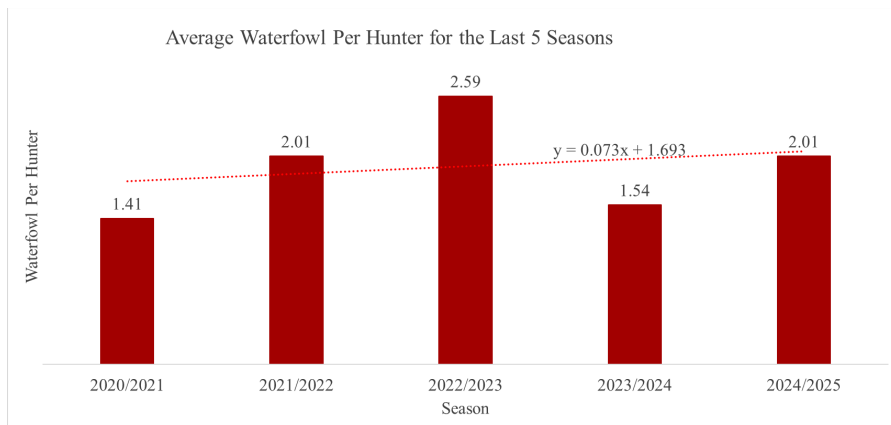
#### Veteran Hunt Weekend Harvest Numbers

2024/2025					
Date	# of veteran hunters	# of ducks	Waterfowl Average	#1 Species	#2 Species
2-8	21	47	2.24	NSHO	AGWT
2-9	17	36	2.12	AMWI	NSHO
2023/2024					
Date	# of veteran hunters	# of ducks	Waterfowl Average	#1 Species	#2 Species
2-10	17	49	2.88	AMWI	MALL
2-11	8	15	1.88	BUFF	NSHO

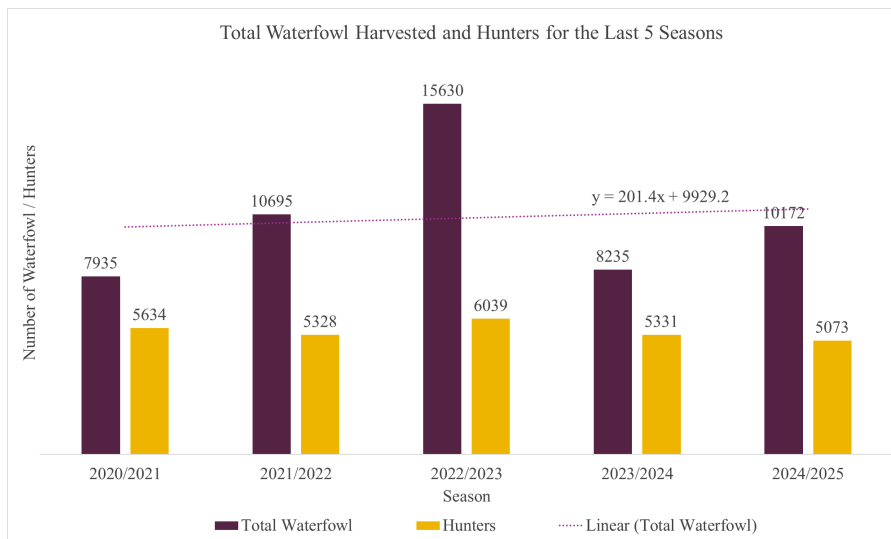
#### Regular Waterfowl Season Stats

Season	Ducks	Geese	Total Waterfowl	Hunters	Average
2020/2021	7,839	96	7,935	5,634	1.41
2021/2022	10,638	57	10,695	5,328	2.01
2022/2023	15,532	98	15,630	6,039	2.59
2023/2024	8,183	52	8,235	5,331	1.54
2024/2025	9,958	91	10,049	5,017	2

