

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021 AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: **Arnold Lenk**
Mike Lewis
Jim Waters

OTHERS PRESENT: Laureen Barthman-Thompson, DFW
Dennis Becker, SRCD Assoc. Dir.
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Edwin Limanto, DWR
Melissa Riley, DFW
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Jamel Stewart, DWR
John Takekawa, SRCD

1. Call to Order ~ Mr. Lenk called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ There were no public comments.

3. Open Session ~ Mr. Lenk opened the December 8, 2021, Board of Directors meeting and asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the November 10, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2021 Board meeting was made by Mr. Waters and seconded by Mr. Lewis; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for November 2021 ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the November 2021 General Fund vendor claims totaled \$116,003.64. These claims included normal operational expenses, with special note on claim #53 that was for a Fish Screen grant expense and claim #58 was for the DWR Mein's Landing contract. Both expenses are reimbursable under contracts. Mr. Chappell also reported that the November 2021 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$10,429.03. All expenses were normal operational expenses at the Island and claim #24 was for a new propane generator. Mr. Chappell reported the November 2021 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$21,824.77. These were all normal operational expenses for the Program. Mr. Waters moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, Mr. Lewis seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

b) Board Consideration of Resolution No. 2122-3 authorizing SRCD's Executive Director to submit a Proposition 1 grant application to the Delta Conservancy entitled "Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh ~ Mr. Chappell presented the resolution. Mr. Waters made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Lewis seconded the resolution, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report ~ The DFW report was provided by Mr. Orlando Rocha.

Waterfowl: Comparison of number of birds to date.

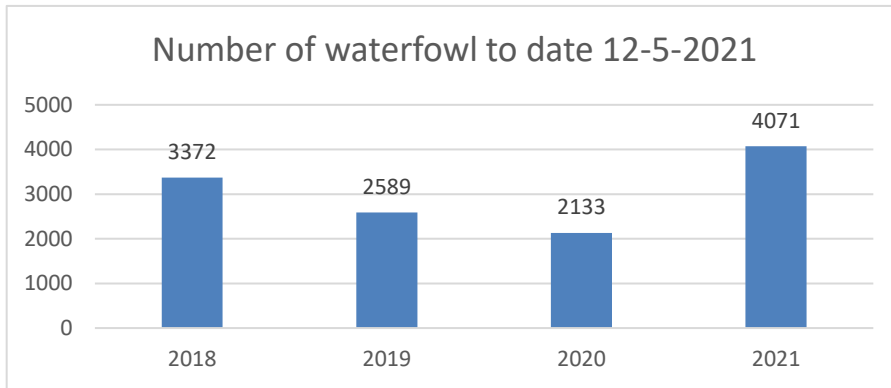
Date	# OF HUNTERS	# OF DUCKS	# OF GEESE	# OF WATERFOWL	AVERAGE DUCK	AVERAGE GEESE	#1 Species	#2 Species
12/1/2021	82	207	7	214	2.52	0.09	NSHO	AMWI
12/4/2021	159	282	2	284	1.77	0.01	NSHO	AMWI
12/5/2021	73	103	1	103	1.41	0.01	NSHO	AMWI
Stats to Date	2290	4050	21	4071	1.77	0.01		

12/2/2020	86	50	3	53	0.58	0.03	GWTE	MALL
12/5/2020	127	96	3	99	0.76	0.02	MALL	GWTE
12/6/2020	83	67	0	67	0.81	0.00	LESC	MALL
Stats to Date	2326	2105	28	2133	0.90	0.01		
12/4/2019	58	122	4	126	2.10	0.07	AMWI	NSHO
12/7/2019	93	242	0	242	2.60	0.00	AMWI	GOLD
12/8/2019	80	95	1	96	1.19	0.01	AMWI	GOLD
Stats to Date	1925	2552	37	2589	1.33	0.02		
12/5/2018	95	207	0	207	2.18	0.00	AMWI	MALL
12/8/2018	281	281	0	281	1.00	0.00	AGWT	AMWI
12/9/2018	132	132	7	139	1.00	0.05	MALL	NSHO
Stats to Date	2,319	3351	21	3372	1.45	0.01		

