

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 14th, 2025 AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Laureen Barthman-Thompson, DFW
Dennis Becker, SRCD Assoc. Dir.
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Kevin Clark, DWR
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
John Eudy, SRCD Assoc. Dir.
Fechner and Assoc.
Mike Frost, Frost Ranch
Marina Guzman, SRCD
Kelli Perez, SRCD
Melissa Riley, DFW
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Jamel Stewart, DWR
Dajanae Stitts, DFW
John Takekawa, SRCD
Jeff Taylor, 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 2:05 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ There were no public comments.

3. Open Session ~ Mr. Waters opened the Board of Directors meeting for May 14, 2025. Mr. Waters asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the April 9, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Waters asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of April 9, 2025. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hansen to approve; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for April 2025 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the April 2025 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$93,653.15. All expenses were regular general fund operations, salaries, the annual audit, or reimbursable contract expenses. Claim 139 was for mowing at Mein's Landing. Claim 145 was for Fechtner Audit payment expenses. Claim 142 Resource Management Associates was for pond modeling for Delta Conservancy Pipe Grant. Mr. Chappell reported the April 2025 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$16,302.58. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses. Claim 57 HoweCo was for service and maintenance of heavy equipment. Mr. Chappell reported the April 2025 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$33,616.99. All expenses were Water Managers operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the April 2025 Special Revenue Department vendor claims totaled \$7,093.17. All expenses were regular operational costs. Discussion ensued. Mr. Lewis moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

b) 3rd Quarter FY2024-2025 ~ Budget Summary Review ~ Mr. Chappell provided a 3rd Quarter update of the SRCD Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget. Mr. Chappell started with the Lower Joice Island Department with expenditures at 67% salary/benefits and 123% of services/supplies. Water Manager Program expenditures were at 69% for salary/benefits and 58% services/supplies. NFWF grant expenditures were at 69% for salary/benefits. Pest Weed Control expenses have been cover for last years program. DWR Support had minimal activity. PAI Fund reflects the administrative 5%. Delta Conservancy grant expenditures were at 50% of services/supplies, DWR Meins Landing was at 81% projected expenses. Fish Screen Retrofit all grant has concluded and all expenses have been paid or reimbursed, with the 10% Retention will show as revenue in the

next reporting period. SRCD General Fund expenditures are at 72% salary/benefits, 87% projected expenses- 2055 Insurance has not been billed to other departments yet. An adjustment will be made to reduce this. Landowner Pump Usage will show fuel delivery in the 4th quarter as report was through end of March and delivery was in April.

- c) Board Consideration ~ Fechner & Associates Presentation of Suisun RCD FY2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements ~ Mr. Scott German of Fechter & Associates provided a power point presentation of the Suisun RCD FY2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements, with findings, recommendations, presentation of statements of financial positions highlights, and providing a clean opinion of financial statements with no modifications. Discussion ensued. Mr. Lewis moved to adopt the audit as presented; Mr. Vanderkous seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

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

Joice Island Pig Hunt

We are in the final month of the Joice Island wild pig hunts, with only three hunts remaining. We started off this month strong with two pigs taken during hunt 10 and an additional 2 during hunt 11, bringing the total to 12 pigs so far this season. When comparing the number of pigs taken from this year to last year at this point, we see that the number of pigs has doubled, bringing the current success rate to 25.6%. We hope to continue to see high success from the hunters until the end of the season on June 1st.

Elk

Elk season is 3 months away. We have already started receiving calls from potential hunters. Information for these big game hunts may be found on the Big Game Hunting Digest on the CDFW website. The deadline for big game draws is June 2nd.

Wildlife Area

Joice Island is flooded again, ponds B, C, and D are fully flooded due to a levee breach on a neighboring property. Pond A remains unaffected by the breach and continues to drain on the tides. If you remember, we were moving forward on a project to repair the center levee between the two properties. We are currently unsure where the project is headed, but we plan on repairing part of the road that is still accessible. We are hopeful the levee can be fixed to move forward with more repairs in the summer.

The Montezuma Fish Screen project is progressing; the crew has started de-watering sections of ditch, they have placed temporary cofferdams at the existing intake location,

and the new intake location at the end of Grizzly Ditch. Before any ditch cleaning began at the new intake location, we were able to net the area and remove several native fish species.

Pheasant crow counts. Due to high winds, only one additional survey has been attempted since the last meeting. This attempt was cut short due to the wind. We will continue to check conditions for any opportunity to do a count until the end of the season in late May.

All burns have been completed for the Spring 2025 Burn. Each property burned between 22 to 35 acres. We have requested updated maps with areas burned from each property and are still waiting on a few. So, if you are one of those landowners, please send that to our intern Emily.

