

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH, 2026 AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Mike Lewis
Dick Vanderkous
John Eudy

OTHERS PRESENT: Angela Calderaro, DWR
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Kevin Clark, DWR
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Mike Frost, Frost Slough
Otome Lindsey, DWR
Desmond Mackell, SRCD
Caitlin Perez, SRCD
Kelli Perez
Brock Riggs, SRCD
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Grayson Sandy, DWR
Jamel Stewart, DWR
Jeff Taylor, SRCD
Laureen Thompson, DFW
Randy Weinrich, DFW

1. **Call to Order** ~ Mr. Lewis called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:02 PM.
2. **Public Comments** ~ Mr. Lewis asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.
3. **Open Session** ~ Mr. Lewis opened the Board of Directors meeting for May 13, 2026. Mr. Lewis asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.
 - a) Approval of the April 8, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Lewis asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of April 8, 2026. 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 April 2026 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the April 2026 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$76,827.05. Expenses included regular SRCD office and general fund operations, SRCD salaries, and reimbursable contract expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the April 2026 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$9,910.68. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the April 2026 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$28,458.16. All expenses were Water Managers operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the April 2026 Special Revenue vendor claims totaled \$7,443.95. This diesel purchase expenses will be reimbursed through the 2026 Portable Pump Program. Discussion ensued. Mr. Eudy moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented. Mr. Vanderkous seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.
5. **Board Consideration** ~ Resolution 2526-6 for SRCD to enter into a Public Entity Agreement (PEA) with DWR for Mein's Landing Levee Improvement Project. DWR's Otome Lindsey and Grayson Sandy gave a presentation for overview of the proposed project. DWR asks SRCD to serve as the implementing entity to provide technical support, project oversight, and construction supervision for the implementation of the Mein's Landing Levee Improvement Project to repair remaining erosion sites. This project would restore ~52 acres of tidal marsh habitat creating a graded transition zone. DWR has allocated \$5.9 million limited to construction implementation. DWR will complete project engineering, and all required environmental permitting. If project designed and permitting is completed, SRCD will provide project implementation under the PEA with the option of construction cost advancement and 10% retention. This would reduce the financial burden on the SRCD for construction delivery. Discussion ensued. A motion to

approve Resolution 2526-6 was made by Mr. Vanderkous, seconded by Mr. Eudy. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

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

Joice Island Pig Hunt: Joice Island's final period of wild pig hunts has started, with three hunts remaining. Period 1 March hunts had 17 hunters who harvested 2 pigs. The success rate is 12%. Period 2 April hunts had 12 hunters who harvest 6 pigs. The success rate is 50%. Period 3, May hunts started two weekends ago so far 1 pig has been taken for 6 hunters. The overall success rate to date is 29%, 2025's Period 1 and Period 2 had a combined 23% success rate, while the overall success rate ended up at 36% due to a good last weekend where 4 pigs were shot. We hope our hunters finish strong again and match last year's success rate.

Elk: GIWA staff have now conducted 10 elk surveys (220 highest total count, 77 bulls, 48 cows, 21 yearlings, and 20 spikes). Staff have also seen the first calves of the year with 8 calves from the most recent survey. Elk hunts are 3 months away! Information regarding big game hunts including information on last year's 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: We are still seeing lots of pairs of ducks flying around our upland fields. We have seen a few early broods on our ponds. USGS has been nest searching and as of April 26th, USGS is nest searching at 10 wildlife areas and Refuges up and down the valley, GIWA has the most Mallard and Gadwall nests. GIWA has 26% percent of the nests in the state. I know that they have found more nest since this summary was given to us, so everything looks good. Final drawdowns continue remaining ponds on GIWA. GIWA staff have conducted 4 pheasant surveys. The highest crow count is 328 with 15.6 average crows per station. This is the highest pheasant crow count survey in the past 4 years. High winds have limited the opportunities for surveys, but we plan to complete more surveys this month!

GIWA staff conducted 3 controlled burns this spring, burning 51 acres. 5 properties out of 8 properties had successful burns. With the spring burn season over, thank you for everyone's cooperation and patience. Rail Surveys are complete. 2 Black Rails were detected in the last survey at Benicia Shoreline. The highest count of Black Rails was at Hill Slough (8) and no Ridgway's Rails have been detected at any site.

