

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8TH, 2026 AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tony Vaccarella
Mike Lewis
Dick Vanderkous
John Eudy

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Chappell, SRCD
Phil Choy, DWR
Mike Frost, Frost Slough
Desmond Mackell, SRCD
Caitlin Perez, SRCD
Kelli Perez
Jamel Stewart, DWR
Kathy Su, DFW
John Telfer, SRCD Assoc. Director
Laureen Thompson, DFW
Randy Weinrich, DFW

1. **Call to Order** ~ Mr. Vaccarella called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:02 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 April 8, 2026. Mr. Vaccarella then asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.
 - a) Approval of the March 11, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Vaccarella asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of March 11, 2026. A motion was made by Mr. Eudy and seconded by Mr. Lewis; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

- a) Approval of Vendor Claims for March 2026 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the March 2026 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$97,245.57. Expenses included regular SRCD office and general fund operations, SRCD salaries, and reimbursable contract expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the March 2026 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$10,347.55. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the March 2026 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$24,777.17. All expenses were Water Managers operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the March 2026 Special Revenue vendor claims totaled \$20,972.47. This expense will be reimbursed through DWR's Portable Pump Program. 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) SRCD Fiscal Year 2025/2026 3rd Quarter Financial Review ~ Mr. Chappell reviewed the Solano County Integrated Financial System report for all of SRCD financial departments program expenses are on track with the adopted budgets as of the end of the 3rd quarter of the fiscal year. Discussion ensued.

5. **Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report** ~ Ms. Kathy Su presented the DFW report.

Joice Island Pig Hunt

Period 1 (March) Pig hunts have concluded on Joice Island. 2 pigs over 4 weekends have been harvested which is a bit less compared to the previous 2025 March Pig Hunts of 5 pig. Multiple hunters have commented that they have opportunities, but the flooded land has made areas less accessible and made it more challenging to find pigs.

However, hunters are still grateful for the experience and opportunity. Last weekend was the first weekend of Period 2 (April) Pig Hunts. 3 hunters harvested 4 pigs and missed 3 pigs. We are hopeful that hunters will continue to be successful in the rest of April and May.

Grizzly Island Wildlife Area

The Wildlife Area is entering the final drawdowns of the year on most of our ponds. Several ponds are selected as summer brood habitat. Grizzly Island plans to hold about 500 acres of summer water on the main island, in addition to holding most of Island Slough in summer water. Crescent unit, Laughing Mallard, Bent Barrel, and Crescent Family are concluding leach cycles. Staff continue to conduct general maintenance on the wildlife area including mowing. Grizzly Island is also in the process of submitting permits for summer work.

We received a total of 8 burn permit requests from clubs for the 2026 burn season. Everything has been processed and sent to Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Wildlife Area staff conducted a marsh burn on Monday and Tuesday. They successfully burned about 45 acres of thick phragmites in pond 14. Our plan is to mow and disk the burned area.

Staff have also conducted two Pheasant Crow Count surveys. The highest crow count is 264 with 13.2 average crows per station. This is on par with the highest pheasant crow count survey from 2025 which was also completed in March. We plan to complete more surveys this season.

Staff have conducted 6 elk surveys now with more planned for the future. Highest total number count per day is still 220, with at least 77 bulls, 41 cows, 21 yearlings, and 19 spikes.

Other Projects

There is one Ridgeway's Rail Survey is left to complete at Benicia shoreline. The highest minimum count of Black Rails is 8 at Hill Slough followed by Cutoff Slough. Lower Joice Island has only detected 1 Black Rail and there has been no detection at Benicia Shoreline yet. Additionally, there has been no detection of Ridgeway's Rails at any of the sites.

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

The Progressive Daily Mean salinities in the Marsh for March 2026 ranged from 0.7-5.9 mS/cm. Salinity monitoring station S-97 remained offline while Cygnus was at 6.6 mS/cm. At the end of March, the net Delta outflow was 27,694 cfs. As of April 5th,

salinities in the Marsh ranged from 0.6-6.1 mS/cm, and Delta outflow had decreased to 14,150 cfs. The current Suisun Marsh salinity standards for the month of April are 11.0 mS/cm for Eastern Stations and Western Stations.

Environmental staff conducted a quarterly environmental/maintenance and levee erosion inspection at Roaring River Distribution System, Morrow Island Distribution System and Goodyear Slough Outfall. Delta Field Division staff conducted levee inspections and staff also conducted levee repairs.

