

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022, 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
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Charlotte Lenk
Kelli Perez, SRCD
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 2:00 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ There were no public comments.

3. Open Session ~ Mr. Lenk opened the January 12, 2022, Board of Directors meeting and asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the December 8, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the December 8, 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 December 2021 ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the December 2021 General Fund vendor claims totaled \$76,969.06. These claims included normal operation expenses with payroll for 3 pay periods including a new staff member. Mr. Chappell also reported that the December 2021 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$8,427.53. All expenses were normal operational expenses with Claim #28 for installation of the new generator. Mr. Chappell reported the December 2021 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$31,881.55. 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) Approve a CPA firm to perform the District's annual audit services for FYs 2020/2021, 2021/2022, & 2022/2023 from proposals received ~ Mr. Chappell presented the audit services proposal selection of a new audit firm. The previous auditor had completed SRCD audits for the past 6 fiscal years, and we sent out a Request For Proposals and received two proposals. The SRCD finance committee chairman (Mr. Terry Connolly) reviewed the proposals and recommend accepting the Proposal from Fechter and Company. This audit firm had a strong recommendation from Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD) and is familiar with the Solano County Integrated Fiscal Accounting System (from Auditing SCMAD). Mr. Waters made a motion to accept the Finance Committee Chairman's recommendation approving the selection of Fechter and Company for SRCD audit services, Mr. Lewis seconded the motion, 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 and read by Ms. Lauren Barthman-Thompson.

Joice Island Pig Hunt: The Joice Island Wild Pig hunt applications are available on the special DFW hunts page. It is free to apply, and hunters may apply for all hunts but will only be selected once. Pig hunt applications are due by February 14th by 400 pm. The pig hunts will take place Saturday-Sundays beginning March 5th and ending Sunday

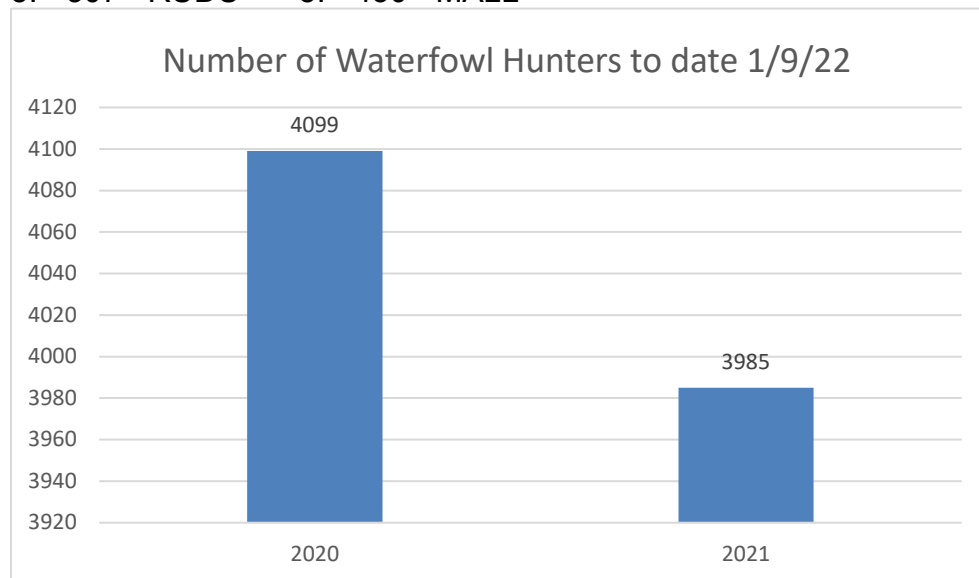
May 29th. The first weekend is reserved for Junior hunters only. 4 hunters per weekend for 12 weeks, giving 48 lucky hunters will get a chance to hunt pigs on Joice. This is an increase of 16 hunters, with the addition of 4 new hunt weekends in May.

