

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH, 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
Mike Lewis
Dick Vanderkou

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Chappell, SRCD
Kevin Clark, DWR
Mike Frost, Frost Ranch
Marina Guzman, SRCD
Desmond Mackell, SRCD
Caitlin Perez, SRCD
Kelli Perez
Fred Riedel, SRCD Assoc. Director
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Jeff Taylor, SRCD
John Telfer, SRCD Assoc. Director
Laureen Thompson, 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. There were no public comments.
3. **Open Session** ~ Mr. Vaccarella opened the Board of Directors meeting for January 14, 2026. Mr. Vaccarella then asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.
 - a) Approval of the December 10, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Vaccarella asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of December 10, 2025. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Vanderkous; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. **Financial Reports** ~

- a) Approval of Vendor Claims for December 2025 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the December 2025 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$222,432.92. Expenses included regular SRCD office and general fund operations, SRCD salaries, and reimbursable contract expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the December 2025 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$9,086.68. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the December 2025 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$33,892.61. All expenses were Water Managers operational and salary expenses. Discussion ensued. Mr. Vanderkous moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.
- b) Fiscal Year 24/25 Audit Update ~ Mr. Chappell gave an update on progress of completion of the SRCD 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. We are in the final stages of reconciliation of accounts receivables in QuickBooks and the County Integrated Financial System. SRCD expects to have a draft audit for Board review for the next Board meeting. Discussion ensued.
- c) Board Consideration of Resolution No. 2526-2: Mr. Chappell reported on a new technical support grant with the California Department of Water Resources for the Suisun Marsh managed wetland fish food production and assessment project. Mr. Chappell read the draft Resolution; there were no proposed amendments. Mr. Hansen moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Vanderkous. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

d) SRCD Fiscal Year 2025/2026 2nd Quarter Budget Review: Mr. Chappell reviewed the County Integrated Financial System report comparing the 2025/2026 budgets to the current actual expenses through the second quarter of the fiscal year.

