

MINUTES

**SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH, 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 Vanderkous
John Eudy

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Becker, SRCD Assoc. Director
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Kevin Clark, DWR
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Desmond Mackell, SRCD
Caitlin Perez, SRCD
Fred Riedel, SRCD Assoc. Director
Melissa Riley, DFW
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Jamel Stewart, DWR
Dajanae Stitts, DFW
Jeff Taylor, 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 2:00 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 March 11, 2026. Mr. Vaccarella then asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.
 - a) Approval of the February 11, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Vaccarella asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of February 11, 2026. 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 February 2026 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the February 2026 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$107,868.00. Expenses included regular SRCD office and general fund operations, SRCD salaries, and reimbursable contract expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the February 2026 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$9,827.34. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the February 2026 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$29,828.86. 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 Presentation by Fechter & Associates ~ Ms. Joanne Berry presented the SRCD FY 2024/2025 Audited Financial Statement provided by Fechter & Company for adoption. Ms. Berry provided a power point summary presentation, reviewed the financial estimates and reported the audit to be a clean audit opinion. Discussion ensued. A motion was made by Mr. Hansen to adopt the audited financial statements as presented and seconded by Mr. Eudy. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

Joice Island Pig Hunts: DFW's first pig hunts of 2026 were March 7th and 8th, at Joice Island. This first weekend was a junior only hunt. 4 juniors were able to harvest a pig and another missed a pig. The hunters commented that the increased water level was challenging for them but overall were thankful for the opportunity. When we compare this to last year we saw a little bit of decline, last year, 4 juniors harvested 3 pigs. We

hope to see more successful hunts in the coming weeks.

Wildlife Area: The staff at GIWA have been preparing equipment and have begun to mow levees. We are completing some leech cycles and started drawdowns on the majority of our ponds. Burn permits are also being processed as they come in.

Projects: Elk surveys have started up with initial elk counts finding that there are at least 220 elk on the island. Of those, there are at least 77 bulls, 40 cows, 21 yearlings, and 19 spikes. More elk surveys are planned for the following weeks.

Additionally, pheasant crow count surveys and Western Pond Turtle surveys are planned to start this month.

Rail surveys are on track to be completed before April. The highest minimum count of Black Rails detected was 8 at Hill Slough and 5 at Cutoff Slough. One Black Rail was detected at Lower Joice Island, and none has been detected at Benicia yet. No California Ridgway's rails have been detected during our surveys this year.

Additionally, as part of ongoing monitoring efforts at the Hill Slough Tidal Restoration, there has been some camera trapping for Salt Marsh Harvest Mice and shrews at Hill Slough.

Nutria: The nutria team has consistently trapped Van Sickle Island, increasing efforts now that waterfowl season is over. Nutria are still being trapped at Joice Island and Hill Slough, but numbers have shown a downward population trend. The nutria crew has removed over 350 nutrias since last May. Recent confirmed detections in Napa and Vacaville has resulted in staff to be moved from Suisun to assess those regions. A Nutria scent dog detection team has been used in Napa to help determine the spread of Nutria.

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 February ranged from 0.2-4.8 mS/cm. Salinity monitoring station S-97 remained offline while Cygnus was at 1.5 mS/cm. At the end of February, the net Delta outflow was 39,324 cfs. As of March 9th, salinities in the Marsh ranged from 0.2-3.9 mS/cm, and Delta outflow had decreased to ~34,000 cfs. The current Suisun Marsh salinity standards for the month of March are 8.0 mS/cm for Eastern Stations and Western Stations.

Environmental staff received an RGP3 authorization from USACE to conduct maintenance at Roaring River Distribution System. Delta Field Division staff conducted levee inspections on February 7th and 14th. DFD staff also repaired erosion from washouts and overtopping from February 1-19th.

Environmental staff received an RGP3 authorization to conduct maintenance at both Morrow Island Distribution System and Goodyear Slough Outfall. Environmental and CDFW staff conducted surveys for California Ridgway's rail at both Morrow Island Distribution System and Goodyear Slough Outfall.

The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates operations were suspended and put on an open position on March 3rd due to low salinities.

California reservoir capacity as of March 10th ranged from 72-90% of average in the northern Sierra and 65-101% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 106% of average for the northern Sierra and 99% for the San Joaquin area.

7. 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 will attend the SMPA 5-year review meeting on February 12th and March 12th. 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. SRCD has not received any applications yet.
- 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 February 12th and will attend the March 12th meeting. There are no current restoration projects. 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~ SRCD staff have worked hard to complete all of the 2025 year-end compliance reporting. SRCD continues to administer the RGP 3 and RGP 47 permits. There was a March 2026 RGP 3 package submitted. 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 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 worked with landowners to compile and send in the February RGP 3 package. He has been working with the State Water Resources Control Board and landowners to ensure compliance reporting with diversion reporting requirements. He assisted CDFW with their rail monitoring efforts, conducted the first Chinook salmon spring run diversion restriction compliance check, assisted with truck and boat maintenance, and sent drought response letters to landowners. He also met with CWA staff to go over upcoming Delta Conservancy grant projects.

Mr. Edmunds worked with landowners in his district, assisting them with their USACE permit applications and upcoming management activities. He helped install and maintain pumps under our portable pump program and assisted landowners in drafting their 2026 PAI applications. He has also been working with clubs to repair their fish-screen infrastructure and meeting with Reclamation Districts about upcoming maintenance projects.

Ms. Collins continued to provide administrative support, including payroll and grant hour tracking. She is working to update our management plan database, has updated our website with current information for landowners. She is drafting the Bird Returns end-of-project report as part of our grant requirement, has completed and mailed out our February Newsletter, and is resubmitting her fish biomass manuscript for publication. She is also working on BCDC permit applications for multiple clubs.

We are both happy for Ms. Collins and saddened to announce that she has accepted another position and will be leaving the Suisun Resource Conservation District after next week. Ms. Collins has been with SRCD for nearly seven years and has played an integral role in our successful programs implementation. She will be greatly missed, and we are incredibly grateful for all her hard work throughout the years.

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

Mr. Mouton delivered a load of propane to the island, serviced the mower, began mowing exterior levees, repaired the dozer blade, repaired the tool shed, repaired broken water pipes to the clubhouse, helped with the hunt groups end of season check-out, and rebuilt a new drag for the tractor.

- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell recently met with Supervisor Mitch Mashburn. Supervisor Mashburn let him know there was new legislation introduced to increase funds for Delta levee maintenance. This new program would be 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 reads is only for the area defined as the legal Delta. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Gaines have reached out to

the authors office to see if the bill could be amended to include the Suisun Marsh. Mr. Chappell reported the Spring Landowner Workshop is scheduled for April 22nd.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~

- a) Agency Committee ~ No report.
- b) Legal Committee ~ No report.
- c) Personnel Committee ~ Interviews for new Water Manager staff position has been scheduled for next week, along with triannual staff reviews.
- 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. Hansen; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.