Top 5 Birds

2018	2019	2020	2021
1. 880 NSHO	1. 950 NSHO	1. 606 NSHO	1. 1466 NSHO
2. 784 MALL	2. 569 MALL	2. 422 MALL	2. 1120 AGWT
3. 741 AGWT	3. 329 AGWT	3. 395 AGWT	3. 464 AMWI
4. 175 NOPI	4. 231 GOLD	4. 200 AMWI	4. 334 MALL
5. 136 GADW	5. 188 AMWI	5. 99 GOLD	5. 177 NOPI

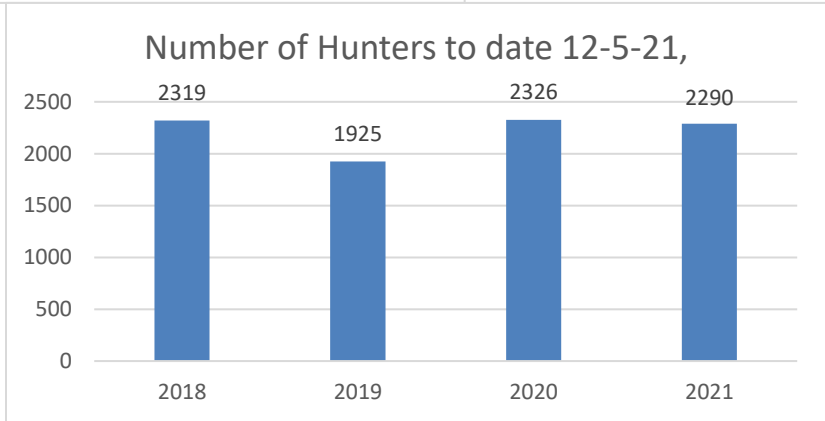
Mr. Rocha reminded everyone with a junior hunter that on January 1st, all of DFW's assigned blinds on the wildlife area are closed to regular hunters and open to juniors and their chaperons. Blinds will be available on a first come first serve basis.



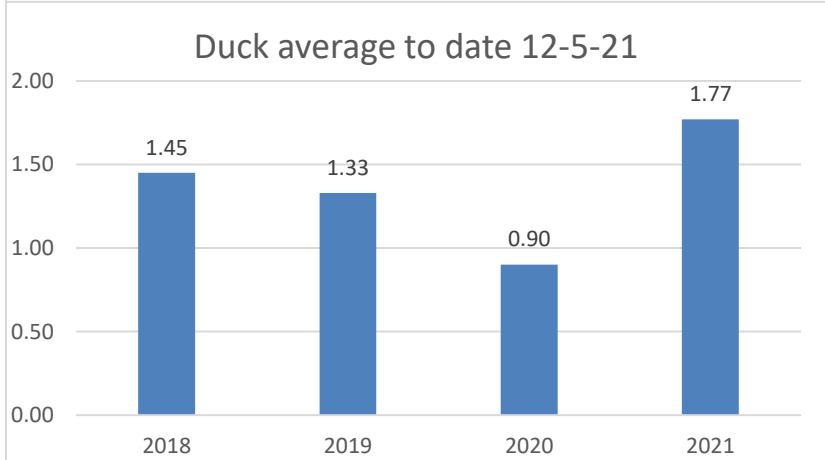
Joice Island Opening Day:

Joice Island opened this past Sunday, we had 31 hunters that shot 112 ducks for a 3.61 bird per hunter average with AMWI and NSHO being the

top two birds. Last year 23 hunters shot 83 ducks for an average of 3.6 birds per hunter with MALL and NSHO being the top two birds. In 2020, 33 hunters shot 93 ducks for a 2.8 bird average, MALL and NSHO were the top 2 birds harvested.



Pheasants: Like most Wildlife Areas in the state, wild bird harvest continues to be poor. To date, our Grizzly hunters have harvested 12 wild birds, and 52 planted birds have been taken as well. In 2020, 26 wild birds and 53 planted birds had been taken up to this point of the season. In 2019, 56 wild birds and 96 planted birds were harvested to this point in the season. As I have



mentioned we are currently working on two major projects in our upland nesting fields, and the goal is to improve these numbers by providing better nest cover and food availability. We were able to successfully have two planted bird pheasant hunts on the 20th of November, junior only in the morning and a family hunt in the afternoon. Both hunts were safe and fun for our participants, and a few birds were taken by our apprentice participants.

