

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 8TH, 2026 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
Mike Lewis

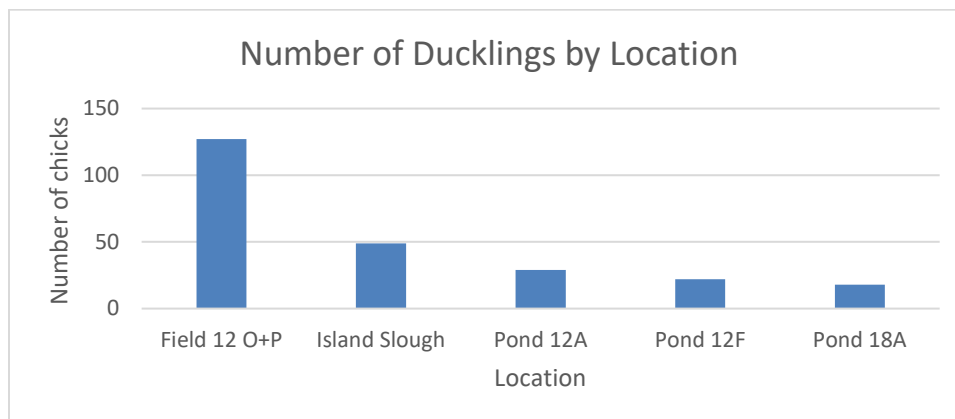
OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Becker, SRCD
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Phil Choy, DWR
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Mike Frost, Frost Ranch
Desmond Mackell, SRCD
Caitlin Perez, SRCD
Kelli Perez, SRCD
Brock Riggs, SRCD
Jamel Stewart, DWR
Kathy Su, DFW
Jeff Taylor, SRCD
John Telfer, SRCD
Laureen Thompson, DFW
Randy Weinrich, DFW

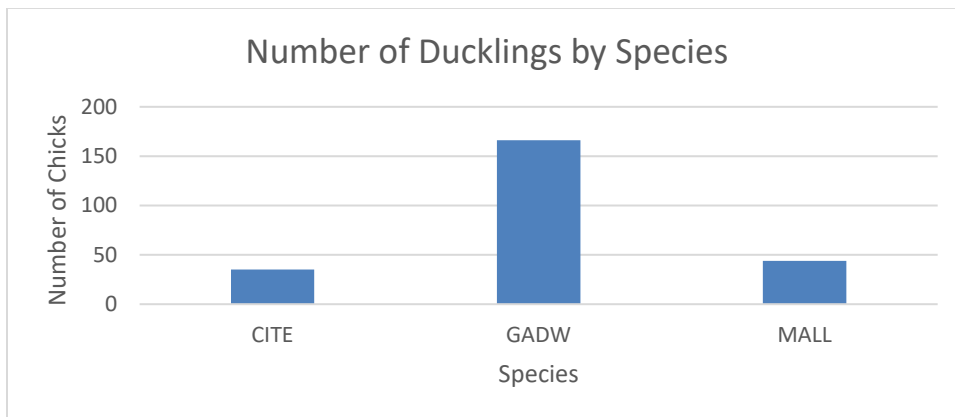
1. **Call to Order** ~ Mr. Lewis called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:01 PM.
2. **Public Comments** ~ Mr. Lewis asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Chappell announced that Mr. Orlando Rocha DFW Biologist passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday June 30th. Orlando was one of SRCD's first water managers and had spent most of his career working in the Suisun Marsh with SRCD and DFW. A celebration of life is currently being planned on August 1st at CWA's Grizzly Ranch facility.
3. **Open Session** ~ Mr. Lewis opened the Board of Directors meeting for July 8, 2026. Mr. Lewis asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.
 - a) Approval of the June 10th, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Lewis asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of June 10, 2026. A motion was made by Mr. Hansen and seconded by Mr. Vanderkous; all were in favor and the motion carried.
4. **Financial Reports** ~
 - a) Approval of Vendor Claims for June 2026 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the June 2026 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$91,643.41. Expenses included regular SRCD office and general fund operations, SRCD salaries, and reimbursable contract expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the June 2026 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$17,114.56. All expenses were normal LJI operational, salary, and mobile mechanic services expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the June 2026 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$35,168.85. All expenses were Water Managers operational and salary expenses. Discussion ensued. Mr. Eudy moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.
 - b) Board Review of the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Final Budgets ~ At the June 4th, SRCD Board Meeting, Mr. Chappell presented the Board draft budgets for the 26/27 fiscal year. Mr. Chappell presented the SRCD FY26/27 final budgets and reviewed next fiscal year's projected revenues and expenses for the General Fund, Water Manager Program and Lower Joice Island. Mr. Chappell pointed out that SRCD General Fund Grant budgets revenues are lower this year, due to the fact that several grants have ended over the current fiscal year, so projected grant revenues will be lower than FY 25/26 revenues. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hansen moved to approve the final budgets as presented. Mr. Eudy seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