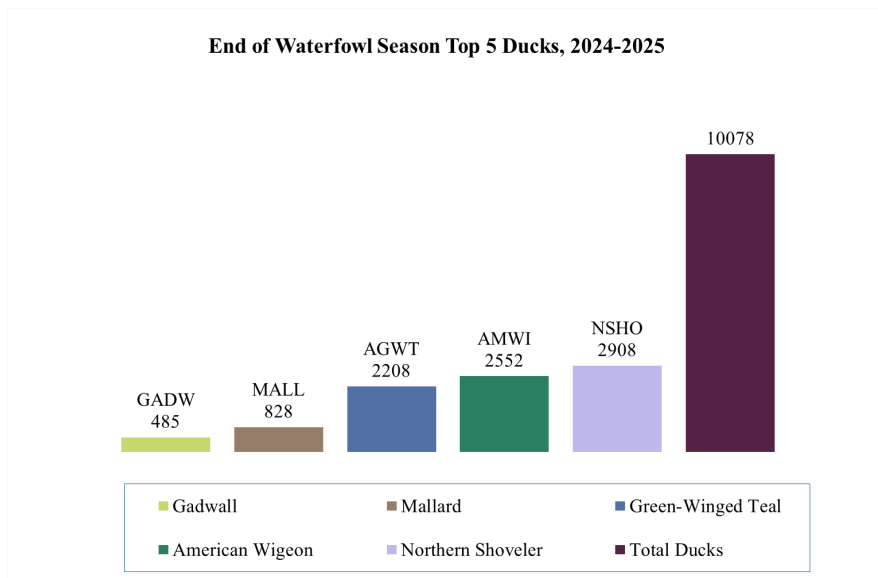
Table does NOT include youth/veteran weekend numbers.



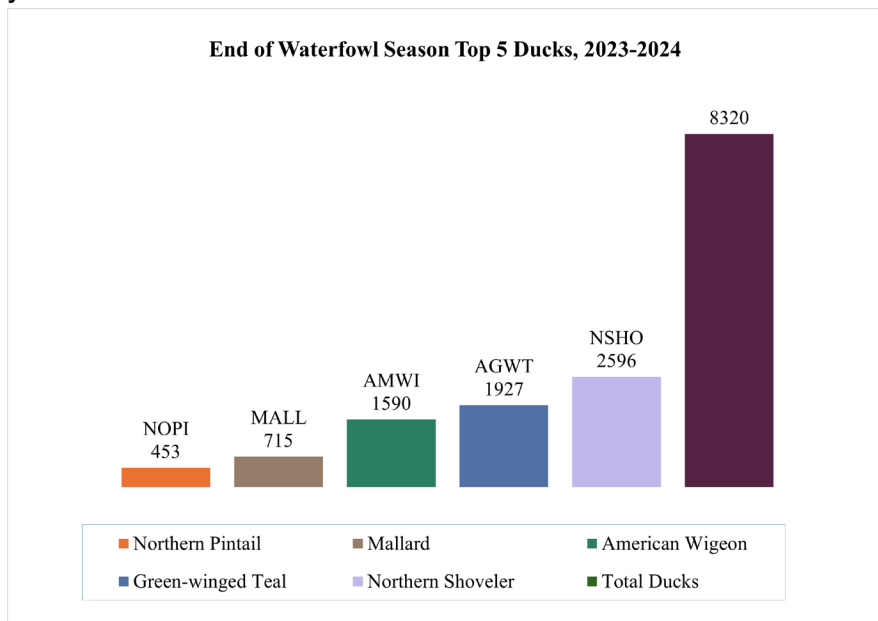
Graph depicting average waterfowl harvested per hunter at Grizzly Island for the last 5 seasons with a linear trendline showing a positive trend. Does not include youth/ veteran hunt numbers.



Graph depicting total waterfowl harvested and number of hunters who checked into Grizzly Island for the last 5 seasons with a linear trendline showing a positive trend for total waterfowl harvested. Does not include youth/ veteran hunt numbers.