Wildlife Area: This time of year, most of our staff time is spent operating the hunter check station, the remaining time is spent checking water, picking up trash and reposting areas with signs, and performing maintenance on equipment.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Limanto announced that he has taken a promotion with DWR and will be leaving the Suisun Marsh program. He provided the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet and introduced Mr. Jamel Stewart, who gave the report for DWR. For the month of November, the salinity standard is 15.5 mS/cm for eastern stations and 15.6 mS/cm for western stations. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) Salinities in the Marsh ranged from 8.7 to 15.2 mS/cm and did not exceed the salinity standards. At the end of November, net Delta outflow was 2,816 cfs. The December 7th salinities ranged from 9.5 to 18.1 mS/cm. Delta outflow was 3,518 cfs, and Belden's Landing salinity monitoring station remains under construction through this month and not collecting salinity readings. The PDMs at the control and compliance stations did not exceed the trigger value of 20.0 mS/cm at the end of October, and there is no trigger value for November for the Drought Response Program.

The Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) maintenance activity plans for 2022 were ongoing, and ditch clearing and dredging at the embayment, intake, and Hammond Pond 2022-2024. Levees are being monitored after high tides. The routine maintenance was completed in early November including mowing, spraying, grading, and levee repairs. RGP3 annual reporting was sent to SRCD. Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) routine maintenance planning for 2022 is ongoing. Levee monitoring continues after high tides with monitoring for Russian thistle.

Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) coordination continued on removing debris at the intake as needed. Planning for 2022 routine maintenance is ongoing. Levees continued to be monitored after high tides. Annual RGP3 reporting was sent to SRCD. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG) operation were tidally operated starting on November 29th due to high salinity conditions. One gate is out for refurbishment.

California reservoir capacity ranged from 23-35% in the northern Sierra and in the southern Sierra 19-82%. All reservoirs remain near or below historical averages. Precipitation year to date was 153% of normal in the northern Sierra and 105% in the southern Sierra. Discussion ensued.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the SMPA agreement programs continue to be administered. Weekly calls continue with DWR Branch Chief Mr. Dean Messer, including updates on monthly payment of SRCD expenses. These meetings may move to every other week in the new year. The new DWR division name is the Division of Integrated Science and Engineering that will

be organized as an integrated program matrix management system. The 5-year review of the SMPA progress is continuing, and the plan is to have a draft at the end of the year with a meeting next Tuesday.

- b) 2021 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided a summary of the 2021 PAI Program. Reimbursements were submitted for 4 landowners, and as soon as we receive other completed projects, we will submit those for reimbursements as well. The 2022 PAI Program is budgeted for next year according to DWR, and we should be releasing the program in early February after the Regional General Permit 3 is released in January 2022.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. There is a SMP Principal's meeting on December 9th, and there will be an ACT and ECAT meeting on December 14th. Delta Stewardship Council completed their dialogue meetings related to BCDC public access requirements in the Marsh in November.
- d) USACE Permits – RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ Work continued on the 2021 RGP 3 permit administration. The year-end work season report will be compiled in December. The 2021 authorized dredging projects had until the end of November to be completed.
- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the Water Manager Program. The SRCD main office renovation was mostly completed, except for a few window blinds and exterior painting by December 6th. On December 7th, the SRCD staff returned to the office and moved most of the furniture back to its original locations. One network cable that the demolition crew cut in mid-November had to be replaced, and the lean-to by the garage was removed. A Tuff-shed storage unit was ordered to replace the lean-to, and will be installed on Monday, December 13th.

The Water Managers completed end of year work inspections. Mr. Taylor worked on the final USACE reporting for the year end, as well as the dredge program write-up. Water quality monitoring was completed for the year, and the sondes were pulled, and Mr. Taylor completed a draft WQ report. The Water Managers completed the winter maintenance on the pumps and stored them. Vehicles were scheduled for maintenance including Mr. McKinney's truck and the 2008 Chevy Tahoe that was brought in at the end of November. Gate monitoring was conducted on November 14th and 18th, and Mr. McKinney worked to have the gate monitoring boat cooling system repaired. Mr. Edmunds continued to work with Ms. Collins on the solar system renovation that was part of the SF Bay Restoration Authority Essential Fish Screen Phase 1 project. Two systems are remaining at #424 and #426.