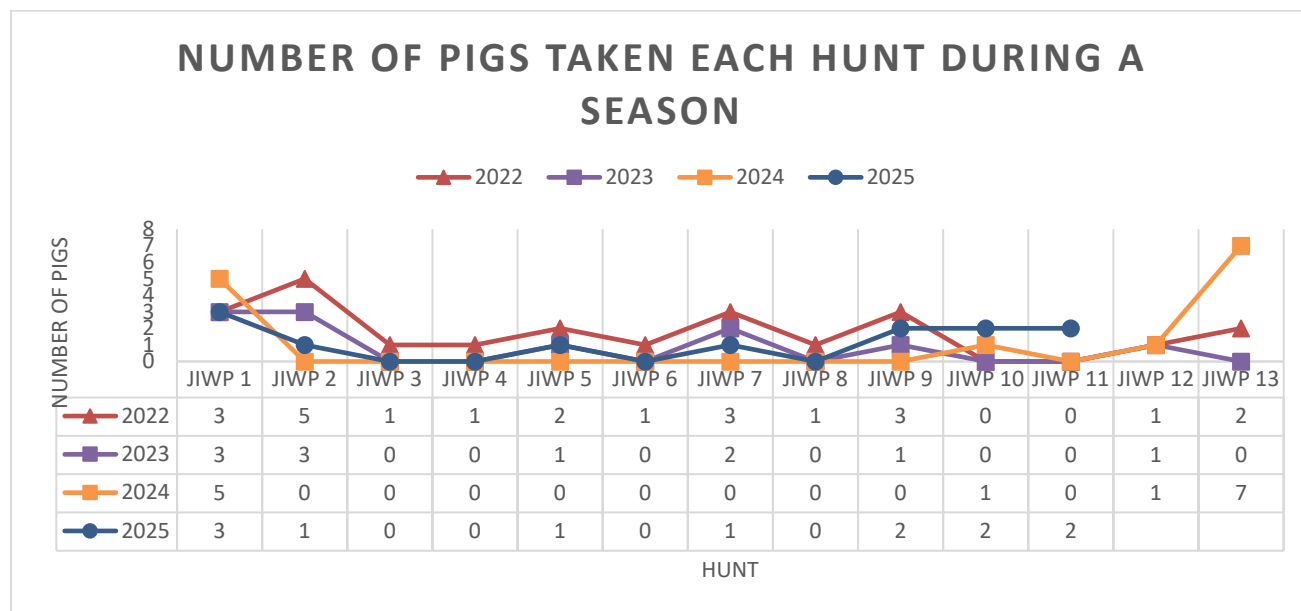


Figure 1. Graph depicting the number of pigs taken during every hunt for each season since 2022. The number of pigs taken so far exceeds 2024 and 2023 number of pigs taken at this point of the season.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Jamel Stewart presented the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of May, the salinity standards for the Marsh were 11.0 mS/cm for eastern and western stations. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 0.5 - 2.2 mS/cm. Salinity monitoring station S-97 remained offline while Cygnus was at 3.7 mS/cm. At the end of April, the net Delta outflow was 38,135 cfs. As of May 12th, salinities in the Marsh ranged from 0.5 – 5.2 mS/cm, and Delta outflow had decreased to 13,114 cfs. Suisun Marsh salinity standards in June are no standards for the eastern and western marsh stations.

DFD staff installed a temporary wash pump to clean the fish screens for Roaring River

Distribution System (RRDS), but the pressure was insufficient, so they instead began to use a mobile pressure washer. An environmental review and work clearance were conducted for annual maintenance activities. Work is scheduled for May for annual maintenance on RRDS and GYSO. The Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) and Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) received a variance from USFWS to conduct maintenance activities during the California Ridgway's rail breeding season. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates will be operating in tidal mode for at least 60 days later this summer. Operations will begin when the 3 day average salinity at Belden's hits 4PSU or September 1, whichever comes first. Russian thistle has become more prevalent in RRDS and MIDS. Small patches of Alligator Weed have been detected.

California reservoir capacity in April ranged from 79-92% of average in the northern Sierra and 68-97% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 110% of average for the northern Sierra and 70% for the southern Sierra.