Wildlife area: DFW's levees made it through the king tides with minimal issues surprisingly. We are preparing our 2022 USACE permits for the upcoming season and discussing priorities of projects around the Wildlife Area. We have NAWCA, Duck Stamp and Wildlife Conservation Board projects planned around the Wildlife Area this summer in addition to our normal maintenance, so we look forward to a busy productive summer.

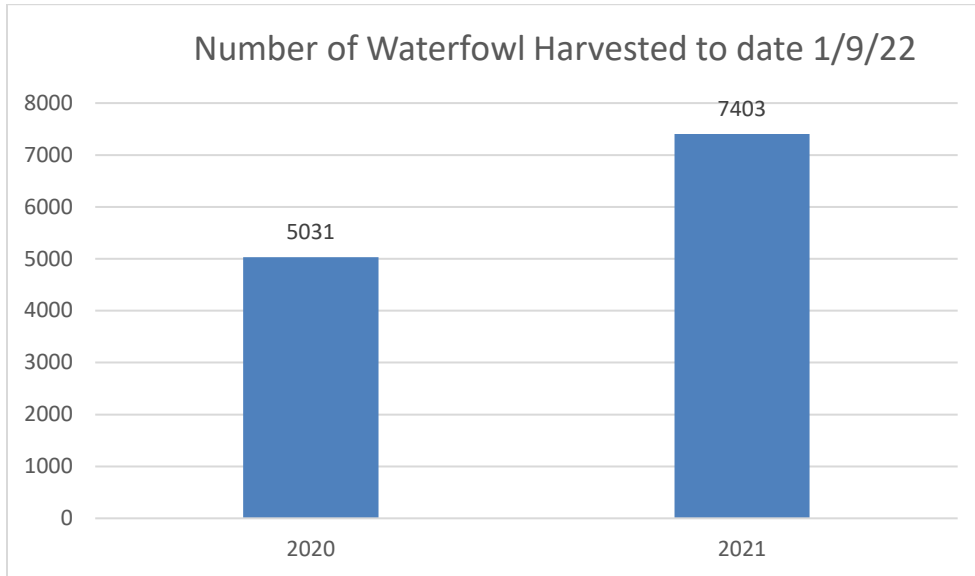
Ducks: Waterfowl season has been steady, with most hunters leaving the marsh with a bird or two and the more experienced hunters leaving with near limits. Hunters are happy, and complaints are down to a minimum. The numbers show that hunting is pretty good compared to last year but the lack in complaints is what really tells us this season is going great.

Top 5 Birds to date

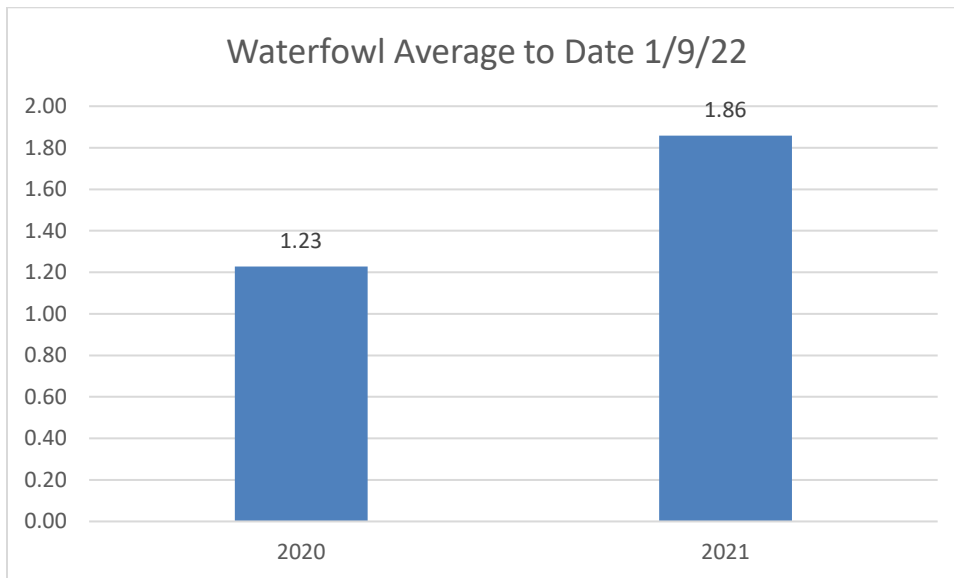
<u>2020</u>		<u>2021</u>	
1.	1,130 NSHO	1.	2,698 NSHO
2.	1,038 AMWI	2.	1,470 AGWT
3.	874 AGWT	3.	1,249 AMWI
4.	592 MALL	4.	436 BUFF
5.	307 RUDU	5.	430 MALL