Graph showing the top 5 ducks harvested in the 2024-2025 waterfowl season. Includes youth/veteran numbers.



Graph showing the top 5 ducks harvested in the 2023-2024 waterfowl season. Includes youth/veteran numbers.

**6. Department of Water Resources Report** ~ Mr. Jamel Stewart presented the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of January, the salinity standards for the Marsh were 12.5 mS/cm for eastern and western stations. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 0.7- 4.4 mS/cm. Salinity monitoring station S-97 remains offline. At the end of January, net Delta outflow was 31,107 cfs. As of

February 17<sup>th</sup>, salinities in the Marsh ranged from 0.2 - 5.0 mS/cm, and Delta outflow had increased to 166,618 cfs. Suisun Marsh February salinity standards were 8.0 mS/cm for the eastern and western marsh stations.

An Urgent and Unforeseen USACE RGP 3 application for DWR's facility maintenance were prepared by DWR staff for the Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) and submitted on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Environmental staff obtained an urgent and unforeseen permit for high water damage and provided awareness training for Delta Field Division (DFD) erosion work at Pelican Point mile markers 7.1 - 8.0. DFD completed the erosion repairs and cleaned the fish screens. Environmental staff continued post-project monitoring for trenching work at the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates, and all 3 gates are in tidal mode. USACE RGP 3 applications for DWR's annual facility maintenance were prepared by environmental staff and submitted for the Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) and Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) facilities on January 29<sup>th</sup>, and environmental staff assisted DFW the California Ridgway's Rail surveys in January.

California reservoir capacity in December ranged from 31-76% of average in the northern Sierra and 41-97% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 131% of average for the northern Sierra and 75% for the southern Sierra. Discussion ensued.

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

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~ Mr. Chappell reported that there have been no changes in the 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement. A budget projection was submitted to DWR for FY 25//26 and 3-year period, for SRCD SMPA operational expenses. On February 3rd, Mr. Chappell met with new Deputy Director and DICE Manager at DWR. They informed Mr. Chappell that DWR has not been fully reimbursed by the Bureau of Reclamation for SMPA Suisun activities. They proposed a separate SRCD/ DFW / DWR Agreement. Mr. Chappell requested an SMPA Coordinator's Meeting, with all four signatory agencies of the SMPA participating to discuss the issue further. No meeting has been set. Discussion ensued.
- b) PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update of the PAI programs. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, we sent letters announcing the program with 2025 application deadlines of March 28<sup>th</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup>, and this is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the program. Discussion ensued.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. Mr. Chappell reported that he participated on Jan 16<sup>th</sup> and Feb 13<sup>th</sup> in Principal's meetings. The AMAT met in early February with a presentation

given on the Rush Ranch Goat Island Restoration project. Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> was the Applicant's Compliance (ACT) meeting. All required environmental reporting is current.

- d) RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ SRCD continues to administer the RGP 3 permit. The landowners were sent the 2025 RGP 3 applications mid-January. There was a January package processed and approved by the Corps. A February RGP 3 package is in preparation. The Letter of Permission dredging permit has expired. The new draft permit is under review and there are expected to be minimal changes in the permit process. We hope to have the Permit issued this spring.
- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa presented the Water Manager Program update. The Water Managers worked on posting forms and information for the 2025 field season. They also finished most of the winter maintenance work. Mr. Edmunds submitted RGP3 work applications for his clubs for January and worked with landowners on possible 2025 PAI applications. Distributed the program letter for the Lepidium control program and updated the SRCD vehicle and boat maintenance schedule. Tim has also obtained the OID permit with Solano County Agriculture for chemical applications, and he completed a gate monitoring survey on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Taylor distributed informational letters to landowners for salmon gate restrictions, California Ridgway's Rail, spring marsh burning, and the 2025 PAI program. He submitted the RGP 3 January package, which was approved on February 6<sup>th</sup>. He completed a gate monitoring survey on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and submitted the final gate monitoring report on January 31<sup>st</sup>. He assisted landowners with smoke management plan preparation for spring burns and with 2025 PAI project applications, and he checked that landowner diversion reporting was completed by the deadline on February 1<sup>st</sup>. He completed all of SRCD trailer maintenance work at Les Schwab. He picked up the new gate monitoring 15' Klamath boat hull that we acquired to replace the >20-year-old hull that was beyond its useful life on February 14<sup>th</sup>, and all water managers worked this week on outfitting it with the existing Yamaha 25 hp 4 stroke.