- c) Biennial Review of SRCD's Conflict of Interest Code ~ Mr. Chappell provided the Board with a copy of SRCD's current conflict of interest code. It is required that the SRCD Board reviews this code for any potential changes every 2 years. Discussion ensued. No changes to the policy were proposed. Mr. Vanderkous made a motion to approve the conflict-of-interest code as is, seconded by Mr. Hansen. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- d) Board Consideration of New Vegetation Survey Drone Purchase with Potrero Hills Landfill Funds ~ Mr. Chappell reported that during a recent flight at Lower Joice Island, our survey drone lost battery connection and suffered a long fall. The fall damaged the drone beyond repair. The drone was several years old and has been discontinued with advancement of technology, so replacement parts are not available. SRCD requests authorization from the Board to approve a new survey drone purchase with funds from the Potrero Hills Landfill Fund. This purchase of a fixed asset will support SRCD's continued vegetation mapping surveys and invasive species control program implementation. This equipment is vital to advancing SRCD's invasive plant drone spraying program. Mr. Eudy moved to approve the purchase of a new survey drone. Mr. Vanderkous seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

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

Ducks The staff at Grizzly Island will be banding ducks this year in the Marsh. Initial baiting started July 2nd, with goals of finding good trapping locations. The plan is to have traps out by next week and we are hoping to catch ducks by the end of next week. One initial brood survey was conducted, and it found a high prevalence of Gadwalls, followed by Mallards, then Cinnamon Teals. Gadwalls have a later nesting initiation, leading to more observed in a younger age group. Further brood surveys are planned for later this month.





Elk Season The wildlife area is open through July 26th for public use. Our auction hunt begins on August 1st; general hunts will begin on August 11th and end on September 25th. Elk surveys this year have determined that there are at least 77 bulls, 106 cows, 53 calves and 21 spikes. Highest total count at one time is 232 animals.

Grizzly Island Staff on the wildlife area continue to mow and complete summer maintenance. Signage was repainted and new land pass signs were put out. Vegetation surveys were also completed to observe success of planted fields funded by NB HIP.

Other The Suisun Marsh group welcomed two new scientific aids. Claire joins us as a recent graduate of UC Santa Cruz. She majored in Biology and minored in Bioinformatics. She is excited to be working in the Marsh, especially with Salt Marsh Harvest Mice. Aisha joins us with 15 years of conservation biology experience. She is enjoying applying her skills to the position and getting familiar with the beauty of Suisun Marsh. Please give them a warm welcome if you see them around.

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 June 2026 ranged from 1.8-10.6mS/cm. Salinity monitoring station S-97 remained offline while Cygnus was at 9.8 mS/cm. At the end of June, the net Delta outflow was 2,039 cfs. As of July 8th, salinities in the Marsh ranged from 1.3-10.0 mS/cm, and Delta outflow had increased to 8,278 cfs. There are no Suisun Marsh salinity standards for the month of July.

Environmental staff conducted a follow-up survey for ongoing maintenance activities at Roaring River Distribution System. DFD staff conducted a quarterly environmental/maintenance levee inspection. DFD staff also mowed, sprayed herbicide, fixed erosion spots and animal burrows, and spread A/B gravel.

Environmental staff completed environmental clearance inspections and conducted a survey for upcoming levee maintenance and mowing at Morrow Island Distribution System this month. Environmental staff conducted a quarterly environmental, maintenance and levee inspection. DFD staff began annual maintenance on June 15th and will continue through July 2nd. At Goodyear Slough Outfall, environmental staff completed and environmental clearance and conducted a survey for floating debris removal from in front of the inlet. Environmental staff also conducted a quarterly environmental/maintenance and levee inspection. DFD staff removed debris on June 6th. There was no maintenance at Montezuma Day Use Area in June. Maintenance is scheduled to occur in July.