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. Mr. Chappell requested an SMPA Coordinator's Meeting, with all four SMPA signatory agencies participating to discuss possible federal funding issues. No meeting has been set. Discussion ensued.
- b) 2025 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update of the PAI programs. We have received several applications to date, but the second and last round for this fiscal year application deadline for the 2025 PAI program is May 30th. Discussion ensued.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. April 10th and May 8th Mr. Chappell attended the monthly SMP Principals meetings. The Adaptive Management Advisory Team met on May 13th and conducted field visits in the Marsh. The quarterly Applicant's Compliance Team meeting will be held May 20th. All required environmental reporting is current. Discussion ensued.
- d) USACE Permits ~ RGP3 and LOP updates. SRCD continues to administer the RGP 3 permit. An April RGP 3 package was submitted and approved. The draft dredging permit remains under review and was drafted as an RGP permit. We hope to see the final permit issued this spring.
- e) SRCD 5 year Strategic Plan Update. ~ SRCD conducted a questionnaire at the spring landowner workshop to help prioritize programs in the new 5 year plan. The landowners responses and comments have been aggregated identifying SRCD

strengths, weaknesses, and programs of most importance to landowners, to support the development of a new 5 year plan. Discussion ensued.

- f) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa presented the Water Manager Program update.

Mr. Edmunds submitted USACE permit applications for 3 clubs and worked on processing dredging applications for 6 clubs. He sprayed the pump storage area with pre-emergent weed control. He ran pumps at 2 clubs, and he conducted the annual safety inspection of the boom truck. He attended the RD2136 spring levee meeting.

Mr. Taylor trained Ms. Guzman in processing RGP3 permits and they submitted the April package on April 30th. The Corps approval was received on May 6th with landowner notifications sent out on May 7th. He worked on pumping at 5 clubs, and he helped to oversee servicing of one pump. He helped with the pump area clean-up including grading and gravel placement with assistance of CDFW. He helped to process the April newsletter for mailing. He processed dredge permits for 5 clubs, and he made site visits and obtained work photos. He worked on the draft landowner survey for the SRCD 5-year plan and presented it at the spring landowner workshop with Director Kent Hansen. He is working on the summary of the results and drafting of the 5-year plan. He completed unscreened diversion gate monitoring on April 24th and May 6th.

Ms. Guzman completed a BCDC application for one club and dredging applications and took site photos for 3 others, and she completed PAI pre-project photos. She also worked with the Fairfield Suisun Sewage District on issues with their freshwater discharge box, and updated the water logger data for our Delta Conservancy project. She helped to refuel pumps for landowner leach cycles and conducted a unscreened diversion gate monitoring survey. She completed processing the April newsletter and mailed it out. She maintained her equipment and assisted with archiving Operation Managers older files.

Ms. Collins completed several budget and administration tasks including grant and budget tracking and payroll. She prepared and submitted the annual report for the Bird Returns project, and she managed the announcements to recruit clubs for the fall Bird Returns pilot program. Assisted in drafting the Delta Stewardship Council Phragmites Socioecological Study final report and submitted on April 30th. The final report and project invoice will be due on May 31st. Ms. Collins completed the revision of the paper on wetland drains and fish biomass and submitted it to Ecological Applications for consideration. She completed the GeoMarsh update for the Individual Management Duck Club Management Plans, revised and updated 34 plans, assisted in preparing the Board Resolution which was submitted to BCDC on April 15th for approval at the BCDC commission meeting on May 15th. She also

assisted in completing a budget justification and scope of work for a UC Davis plankton productivity grant. She worked with Tim to conduct an imagery flight with our survey drone at Lower Joice Island to detect and map the extent of invasive pepperweed for treatment.

Ms. Brandon continued working on the mouse analysis with USGS, attending several meetings and updating figures and preparing text. She helped to organize a meeting of the team working on the paper set for May 22nd. Also, she completed an inspection of the north Tule Red levee that included an area recently identified within the DWR boundary that will require levee repairs.

- g) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. Mr. Mouton continued to maintain the facilities and habitats on the island. He had a control valve changed out for the front end loader on the Kubota tractor, and he changed out bucket bushings in the excavator. He reorganized equipment and supplies in the caretaker shed and shipping containers. He chemically-treated volunteer palm tree saplings and cleaned and pruned the large palms in the front of the clubhouse. He moved 4 LED lights from the clubhouse dining room to the hallway. He finished installation of new flooring and moldings and purchase of a new stove for the caretaker house.
- h) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported on meetings. Mr. Chappell will attend the meeting on May 29th for Central Valley Joint Venture to present on Bird Returns. The 5-year Strategic Plan update is underway. Mr. Chappell is working on draft budgets for the June Board Meeting. 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. **Closed Session** ~ Conference with Legal Counsel ~ Anticipated Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 5456.9 [d] [2]. Significant exposure to litigation: 1 case. No report.
10. **Reconvene** ~ There was nothing to report from Closed Session ~ Conference with Legal Counsel.
11. **Meeting Adjournment** ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Vanderkous; all who were present were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 PM.