115 **less** hunters to date in 2021 than in 2020



2,372 **more** birds shot to date in 2021 than in 2020



On January 18th, Ms. Erin Chappell started as the DFW Regional Manager of Region 3.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Stewart provided the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of December, 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 were low and ranged from 0.3 to 5.2 mS/cm and did not exceed the salinity standards. At the end of December, net Delta outflow was 17,674 cfs. The January salinities ranged from 0.2 to 5.2 mS/cm. Delta outflow was 17,364 cfs, and Belden's Landing salinity monitoring station remains under construction through this month (awaiting delayed material delivery), so it is not collecting salinity readings. There is no drought deficiency trigger for the month of December.

The Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) maintenance activity on the intake pond have been postponed and will resume in 2020 to 2023 with construction in 2023-2025. Planning for routine 2022 maintenance is ongoing, and levees are being monitored after high tides. Mr. Waters raised a concern about invasive aquatics in the RRDS and asked Mr. Stewart to report on any control efforts DWR plans to undertake. The RGP3 2022 application is being completed for submittal to SRCD in January. Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) application for routine maintenance is being completed and submitted in January 2022. Levee monitoring continues after high tides with monitoring for Russian thistle. DWR's annual reporting for RGP3 maintenance activities was sent to SRCD.

Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) coordination continued on removing debris at the intake as needed. Application for RGP3 for 2022 routine maintenance is being prepared for January. Levees continued to be monitored after high tides. Annual RGP3 reporting was sent to SRCD. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG) operation were suspended on November 29th due to low salinity conditions, and one gate is out for refurbishment.

California reservoir capacity ranged from 30-58% in the northern Sierra and in the southern Sierra 0-137%. All reservoirs remain below historical averages. Precipitation year to date was 151% of normal in the northern Sierra and 140% 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. In December the weekly calls continue with DWR Branch Chief Mr. Dean Messer, including updates on monthly payment of SRCD expenses. All invoices currently submitted were paid as of today. These meetings are moving to every other week in the new year. The 5-year review of the SMPA progress is continuing, and the plan is to have a draft soon.

- b) 2022 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided a summary of the PAI Program. Reimbursements will be submitted to landowners for completed 2021 January 18th project following receipt of a check from DWR today, and there will be a few more projects that will submit for reimbursements in early 2022. DWR has confirmed the 2022 PAI Program is budgeted for this year's program, and we should be releasing the program in early February after the Regional General Permit 3 is sent to landowners in mid-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 is on January 13th. Tidal restoration at Hill Slough was completed this fall, resulting in meeting a significant portion of the SMP obligation for tidal restoration implementation.
- d) USACE Permits – RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ The year-end work season report, WQ report, and dredging report were compiled and submitted in December. The 2022 permit fees are being prepared, and 5 delinquent landowners will be issued notice to come current. There is a new staff person for USACE permit administration, and there will be a meeting with SRCD to discuss the status of permits and application submittals and review. The RGP3 5-year permit renewal work is now beginning.
- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the report.