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 April 2nd ranged from 80-92% of average in the northern Sierra and 79-100% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 96% of average for the northern Sierra and 86% for the Southern Sierra.

- 7. Conduct a Public Hearing ~** In accordance with 14 CCR 11210, SRCD held a public hearing to consider a minor amendment to the SRCD Local Protection Program to Update 22 Individual Ownership Adaptive Management Plans (IOAHMP). Mr. Chappell made a short Power Point presentation of the IOAHMP update history, procedure, and 22 clubs that required updates to their management plans from the 2025 work season. Mr. Chappell read the Draft Resolution #2526-4 and referenced Attachments A and B: A) IOAHMP Annual Update 2025 Summary, B) CEQA Notice of Exemption. A motion to approve Resolution #2526-4 was made by Mr. Eudy, seconded by Mr. Vanderkous. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- 8. SRCD Board Consideration ~** SRCD Resolution #2526-5 for the adoption of Memorandum of Understanding Between the Resource Conservation Districts of the Greater Bay Area Conservation Hub. A motion to approve the updates was made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Vanderkous. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- 9. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~**
 - a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~ Mr. Chappell attended the March 10th Environmental Compliance Applicant Team meeting. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell attended the SMPA 5 year review on March 12th and will attend the meeting on April 9th. Discussion ensued.
 - b) 2025 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update on the PAI program. 2026 Program notice has been sent out to landowners. The 2026 program will be a single solicitation with a deadline of April 10, 2026, and prioritize project funding with

the longest useful life priority as defined in the program guidelines. The technical review panel is scheduled for April 20th.

- 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 March 12th and will attend the April 9th meeting. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell attended the Adaptive Management Advisory Team (AMAT) meeting on February 10th. 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. There was a March 2026 RGP 3 package submitted on April 1st. The February Package was approved. The 2026 RGP 47 dredging permits application package was released to landowners in early February to allow ample time to obtain authorization from BCDC this year. The RGP 47 dredging application deadline is April 30th, 2026 to allow more time for authorization. Discussion ensued.
- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Mackell presented the Water Manager Program update.

Mr. Taylor submitted the March RGP3 package on April 1st and provided exterior work notifications to agencies for the January/February approved packages. He is assisting with administering our portable pump program, which is ramping up significantly this week. He assisted with diversion restriction monitoring and compiled the final report for the spring salmon restrictions. Mr. Taylor was also on the hiring panel for the vacant Water Manager Biologist position.

Mr. Edmunds has also been administering our portable pump program. He has met with landowners to assist them with their PAI applications, completed gate monitoring inspections, and has been working to maintain and update some of the existing fish-screen infrastructure in the Marsh. Both Water Managers also assisted in our prescribed burn at Lower Joice Island this week.

We are pleased to announce that we have filled the vacant Water Manager Biologist position. Brock Riggs will be joining our team as our newest member. Mr. Riggs has a background in waterfowl science, working with the US Geological Survey and UC Davis on multiple projects in the region, and has a strong passion for waterfowl hunting in the area. We look forward to bringing him up to speed so he can assist landowners in the Marsh.

- f) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Mackell presented the Lower Joice Island update. Mr. Mouton has continued to provide routine maintenance of the island, including mowing, levee repair, and leach-cycle operations. He has serviced our heavy equipment and UTVs, coordinated diesel deliveries, and maintained the clubhouse

yard. He has continued to make sure the solar system is running properly and has troubleshooted issues with our fish screen. Mr. Mouton also helped prepare for our controlled burn to manage phragmites.

- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported the Spring Landowner Workshop is scheduled for April 22nd. Mr. Chappell recently met Supervisor Mitch Mashburn. Supervisor Mashburn let him know there was new legislation introduced to establish a new Delta levee maintenance program. SB 872 would be new program managed by the Delta Conservancy (not DWR) and would be implementing the Delta Stewardship Council's new Delta Levee Investment Strategy, which prioritizes expenditures based on location, ecosystem benefits, and protection of water quality. Currently the legislation only covers the area of the legal Delta. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Gaines have reached out to the author Senator Mc Nerney office to see if the bill could be amended to include the Suisun Marsh. This amendment has been agreed upon by the author. The bill has passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Mr. Chappell plans to attend an upcoming meeting at the capital to support the Bill.

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. **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 2:54 PM.