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

The Progressive Daily Mean salinities in the Marsh for April 2026 ranged from 0.2-3.3 mS/cm. Salinity monitoring station S-97 remained offline while Cygnus was at 2.4 mS/cm. At the end of April, the net Delta outflow was 25,283 cfs. As of May 12th, salinities in the Marsh ranged from 0.3-3.8 mS/cm, and Delta outflow had decreased to 13,546 cfs. The current Suisun Marsh salinity standards for the month of May are 11.0 mS/cm for Eastern Stations and Western Stations.

Environmental staff completed an environmental clearance and conducted a survey for upcoming levee maintenance and mowing at Roaring River Distribution System. Screen cleaning was performed on April 16th. Environmental and CDFW staff reported California Ridgway's rail survey results and received approval from USFWS for DWR to conduct maintenance during the California Ridgway's rail breeding season at Morrow Island Distribution System and Goodyear Slough Outfall. Environmental staff completed an environmental clearance survey for floating debris removal from in front of the inlet at Goodyear Slough Outfall. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates operations are still suspended as of March 2nd due to low channel water salinities.

California reservoir capacity as of May 11th ranged from 90-99% of average in the northern Sierra and 85-99% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 99% of average for the northern Sierra and 92% for the Southern Sierra.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~ Mr. Chappell attended the May 19th Quarterly Applicant Compliance Team meeting. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell attended the SMPA 5-year review on April 9th and will attend the meeting on May 20th. Discussion ensued.
- b) 2025 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update on the PAI program. The technical review panel met on April 20th. There were several complete applications approved with several others that had incomplete applications. Mr. Mackell has been in contact with all the landowners who have applied incomplete application to discuss next steps and additional needed information.
- 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 April 9th and will attend the May 14th meeting. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell attended

the Adaptive Management Advisory Team (AMAT) meeting and Suisun Marsh Tour on May 12th. Discussion ensued.

- d) USACE Permits ~ RGP 3 and RGP 47 updates~ Mr. Chappell reported that SRCD continues to administer the RGP 3 and RGP 47 permits. The April 2026 RGP 3 package was submitted May 1st. The March and April Packages have been approved. There was a special application package for the levee breach repair at Volanti Duck Club submitted and approved. The 2026 RGP 47 dredging permits application package was released to landowners in early February. The RGP 47 dredging application deadline was April 30th, 2026. 15 clubs have applied for dredging this year. The water managers are actively working to review application for submittal of the BCDC Marsh Development Permit. Discussion ensued.
- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Mackell presented the Water Manager Program update.

All three Water Managers helped prepare for our 2026 Spring Landowner Workshop which was held on April 22, 2025. Our portable pump program is in full swing, and they have also been working hard to install, operate, and track the usage of the Program. Each Water Manager worked with their landowners to make sure their landowners who wanted to apply for this year's Preservation Act Implementation (PAI) cost share program were able to get their applications submitted by the April deadline. Additionally, gate monitoring for the Delta Smelt diversion restrictions were completed by the Water Managers on 4/10, 4/27, and 5/12.

Mr. Taylor compiled the April RGP3 package. He has begun processing this year's dredging applications (~15 clubs, fish screen facilities, and the DWR GYSO), conducted vehicle maintenance, and has drafted next year's Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring Proposal.

Mr. Edmunds has continued to help landowners make sure that any upcoming summer maintenance activities are filed under our RGP 3 permit. He has also assisted in developing our drone surveillance and phragmites spray program, conducted fish screen repairs, and completed our boom truck safety certification.

Mr. Riggs has begun introducing himself to all the landowners in his management zone, assisting them with permits for upcoming projects, including BCDC permits for new structures and dredging activity, collected pre-work photos, and conducted equipment maintenance.

- f) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Mackell presented the Lower Joice Island update. Mr. Mouton assisted with our prescribed burn, repaired the radiator on our Dozer, delivered propane to the island, assisted USGS and SFSU staff with their research,

treated phragmites on the island, maintained the clubhouse, and assisted DWR in their fish food project.

- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported the Spring Landowner Workshop went well on April 22nd. Mr. Chappell reported the SCF Fun Shoot is scheduled for July 31st. Mr. Chappell plans to start working on budgets for fiscal year 2026-2027 and plans to present draft budgets to the Board at the June meeting.

9. 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.

- 10. Adjourn** ~ 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 3:17 PM.