On November 10th, Mr. Takekawa gave an online talk on migratory bird research to the Asian Ornithological Congress, and on November 12th, Mr. Takekawa presented our SF Bay Restoration Authority \$3.3M Essential Fish Screen proposal to the SF Bay Joint Venture conservation committee, and they agreed to endorse the project which was reported to the SFBRA.

On November 15th, Mr. Edmunds and Mr. Takekawa gave a demonstration at Mein's Landing on the spray-drone organized with DWR to the staff of several resource conservation districts, and on November 16th, Mr. Takekawa attended a DWR meeting on vegetation analyses presented by Chico State and provided comment on the deliverables.

On November 16th, Ms. Collins and Mr. Takekawa met with Brett Harvey (DWR) on the managed wetland drainages and fish food analyses, and on November 17th, Ms. Collins and Mr. Takekawa attended an update on our Socio-eco Phragmites Study. That same day, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa attended the last Delta Stewardship Council Public Access Dialogue.

On November 18th, Eric Wylie installed the bucket and hook block on our boom truck to improve the lift capacity. Mr. Takekawa held a meeting of the NFWF Mouse Team introducing our new SRCD biologist analyst, Mr. Jason Hagani who officially started work on November 29th. On November 19th, Ms. Collins met with Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa to continue preparations to submit a Delta Conservancy proposal due on December 15th.

On November 29th, Mr. Takekawa hosted a monthly call to discuss the Belden's Landing project, and on November 30th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with the DWR Fish Restoration Program Agreement team to discuss proposed upcoming work under a new support contract and with Edwin Limanto and Warren Gayou at DWR and Orlando Rocha at DFW to discuss repairs at the Hunter Cut water quality station. Also, fun shoot contribution letters were sent to all donors at the end of November.

On December 1st, SRCD formally submitted the amendment of the 124 Individual Ownership Adaptive Habitat Management Plans to BCDC. This is the first update in over 40 years. BCDC will consider the plans and possible BCDC board adoption in February. On December 3rd, Ms. Collins worked with Mr. Joe Daviss at Leading Edge to obtain spray-drone Phragmites treatment maps, and on December 7th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with DWR to discuss possible upcoming work at the Blacklock Tidal Restoration.

f) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. Mr. Mouton continued to maintain the facilities on the Island and work on the habitat conditions. In late November, Mr. Mouton installed a bilge pump in the new Ropp blind so it would be usable through the end of the season. He repaired a loose board on the main dock at the Island, and did some troubleshooting on the solar system batteries, finding that 4 batteries were not charging. One bank of 8 batteries was removed from the system until they can be replaced, but there is a shipping backlog on available batteries. We may receive some donated batteries from our solar installer later this month. On November 18th, Mr. Eric Wylie repaired leads on the bulldozer and did some troubleshooting on the tractor. On December 8th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with CWA and USGS to discuss updates on our blue carbon study at Lower Joice Island.

For the hunting club, there were 15 hunter days from November 10th to December 4th. Twenty-nine birds were taken for an average of 1.9 birds per hunter day. This included 13 spoonbills, 10 teal, 2 wigeon, 2 gadwall, a mallard, and a bluebill. Overall, the club has harvested 64 birds over 40 hunter days for a 1.6 average. Bird numbers seemed to have picked up today with more mallards taken in the south unit.

g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported on meetings including several with the DWR Fish Restoration Program. He noted that Yolo Bypass had black water that caused a low dissolved oxygen event on Putah Creek which, negatively affected a recently restored salmon run. They are looking to Suisun Marsh to see if they can use similar management practices to reduce future low DO events. The early heavy rain event likely caused the low DO which, led to the black water event.

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 ~ Review and Approval of SRCD's Allocation Method for Calculating Grant Overhead Costs. Mr. Chappell presented the allocation method for estimating the SRCD grant overhead cost. This was calculated for fiscal year 2021. Mr. Waters made a motion to approve the allocation method, Mr. Lewis seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion was approved.
- e) Associate Directors Committee ~ No report.

9. Adjourn ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Waters and seconded by Mr. Lewis; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 PM.