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

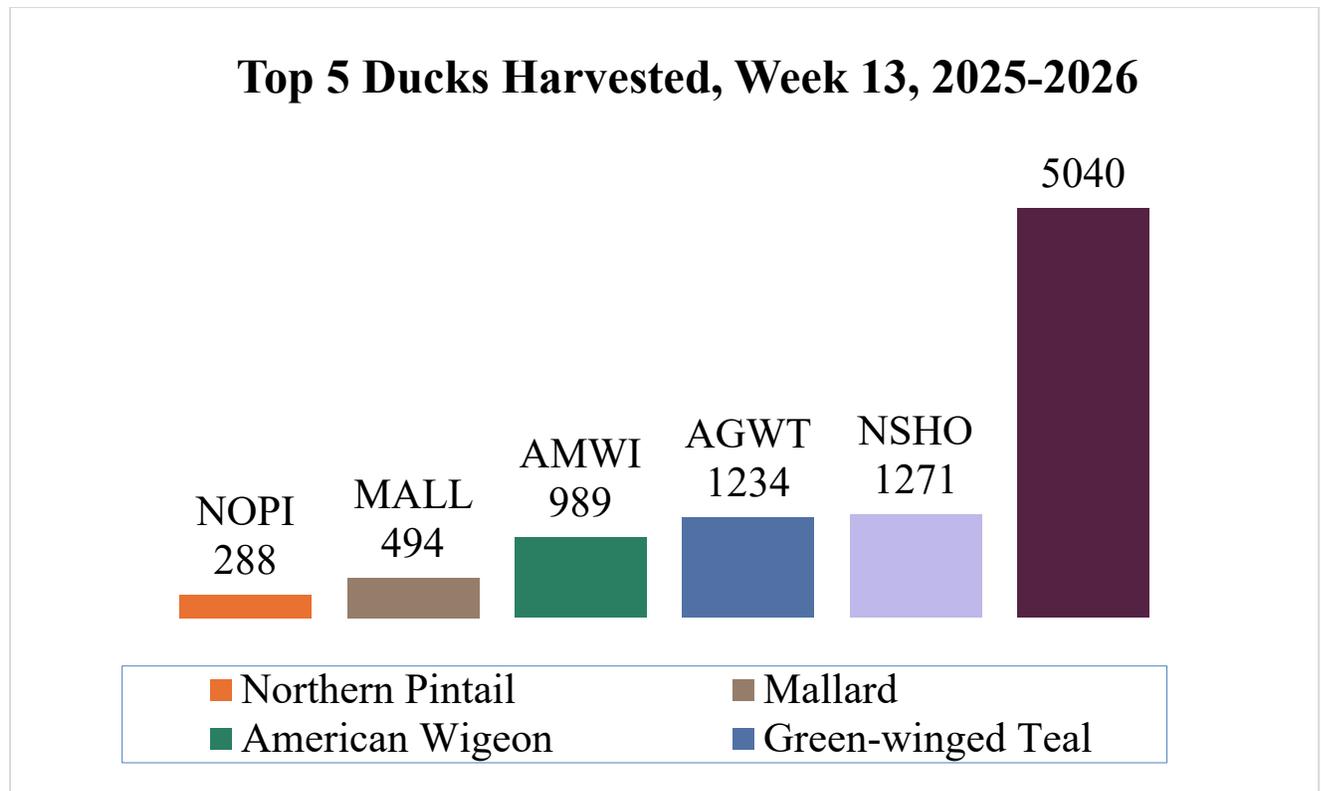
GIWA Waterfowl -2025/2026

As of last weekend, we've had 3,712 hunters harvest 5,040 ducks and 197 geese for a 1.41 waterfowl average.

We have had a good goose year for us, of the 197 geese, 121 of those have been White-Fronted Geese.

2024/2025

At the same point last year, DFW had 3,757 hunters harvest 6,843 ducks and 71 geese for a 1.84 waterfowl average. The only difference in the top 5 birds from last season is that Gadwall filled the 5th spot whereas this year the Pintail is the 5th bird.



Joice Island Waterfowl - 2025/2026

As of last weekend, DFW had 50 hunters harvest 157 ducks and 5 geese resulting in a 3.24 waterfowl average. The top five ducks are Green-winged Teal, Mallard, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, and Gadwall. As mentioned before, we have reduced the capacity for Joice due to flooding, but the average continues to be consistent for the hunters that have been drawn.

Flooding

The king tides that hit over the new year caused us a little bit of damage from levee overtopping, but nothing major. We had prepped by shutting down our intakes and luckily all our pumps kept running perfectly to handle the increased amount of water we received from rain and the slight overtopping. So, we saw just the normal amount of levee erosion for the tide heights that hit the Marsh. The only area that was a concern was RR and that area is being addressed by DWR.

Joice Island Wild Pig Hunt

The applications for the DFW Joice Island Wild Pig Hunt are open now. This year, there are three drawing periods, one for the month of March, April, and May. Pig hunts will take place on Saturdays through Sundays beginning March 7th and ending on the weekend of May 31st. The first weekend will be reserved for junior hunters only. With 4 hunters drawn each weekend, 52 hunters will have an opportunity to hunt pigs on Joice Island. Last season 19 pigs were harvested. We're hoping hunters will see more success this year.

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

The Progressive Daily Mean salinities in the Marsh ranged from 0.2-6.1mS/cm. Salinity monitoring station S-97 remained offline while Cygnus was at 3.5 mS/cm. At the end of December, the net Delta outflow was 27,770 cfs. As of January 12th, salinities in the Marsh ranged from 0.2-8.4 mS/cm, and Delta outflow had increased to 79,688 cfs. The current Suisun Marsh salinity standards for the month of December are 15.5 mS/cm for Eastern Stations and Western Stations.

Environmental staff conducted maintenance and quarterly levee inspection reviews in December at Roaring River Distribution System. Environmental staff completed a clearance extension to cover additional December levee erosion repair work for Delta Field Division (DFD). Environmental staff also completed RGP 3 maintenance reporting. DFD mowed vegetation on December 1st and 15th, cleaned fish screens on December

1st, patrolled the levee for erosion on December 4th, 7th, 9th, 14th, and 21st, and fixed erosion spots on December 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and 26-29th.

Environmental staff conducted a quarterly maintenance and levee inspection at Morrow Island Distribution System in December as well as completed RGP 3 maintenance reporting. After the high water levels from storm runoff and King Tides, the water levels have returned to their normal operating range.

Environmental staff conducted quarterly maintenance, levee inspections, and completed RGP3 maintenance reporting at Goodyear Slough Outfall and Montezuma Day Use Area

The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates continue to tidally operate.