Mr. Taylor completed the final USACE reporting for the year as well as the dredge program report. The water managers continued to work on maintenance of the SRCD vehicles. Gate monitoring was conducted on scheduled dates. A new Tuffshed storage unit was installed at the main office on Monday, December 13th, and Mr. Edmunds installed lights. We installed a new battery backup for the office network attached storage drive.

Ms. Collins began work on printing the final Individual Management Plan updates for all landowners in advance of BCDC approval to be considered in February. She also assisted Ms. Perez with the annual audit preparation, providing a summary of SRCD grants and funding, and with a survey. Mr. Hagani has been working on a summary paper of our spray-drone work on *Lepidium* and has been outlining viable habitat areas for the salt marsh harvest mouse and habitat selection analyses.

On December 10th, Mr. Hagani and Mr. Takekawa had a mouse team coordination meeting and Ms. Collins and Mr. Takekawa attended a meeting to discuss Phragmites study sites. That evening, Mr. Takekawa attended the Reclamation District 2136 Grizzly West winter meeting. On December 13th, Mr. Takekawa led a meeting of the Phragmites study team, and Mr. Hagani and Mr. Takekawa met with

USGS on mouse studies. On December 15th, our computer vendor Tech2U came to the office to fix a few problems and install Mr. Hagani on our network, and a few staff attended talks of the Delta Invasive Species Symposium. Also on the 15th, we submitted a final proposal to the Delta Conservancy for infrastructure improvements to benefit 6 landowners.

Several staff took leave days during the holiday season. On January 4th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with a consultant for the Rich Island Duck Club Restoration. On January 6th, Mr. Takekawa attended an update meeting of our blue carbon sequestration study at Lower Joice Island, and Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa discussed final contracting and initial work with DWR under the Fish Restoration Program Agreement. On January 7th, Mr. Hagani, Ms. Collins, Mr. Edmunds, and Mr. Takekawa met to talk about summarizing Phragmites treatments over the past 20 years, and we also conducted initial Tule Red levee inspections. This week, Mr. McKinney helped diagnose and fix high water problems in the Simmons Wheeler RD 2127. Postdoc Dr. Adrienne Ernst from Utah State arrived on January 9th to conduct a week of fieldwork in advance of revegetation work under the DSC Phragmites study.

- 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 early January, the high tides overtopped the Ropp blind, so Mr. Mouton installed a new battery for the bilge pump. He worked with a club member to repair the clubhouse heater. Lack of a set of batteries for the solar system has resulted in increased used of propane, and he filled the propane tanks on Monday, January 10th.

For the hunting club, there were 51 hunter days from December 9th to January 9th. One hundred and ninety-seven birds were taken for an average of 3.9 birds per hunter day. This included 83 spoonbills, 49 wigeon, 44 teal, 8 gadwall, 7 mallard, 3 sprig, and 4 divers. Hunting success has been much higher in late December and early January.

- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported on meetings. We received notice from BCDC that the first meeting for the public meeting will be on February 3rd, and on February 17th, the BCDC Commissioners will consider adopting the certification of the update Individual ownership adaptive habitat management plans. Mr. Waters and Mr. Chappell have a Delta Conservancy Board meeting on January 26th.

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 ~ Mr. Chappell noted that we received \$361,557 for Covid relief from the fund supporting Resource Conservation Districts.
 - e) Associate Directors Committee ~ No report.
- 9. Closed Session** ~ Conference with Labor Negotiators: Agency designated representatives: Directors Arnold Lenk, James Waters, and Mike Lewis. Unrepresentative employees: Executive Director, Operations Manager, Office Supervisor, and Water Managers.
- 10. Reconvene** ~ The Session was reopened at 3:05 PM. The Report out of Closed Session was adopted the salary consideration recommendation from the Personnel Committee Chair Mr. Lewis. Mr. Lewis made a motion to accept, seconded by Mr. Waters. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- 11. Adjourn** ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Waters; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 PM.