The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates began tidal operations on July 1st to comply with Summer-Fall ITP requirements.

California reservoir capacity as of July 6th ranged from 81-93% of average in the northern Sierra and 64-99% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 97% of average for the northern Sierra and 89% for the Southern Sierra.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~ Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell attended the SMPA 5-year review on June 11th and the July 9th, has been cancelled. Discussion ensued.
- b) 2025 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update on the PAI program. The technical review panel plans to meet next week to review the 4 additional projects still outstanding. Mr. Mackell has been in contact with all the landowners who have applied incomplete application to discuss next steps and additional needed information to complete eligibility determination.
- 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 June 11th and will attend the July 9th meeting. Mr. Taylor will start attending these monthly meetings. Discussion ensued.
- d) SB-872 (McNerney) Delta Levees Fund Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update on SB-872 Delta Levees Fund. Currently there are no funds reserved for the bill, but

it continues to move through Assembly Committees without opposition. Discussion ensued.

- e) USACE Permits ~ RGP 3 and RGP 47 updates~ Mr. Chappell reported that SRCD continues to administer the RGP 3 and RGP 47 permits. The May 2026 RGP 3 package was submitted June 1st and was approved. The June package was submitted on July 5th. The 2026 RGP 47 dredging permit was submitted to BCDC. We hope to have authorization by August 1st. Twelve clubs have applied for dredging this year. Discussion ensued.
- f) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Mackell presented the Water Manager Program update.

Mr. Taylor pulled pumps and prepared invoices for landowners utilizing the portable pump program, drafted drought response reimbursements, submitted May and June RGP 3 packages to USACE, and the dredging package submitted to the Corps and BCDC. He is working on the revision of a PAI proposal and is assisting with chemical deliveries.

Mr. Edmunds worked with his landowners to submit RGP 3 applications to the Corps, worked on a BCDC application for new structure installation, ordered and delivered chemicals for the 2026 phragmites program, pulled fish screens, and attended the RD2129 meeting to provide support for fish screen maintenance and the upcoming fall flood up.

Mr. Riggs assisted with portable pump removals, compiled RGP 3 application for summer work, worked on multiple BCDC permits for new structure construction, and edited and mailed the SRCD summer newsletter. He assisted with fish screen removal and maintenance, provided additional information for PAI projects that required it, and assisted a club enrolled in the current fish food study with their drain infrastructure. He is continuing to reach out and introduce himself to landowners in his region and to agency partners.

- g) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Mackell presented the Lower Joice Island update. Mr. Mouton continued monitoring the dozer that is stuck on the island, pumping any water out that is pooling around the machine. He has been working with our mechanics to get the excavator running and is bringing it down to the dozer today for this week's recovery effort. He pressure-washed the clubhouse, trimmed the palm trees in the yard, finished the first stage of the DWR fish food study on the island, and has been treating phragmites in the ditches and along the levees. He has identified new patches of Russian thistle and is working to remove it.

- h) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell attended the June 18th Delta Restoration Forum with the SRCD drone. Mr. Chappell attended CDFW's meeting for the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Plan. Mr. Chappell attended Solano Land Trust's Conservation Advisory Committee Meeting on June 24th to represent the Suisun Marsh. On July 10th, Mr. Chappell will attend DWR's Conservation Investment Strategy Meeting. On July 22nd, Mr. Chappell will attend the Delta Conservancy Board Meeting. On July 23rd and 24th, Mr. Chappell will attend the Solano County Ag Permit and Flood meeting. On July 29th, Mr. Chappell will attend the Solano Water Institute's meeting and give a talk on the Suisun Marsh. Mr. Chappell reported the SCF Fun Shoot is scheduled for July 31st. Discussion ensued.

9. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~

- a) Agency Committee ~ No report.
- b) Legal Committee ~ No report.
- c) Personnel Committee ~ Annual staff reviews were performed for June 25th. Salary considerations will be discussed at the next meeting.
- d) Finance Committee ~ The annual audit is tentatively scheduled to start field work in November.
- e) Associate Director's Committee ~ No report.

- 10. Adjourn** ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Eudy, seconded by Mr. Hansen; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 PM.