

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tony Vaccarella
H. Kent Hansen
Dick Vanderkous
John Eudy
Mike Lewis

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Chappell, SRCD
Kevin Clark, DWR
Desmond Mackell, SRCD
Caitlin Perez, SRCD
Kelli Perez, SRCD
Brock Riggs, SRCD
Jamel Stewart, DWR
Jeff Taylor, SRCD
John Telfer, SRCD
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 2:03 PM.
2. **Public Comments** ~ Mr. Vaccarella asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Chappell reported that the November Board of Directors Meeting is rescheduled to November 18th as the regular meeting day falls on Veteran's Day and the County building will be closed.
3. **Open Session** ~ Mr. Vaccarella opened the Board of Directors meeting for September 9th, 2026. Mr. Vaccarella asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.
 - a) Approval of the August 12th, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Vaccarella asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of August 12th, 2026. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Eudy; all were in favor and the motion carried.
4. **Financial Reports** ~
 - a) Approval of Vendor Claims for August 2026 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the August 2026 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$149,747.06. Expenses included regular SRCD office and general fund operations, SRCD salaries, and reimbursable contract expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the August 2026 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$12,540.47. All expenses were normal LJI operational, salary, and mobile mechanic services expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the August 2026 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$30,492.52. All expenses were Water Managers operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the August 2026 Special Revenue vendor claims totaled \$1,027.85, for mechanic bill for end of season portable pump repairs and adjustments. Discussion ensued. Mr. Vanderkous moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.
5. **SRCD Personnel Policy Review and Minor Updates** ~ Mr. Chappell reported that it has been almost 4 years since the SRCD personnel policy has been reviewed and updated. There are no major changes are being proposed; many of the edits are reorganizing the structure of the SRCD handbook and updates. Mr. Chappell review the proposed edits (presented in track changes) and reported that CPR/First Aid Training and Boater Safety requirements have been added. Mr. Eudy made a motion to approve the edits as presented, seconded by Mr. Hansen. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

Waterfowl: Ducks are showing up and there are quite a few in the area, including pintail and teal. We are continuing to prepare ponds for flood up and duck season opener.

Elk Season: The auction tag holder was successful and tagged out on August 15th. Yesterday afternoon, Period 9 antlerless hunt was completed. To date, all hunters have been successful. So far, the total number of animals taken is 18 animals, 8 cows & 10 spikes. Our period 10 bull hunt starts September 10th; this is the first bull hunt for our season. Four bulls will be hunted during this period. The remaining schedule will consist of 4 more hunts with 15 animals to be taken. 8 cows and 7 bulls. In 2026 the highest count for elk on the refuge was 259 total animals consisting of 77 bulls, 106 cows, 53 calves, 23 spikes. We are removing 38 animals through the hunts this year.

Grizzly Island Wildlife Area: Started flooding ponds on the Roaring River side at the end of August and crews continue to mow in between elk hunts.

Other: As a reminder, Grizzly Island and YOLO will be holding our fall public hunter meeting on September 10th at 5:00 pm. Both wildlife areas will use this meeting to update hunters about current habitat conditions, work being completed, and future projects. To attend the meeting, email GrizzlyIsland@wildlife.ca.gov.

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

Water Quality: The Progressive Daily Mean salinities in the Marsh for August 2026 ranged from 2.7-10.3/cm. Salinity monitoring station S-97 remained offline while Cygnus was at 10.8 mS/cm. At the end of August, the net Delta outflow was 8,579 cfs. As of September 7th, salinities in the Marsh ranged from 3.2-10.7 mS/cm, and Delta outflow had decreased to 6,985 cfs. There are no salinity standards for the month of September.

DWR Facility Maintenance and Operations: No surveys were conducted at Roaring River Distribution System or Morrow Island Distribution System this month. Delta Field Division (DFD) staff cleaned the fish screens at Roaring River Distribution System on August 13th and September 8th. DFD staff also have erosion repair scheduled to start on September 14th. The work is minor and should proceed quickly. Environmental staff completed an annual environmental clearance for

floating debris removal in front of the inlet at Goodyear Slough Outfall. DFD staff removed the floating debris on August 19th. DFD staff have scheduled annual maintenance to begin on September 14th, including dredging at the intake, mowing, grading, AB application, erosion repair if needed, and herbicide application. DWR is waiting for the NPDES permit from the State Water Board. We anticipate receiving it soon and spraying in late September.

The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates tidal operations have been suspended due to the conclusion of the Summer-Fall Action. Gates are now in open position. Gate 1 was out of service on August 27th but was returned to service on August 28th.