California reservoir capacity as of January 12th ranged from 60-84% of average in the northern Sierra and 45-101% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 149% of average for the northern Sierra and 139% for the San Joaquin area.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~ Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell attended the December 9th Environmental Compliance Applicant Team meeting. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell also attended the SMPA 5-year review meeting on December 9th and January 8th. Monthly meetings will occur until July in hopes of having a new 5-year plan in July. Discussion ensued.
- b) 2025 PAI Program Update and Consider Changing to Program Guidelines for the 2026 Application ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update on the delivery of the past 10 years PAI program. SRCD has reconciled the remaining program funds with projects completed last construction year (2025). The program funding remaining for the 75/25 and 50/50 cost share program is \$457,224.02. Mr. Chappell stated that 3 out of the past 10 years, funding of approved projects has exceeded the available remaining program funding balance for the 75/25 and 50/50 cost share program. Mr. Chappell recommended changing this year's (2026) solicitation program to one application period and prioritize project funding based on a project with the longest useful life, which is an established criterion and defined in the existing program guidelines. Discussion ensued and Mr. Hansen made a motion to adopt a single 2026 solicitation with a deadline of April 10, 2026, and prioritize project funding with the longest useful life priority as defined in the program guidelines. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

- 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 December 12th and January 8th. Mr. Chappell will attend the Adaptive Management Advisory Team (AMAT) meeting Feb 10th. Discussion ensued.
- d) USACE Permits ~ RGP 3 and RGP 47 updates. SRCD continues to administer the RGP 3 and RGP 47 permits. Water managers have been collecting and compiling the annual compliance reports information for submission to the regulatory agencies. There have been 4 urgent and unforeseen permits requested since Janu 1st, 2026, due to the recent storm damage. The 2026 RGP 47 dredging permits will be released to landowner later this spring. The RGP 3 will be sent out in January. Discussion ensued.
- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Mackell presented the Water Manager Program update.

Mr. Taylor summarized annual work completed and compiled summary reports for the RGP 3 permit. With the high and prolonged king tides, he worked with clubs to assess damage and help process any urgent requests. He compiled and reported dredging summaries, finalized and submitted our water quality report, and provided tidal restoration updates for the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan SMP. He completed his employee sexual harassment training and helped conduct our annual Christmas Bird Count at Lower Joice Island in conjunction with the Audubon Society.

Mr. Edmunds helped complete the USACE end-of-year reports. He has been working with the FAA to obtain our Part 91 certificate of waiver authorization to fly our spray drone for next season. He has also been working with the SRCD staff and DWR for the purchase of a new spray drone, trailer, and generator to meet our project needs. Tim completed his employee sexual harassment training and worked with clubs to assess and address damage from the recent king tides.

Ms. Guzman helped complete the USACE end-of-year reports. She helped landowners with the new diversion reporting website and assisted in gate monitoring for diversion restrictions. She worked with clubs during the king tide events to assess damage and prepare urgent and unforeseen permits for emergency repairs. She also conducted the annual Christmas Bird count and Lower Joice Island and completed her employee sexual harassment training.

Ms. Collins continued to provide administrative support to the district, including grant hours, employee accruals, and payroll tracking. She updated our website's upcoming announcements (Spring Landowner Workshop, Bird returns Wetland Program, Notice to Public Bidders, PAI Applications). She met with the EPA about upcoming grant opportunities and helped compile the Q2 report for DWR's Meins

Landing. She revised her fish biomass manuscript and sent a draft to coauthors for final edits. She is working with the Water Managers to update our GeoMarsh Individual Management Plan and dredging layers.

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

Mr. Mouton repaired a damaged propane line, conducted propane deliveries to the island and completed his employee sexual harassment training. He continues to provide water management during the hunt season and worked hard to protect island infrastructure from the recent king tides and reduce levee damages. He has assessed damage from the large tides and has worked with SRCD staff to identify damages for this summer's repair. He is also working on repairing the solar system, replacing a damaged BMS.

Mr. Chappell shared a PowerPoint presentation on Lower Joice Island history during SRCD's ownership period, along with recent updates. Discussion ensued.

- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported on January 6th SRCD hosted a meeting with landowner of Tule Meadows Duck Club and DWR Fish Restoration Program - Program Manager regarding one of DWR's tidal restoration projects potentially having negative effects on the properties exterior levee from increased scouring and channel velocities. Further discussions will occur. Mr. Chappell will attend the Delta Conservancy Board meeting on Jan 28th.

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. Lewis; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM.