

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH, 2025 AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: H. Kent Hansen
Dick Vanderkous
John Eudy

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Becker, SRCD Assoc. Director
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Desmond Mackell, SRCD
Caitlin Perez, SRCD
Kelli Perez
Melissa Riley, DFW
Fred Riedel, SRCD Assoc. Director
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Jamel Stewart, DWR
John Telfer, SRCD Assoc. Director
Laureen Thompson, DFW
Randy Weinrich, DFW

1. **Call to Order** ~ Mr. Hansen called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:07 PM.
2. **Public Comments** ~ Mr. Hansen asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.
3. **Open Session** ~ Mr. Hansen opened the Board of Directors meeting for November 12, 2025. Mr. Hansen welcomed Mr. John Eudy as the newest member of the SRCD Board of Directors. Mr. Eudy was recently appointed to the SRCD Board of Directors by the Solano County Board of Supervisors on November 4th, 2025. Mr. Eudy assumed the remainder of Mr. Jim Water's term, which expires Nov. 24th, 2028. Mr. Hansen then asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.
 - a) Approval of the September 10, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Hansen asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of September 10, 2025. A motion was made by Mr. Vanderkous and seconded by Mr. Eudy; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

- a) Approval of Vendor Claims for September 2025 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the September 2025 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$376,997.70. Expenses were regular general fund operations, SRCD salaries, or reimbursable contract expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the September 2025 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$6,357.27. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the September 2025 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$31,044.85. All expenses were Water Managers operational and salary expenses. Discussion ensued. Mr. Vanderkous moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented. Mr. Eudy seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.
- b) Approval of Vendor Claims for October 2025 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the October 2025 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$334,747.87. Expenses were regular general fund operations, SRCD salaries, or reimbursable contract expenses (mostly for the DWR / RD 2136 Tule Red Exterior levee repair project). Mr. Chappell reported the October 2025 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$19,688.32. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses, in preparation for the 2025 waterfowl season. Mr. Chappell reported the October 2025 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$43,244.77. Expenses were normal Water Managers operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the October 2025 Special Revenue department claims totaled \$914.76. Discussion ensued. Mr. Vanderkous moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented. Mr. Eudy seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

- c) Fiscal Year 25/26 First Quarter Budget Summary Review ~ Mr. Chappell reviewed the SRCD first quarter expenses against the SRCD approved budgets of fiscal year 2025-2026. The information provided was taken from the Solano County Integrated Financial System report for the first 25% of this fiscal year. Discussion ensued.
- d) 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. SRCD expects to have a draft audit in January 2026. Discussion ensued.

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

Waterfowl Season

Duck season started on the 18th of October. On the opening day, we saw 351 hunters who took 649 ducks and 20 geese. This resulted in a 1.91 average for waterfowl. The top five species on opening day were Northern Shoveler (335 ducks), Green-winged Teal (142 ducks), Mallards (101 ducks), Cinnamon (27 ducks), and American Wigeon (24 ducks). Since then, the season has drastically slowed down to under a 1 bird per hunter average.

As of Sunday November 9th, hunters had taken 1,290 ducks, 26 geese for a total of 1,316 waterfowl for the season. We have seen 1,137 waterfowl hunters for a season average of 1.16.

Top 5 birds for the season are:

1. NSHO (599)
2. AGWT (220)
3. MALL (218)
4. GADW (45)
5. CITE (41)

Pheasant Season:

Pheasant opener wasn't what we expected with 6 wild birds and 1 planted bird being taken on the opener. Driving around the Wildlife Area, we all see plenty of birds, but they seem to elude our hunters.

Wildlife Area

Staff continue to mow since the weather has been so nice. Once mowing was completed in Pond 11, we began flooding it and half of the blinds may be huntable as early as next weekend. Depending on weather we will continue to mow ponds such as Pond 15 before we flood it up.

Contractors have been prepping upland fields for fall planting and mowing in upland fields to reset vegetation. They are planting another couple hundred acres of native

grasses today as we speak, so good progress is getting made right before the rain.

At Joice Island, a second round of dredging has been done and the road from the bridge to parking lot 2 has been repaired.

The Grizzly Ditch intakes now have fish screens in place, but the fish screens are not operational yet. The infrastructure of the old intakes has been removed, and drainpipes are also in place now. Progress is on track and being made to wrap the project up soon!

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 5.6-14.7mS/cm. Salinity monitoring station S-97 remained offline while Cygnus was at 14.4 mS/cm. At the end of October, the net Delta outflow was 10,925 cfs. As of November 6th, salinities in the Marsh ranged from 7.4-15.6 mS/cm, and Delta outflow had decreased to 5,582 cfs. The current Suisun Marsh salinity standards for the month of November are 15.5 mS/cm for Eastern Stations and 16.5 mS/cm for Western Stations.

Environmental staff completed a clearance for routine levee maintenance and mowing in October at Roaring River Distribution System. Delta Field Division (DFD) staff cleaned fish screens at Roaring River Distribution System every other day plus Sundays during the last stretch of fall flood up. DFD staff performed a tidal flap gate inspection dive on October 23rd.

The Morrow Island Distribution System did not have any surveys or maintenance conducted in the month of October.

Goodyear Slough Outfall DFD staff completed a clearance for removal of floating debris in front of the inlet. DFD staff performed annual maintenance on the slide gates from October 29th to October 31st. DFD staff installed galvanized expanded metal on the platform and walkway to prevent slippage. DWR Safety will evaluate the platform next week to determine if water quality monitoring can commence at this location (Fleet A-96).

The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates are currently in open position. Salinities are being monitored closely, to determine if operations will begin.

DWR submitted a BCDC Permit amendment renewal to cover facilities maintenance work. A notice to amend the permit will be posted at SRCD's office in November. Discussion ensued.

California reservoir capacity as of November 7th ranged from 43-73% of average in the

northern Sierra and 27-94% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 127% of average for the northern Sierra and 101% for the San Joaquin area.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~Mr. Chappell participated in the quarterly Applicant Compliance Team Meeting on November 18th, all monitoring and reporting is up to date. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell attended SMPA 5-year review kick off meeting on October 24th. Discussion ensued.
- b) 2025 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update of the PAI programs. Several approved clubs for 2025 construction season have begun submitting paid invoices for completed projects. SRCD will process their reimbursement request to DWR, once post project inspections are completed. Early next year, 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 program. 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 Sept. 11th, October 9th and will attend the November 13th meeting. 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. SRCD has sent out a letter asking landowners to submit their yearend compliance reporting for completed work. This information will be compiled into a 2025 year end compliance report. The 2025 dredging activities authorized under the RGP 47 permit will continue until the end of November. SRCD will then compile the annual report for this permit. Unscreened diversion gate monitoring has begun for salmon diversion. Discussion ensued.
- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Mackell presented the Water Manager Program update. All water managers worked diligently to coordinate flood levels and ensure that clubs in the marsh could reach shoot level by opening day of waterfowl season. Fall flooding went smoothly for the most part, and SRCD staff received positive feedback from many landowners.

Mr. Taylor and Ms. Guzman worked with landowners to ensure that dissolved oxygen levels didn't reach critical low levels in the sloughs during the fall flood. Mr. Taylor installed our water sensors in the marsh and downloaded and maintained our water quality dataset. Mr. Taylor is coordinating our ongoing fall salmon diversion

monitoring schedule to ensure that landowners comply with diversion restrictions. He is currently working on writing our fall water quality report.

Mr. Edmunds completed drone flights for the Bird Returns project. He worked with landowners to verify completion of work under the RGP 3 and dredge permits and completed our spray report for the Solano County Agricultural Commission. He completed inspections of exterior levee work, dredging, and verified the completion of PAI projects, making sure enrolled landowners were on track to receive reimbursement. He submitted a grant application to Solano County to upgrade our event audio equipment for landowner workshops. Mr. Edmunds helped to winterize pumps used in our portable pump program, completed the first round of gate monitoring, and assisted with mailing out our quarterly newsletter.

Ms. Guzman worked with landowners who receive water from the Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District to coordinate the use of shared water resources, ensuring clubs had sufficient access to the freshwater source. She also worked with DWR, CDFW, and the landowners along Roaring River to ensure that everyone had ample water and time to reach desired flood levels. She helped collect water logger downloads, completed exterior levee work inspections, and assisted with our quarterly newsletter. She also helped with pump maintenance and winterization storage.

Ms. Collins reviewed our grant and budget tracking, oversaw payroll, and maintained our GIS landowner database. She worked on updating our website and helped complete and submit a recent grant application to secure funding for fish screen upkeep and maintenance. She processed our Bird Returns drone flight imagery, compiled and edited our quarterly newsletter, and worked on completing our annual reports. Ms. Collins is currently preparing her manuscript on fish food dynamics for resubmission to a scientific journal.

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

Mr. Mouton successfully got Joice Island ready for this year's waterfowl hunt season, including completing field work around the blind areas, cleaning the clubhouse, hauling propane to the island, and hauling a barge load of trash off the island. He coordinated with mosquito abatement during flood up and made sure the ponds were at shoot level prior to opening day. Mr. Mouton also reinforced a couple of low spots along the levee near the clubhouse that overtop on king tides. He is currently working on equipment maintenance and connecting the hunt group's gas generator to our solar system as a backup power source.

- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported the September 17th Fall Landowner Workshop went well. There is potential to only hold one Spring workshop in 2026. Mr. Chappell gave an update on the 2025 fall flood up Solano County Mosquito Abatement District's spraying acreage and

total treatment costs for the year. Suisun City will have a meeting on December 8th to discuss incorporating California Forever into Suisun City. Mr. Chappell plans to attend the meeting. On October 14th, Mr. Chappell participated in an Adaptive management Workshop on a panel discussion of tidal restoration adaptive management process and outcomes. 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. Eudy; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 PM.