California reservoir capacity as of September 7th 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 98% of average for the northern Sierra and 89% for the Southern Sierra. Discussion ensued.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~ Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell attended the SMPA 5-year review meeting on August 13th. Mr. Chappell reported that by October 8th we should have a document with recommendations for amendments to the Agreement. Mr. Chappell attended the September 8th ECAT meeting. Discussion ensued.
- b) 2026 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update on the PAI program. Since the last Board meeting, Mr. Mackell has held 2 additional Technical Review meetings, and all outstanding projects have been recommended for funding. Some projects are currently under construction and wrapping up, so we should expect to see landowner reimbursement requests submitted to SRCD. Discussion ensued.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Taylor will attend Principle's meetings on August 13th and will attend the September 10th meeting. Mr. Chappell attended the August 11th Adaptive Management Advisory Team meeting, which had 3 presentations of scientific studies being completed in the Suisun Marsh. Mr. Chappell, Mr. Mackell, and Mr. Taylor attended the quarterly Applicants Compliance Team Meeting on August 13th. 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 August 2026 RGP 3 package was submitted September 1st and was approved on September 4th. There was 1 amendment in the August package. The 2027 work season will be the last year of the current RGP 3 5-year permit; Mr. Chappell will be working with the Water

Managers to prepare a renewal application package towards the end of the year. The 2026 RGP 47 dredging permit has been approved by the USACE and RWQCB. We received the BCDC Marsh Development Permit yesterday. It was sent to landowners for signature and should be issued next week. Discussion ensued.

- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell presented the Water Manager Program update.

The Three Water Managers have been very busy coordinating with landowners preparing for upcoming fall flood up and completion of work activities.

Mr. Taylor installed water quality monitoring equipment and processed the graph for the data analysis. Mr. Taylor helped with fish screen cleaning, maintenance, anode installation, and ongoing reinstallation. He worked with Davis machine shop for some portable pump repairs and wrapped up pump jobs at 402 and 404. He worked on the RGP3 August package amendments and participated in several Fall Flood Up Coordination meetings with FSSD and SCMAD.

Mr. Edmunds has been busy coordinating chemical orders and drone flights for our new spray drone. He also coordinated several days of helicopter spraying for both DWR properties as well as private landowners' properties. He worked with Mr. Mackell to spray DWR's Blacklock property as well as a few other properties. Mr. Edmunds is working with ISI to repair some damaged fish screens. He is also coordinating with his landowners to get their Mosquito Abatement waivers in for early flood up.

Mr. Riggs has been busy with site visits and weekly meetings in preparation for Fall Flood Up schedules with Roaring River clubs and FSSD clubs. Mr. Riggs has been helping with fish screen cleaning and anode installation prior to resetting them before flood up. He assisted in the installation of the new water quality monitoring stations for Dissolved Oxygen monitoring. He also assisted in the helicopter and drone spraying.

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

Mr. Mouton has been busy getting levees raised up in front of the club house, mowing the south pond, and equipment repairs. He back filled the bulkhead that was installed in July. Mr. Mouton found and cleared a large patch of Russian Thistle in the Spider pond. Mr. Mouton and Mr. Mackell worked on opening the gates to flood the south for the DWR Fish Food Study yesterday. He fixed a broken leaking pipe under the house, repaired the dozer's track tensioners and changed fuel filters. He continued getting things ready for upcoming duck season. Discussion ensued.

Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell attended the DWR, ICF, and UC Davis managed wetland bi-monthly meetings. Mr. Chappell attended and provided comments at the Solano County Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss the potential new shipyard building legislation, to be located south of Rio Vista and east of Collinsville. Ultimately the Board of Supervisors voted not to support the legislation, but it is likely this project will return in the future for further considerations. Mr. Chappell expressed grave concern about El Nino and the predicted severity of this winter. SRCD staff is currently drafting an early newsletter to advise landowners to prepare as much as possible before problems arise. Mr. Chappell has asked the Board for approval to proceed with possible purchase visqueen and sandbags to have supplies readily available to landowners, if needed during the winter for landowners to purchase for reimbursement. Mr. Eudy made a motion to support this activity purchasing supplies, seconded by Mr. Hansen. All were in favor. Mr. Chappell will begin working with CDFW and DWR to identify storage areas and availability of flood-fight resources, including locating and ordering materials. Discussion ensued Mr. Chappell will report back to the Board Next month.

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. Lewis; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:26pm.