Ms. Guzman submitted urgent and unforeseen permits for 2 landowners, and she met with clubs to assist on BCDC and RGP 3 permit applications. She conducted maintenance on her vehicle and on the water manager's ATV. She assessed our water logger equipment and supplies and downloaded data from 3 water loggers and installed another water logger. She removed the trailcam monitoring the Fairfield Suisun Sewage District water box. She assisted clubs with RGP3 work and burn permit applications, and she and Jeff conducted pump site installation inspections.

Ms. Collins completed several budget and administration tasks. She worked on posting updates and new forms to the website. She entered updated data into the Geomarth database for SRCD and Department of Water Resources dredging



projects, and she worked with the water managers on updates from 2024 for landowner Individual Management Plans. She completed a draft final report for Phase 2 of the Essential Fish Screen project for review and editing, and she developed an initial draft final report for our Phragmites Socioecological Study and coordinated sections with the team leads. She submitted a progress report for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation mouse project grant.

Ms. Brandon worked on processing of wetland models for the occupancy paper, and she updated figures for the levee breaches salinity manuscript. She collaborated with investigators to assess species-specific connectivity measures with cost-distance analyses, and she provided comments on a draft rangewide survey report to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She completed mid-January levee and road inspections on Tule Red and Wing's Landing and provided reports for DWR. She participated as the observer for the gate monitoring survey on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, and Ms. Guzman had an informational meeting with Mr. Anders Engnell, Director of Land Stewardship and Mr. Matthew Bidou, Ranch Manager from Flannery Associates managing the California Forever properties in Suisun Marsh. We discussed the SRCD programs for landowners and provided information on existing or historic Individual Management Plans.

- 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. In late January, he pressure-washed the mud from all of the larger equipment. He moved the damaged section of the Lower Joice main dock to the barge slip, and he re-installed a tire and plywood bridge between the dock sections. He began cutting up the fallen eucalyptus tree in the yard, but had to bring the chainsaw in for repairs. He fixed the globe valve on the propane system. He worked with Greg Cocotis from the MyGeneratorGuy Service Company to maintain the generator and fix the auto start module to the solar system.

Mr. Mouton provided the harvest datasheets to Mr. Taylor who completed an annual summary of the hunting results for Lower Joice Island. For the 2024-2025 season, the club had a take of 368 ducks including 153 teal (42%), 78 mallards (21%), 74 shovelers (20%), 21 gadwall, 19 pintail, 18 wigeon, and 3 diving ducks in 174 hunter days for a 2.11 bird per hunter average. In 2023-2024, the harvest was 435 birds taken during 160 hunter days or 2.72 birds/hunter with 272 ducks taken in the north and 163 taken in the south. Species taken differed compared with 2024 included many more teal and shovelers with 232 teal comprising 53% and 107 shovelers comprising 25%, while only 32 mallards were taken or 7% of the bag. The 2024 total was 21% lower than the 15-year average of 463 ducks but the 5<sup>th</sup> highest in the last 10 years.

- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported on meetings. A summary from the Potrero Hills Landfill was presented in the Board package. The report included fees from the scales, and an airspace volume survey calculation indicated that more volume was placed in Phase 2, so an amended payment will be paid to SRCD, based upon this year's reconciliation. A letter from the SFBRA fish screen proposal III was not awarded. A letter was included in the package from SRCD to the USACE that objected to the proposed Union Pacific Railroad Bahia Yard Expansion along Goodyear Slough. 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. Waters seconded by Mr. Lewis; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 PM.