

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021 AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: **Tony Vaccarella** (late arrival after traffic delay)
Terry Connolly
Arnold Lenk
Mike Lewis
Jim Waters

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Becker, SRCD Assoc. Director
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Dan Lehman, Assoc. Director
Orlando Rocha, DFW
John Takekawa, SRCD
Jeff Taylor, 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 July 14, 2021, Board of Directors meeting and asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the June 9, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2021, Board meeting was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Waters; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for June 2021 ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the June 2021 General Fund vendor claims totaled \$100,697.69. These claims included 3 pay periods and last month's Board action to payout a portion of staff's accrued vacation and administrative leave balances. Other expense included \$20,000 for the essential fish screen grant and more than \$4,000 for the NFWF mouse grant. Mr. Chappell reported the June 2021 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$14,124.06. All expenses were normal operational expenses including mechanic work on the bulldozer and boat repair. Mr. Chappell reported the June 2021 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$53,741.44. These claims included 3 pay periods and included normal operational expenses including boom truck pads and a vehicle repair. Finally, Mr. Chappell reported the Special Revenue claims totaled \$487.85 pump program. Mr. Connolly moved to approve all four claim summaries as presented, Mr. Waters seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

b) Board Approval Fiscal Year 2021-2022 SCRCD Budgets ~ Mr. Chappell reported on the SRCD 2021-2022 budget. The draft budget was presented in June. The final draft General Fund budget includes two modifications. One was the addition of the Delta Stewardship Council grant for a Phragmites study. Also, DFW has notified SRCD that SRCD's office exterior will be rehabilitated this fall and the attached shed in the backyard needs to be removed. So the budget includes a new Tuffshed for office storage. The General Fund budget projection is balanced with a small surplus depending on grant revenues. The Water Managers Department expenses are reimbursable by DWR contract, and the annual contract COLA increase is included in the budget. The Lower Joice Island Department includes significant grant funds to reduce the endowment expenses including a NAWCA project and a grant from a private foundation for a water control structure and carbon sequestration study. Mr. Chappell also, reviewed the Special Revenue Department budgets. Mr. Connolly moved to approve the budgets as presented, Mr. Waters seconded the motion, all were favor and the motion carried.

c) Board Review and Consider Approval of SRCD FY 19/20 Draft Audit ~ Mr. Chappell provide an update of the status of the SRCD FY 19/20 draft audit. Mr. Connolly, the

financial committee chair, reviewed the draft audit, but indicated that the audit required two corrections. These corrections will be incorporated, and a revised draft audit will be presented at the August Board meeting for Board approval.

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

Elk Season: Elk season is approaching fast again. The Wildlife Area will be open until July 30th for public use, after that it will close, our first fundraiser hunt begins on August 7th. The general hunt season begins on August 17th and will extend until September 26th. For the 2021 season, DFW has issued 33 tags.

Joice Island: Our Joice Island A Pond enhancement project is coming along slowly but is now on track to have the water control structures replaced later this summer. A failing water control structure was leaking and keeping the pond from drying out but that issues has been fixed and keeping most of the water out. By the end of the work season, the plan is to have all the *Phragmites* mowed or sprayed, in pond dirt work to add swales connecting key areas this will help with circulation as well as improve flood and drain times.

Grizzly Island: The Wildlife Area received a 1.58-million-dollar WCB grant to complete enhancement work on Pond 12 and Field 13. As soon as DFW was given the letter to proceed - equipment was on the ground moving dirt. This will be a 3-year project to improve the closed zone's configuration giving DFW better water control and making several areas more suitable for resting waterfowl. DFW staff is spraying *Phragmites* when the wind allows, and we will continue for the rest of the summer. A major section of Grizzly Ditch (main supply of water) has been cleaned, new water control structures were replaced on the interior side of the main intakes, (meaning we won't lose water on every low tide) the new gates conjunction with the ditch cleaning will allow DFW to flood much more efficiently for this waterfowl season.

Flood up: As we all know, water conditions in the State are not good right now and many areas will be lacking water when it comes to fall flood up. Luckily, while our water will be salty, we will be full flooded for the fall season. On the Wildlife Area, DFW plans to begin flooding a few units as early as August 1 or near there, we usually see early season migrant birds in the Marsh right around the 15th of August. Starting September 1st, the Wildlife Area will begin our flood up schedule and barring any major issues we'll be ready for the opener of waterfowl season.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Edwin Limanto provided the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet that was presented by Mr. Chappell. For the month of June, there is no salinity standard. Progressive Daily Mean Salinities in the Marsh

ranged from 12.3 to 20.4 mS/cm. At the end of June, net Delta outflow was 3,242 cfs. Salinity values for July 11th were 13.5 to 22.8 mS/cm, and Delta outflow was 3,649 cfs.

Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) maintenance activities for 2021 are being planned and for ditch clearing and dredging at the Hammond Pond intake pond for 2023-2024. Levees are being monitored after extreme high tides. Some routine maintenance has been started including mowing, spraying, grading, and levee repairs that will continue into the fall.

Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) routine maintenance was completed in May and planning is ongoing. Levee monitoring continues after extreme high tides, and routine levee maintenance was completed. Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) coordination continued removing debris at the inlet, planning for 2021 routine maintenance is ongoing, and fixing the sheet piles around the inlet with improved debris removal will be in August or September 2021. Levees continued to be monitored after extreme high tides. Routine maintenance will start by late summer.

The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG) have one gate is out for refurbishment with scheduled return in August.

Reservoir capacity ranged from 36-51% in the northern Sierra and in the southern Sierra 40-89%. Most reservoirs are below historical averages. Precipitation year to date was 46% of normal in the northern Sierra and 47% in the southern Sierra. Discussion ensued.

7. Continuance of a Public Hearing to August 11, 2021 ~ Mr. Chappell reported that SRCD is continuing the public hearing at the next Board meeting. The 124 draft plans are complete, but landowners are providing final review for final editing, so there is no action to take currently. Before the next Board meeting, we will provide the plans on a one-drive for the Board member to review. The Airport Planning Land Use Committee (APLU) reviewed the management plan update and provided their consent including that the updates were not in conflict with the Travis Airforce Base land use plan.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the SMPA agreement continued to be administered. Weekly calls continue with Branch Chief Dean Messer, including updates on monthly payment of SRCD expenses. SRCD has been paid through the April billing. The 5-year review of the SMPA is continuing, and the findings will be discussed at the end of the review.

- b) Drought Response Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update on the Drought Response Program. Notification letters have been sent to the participating 2021 landowners.
- c) 2021 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided a summary of the 2021 PAI Program. SRCD has paid 3 landowners for approved projects, and SRCD await landowner reimbursement requests for additional completed projects. SRCD has verbal commitment that there will be DWR funding for the 2022 PAI program.
- d) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation.
- e) USACE Permits - RGP3 & LOP Permit Update ~ Work continued the 2021 permit application administration. The June package was submitted to the USACE with authorization within a week after submittal. The Letter of Permission for the dredging program applications was submitted with 7 2021 applications. DFW will be a major applicant for 2021 dredging if they receive anticipated funding. The RGP3 permit expires in March 2023, so a RGP3 renewal package will be prepared the fall. Discussion ensued.
- f) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa reported on the Water Manager Program. Mr. Taylor sent the June RGP3 package, which was approved on July 7th. The 2021 dredging package was transmitted to the regulatory agencies. He also mailed Drought Response Fund letters to all participating landowners. Water Managers have completed truck repairs and tire replacement. The Water Managers pulled 3 pumps at 330, 425, and 702 and are operating another at 529. Two tow pumps were inspected, and parts were ordered for repairs, and the pump on Bradmoor Island was transferred from the site to return to our yard. Phelan used the boom truck to assist with repair of the DFW Joice Island gate. In addition, the Water Managers worked with landowners to complete required 2020 diversion reporting.

For the Individual Management Plan updates, Ms. Collins and the Water Managers have completed drafting all the 124 plans; 23 plans (19%) are with landowners for editing, and 30 (24%) are in final editing, and 71 (57%) are done. All plans will be available for Board member review at least 72-hours prior to the August Board meeting. SRCD is working with Counsel to draft the required resolution to be presented for Board consideration and adoption. In addition, Ms. Collins and Mr. Takekawa continued work on a fish biomass project relating zooplankton production from managed wetland drains benefiting fish biomass production, attending a meeting on July 12th.

On June 10th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa attended the third Suisun Marsh Public Access Dialogue Meeting hosted by the Delta Stewardship Council. We also met with Mr. Brett Williams at DU to work on the Essential Fish Screen Project. On June 11th, SRCD hosted the SFB Restoration Authority Board fieldtrip to Suisun Marsh. Also on June 11th, SRCD were awarded a grant from the Delta Stewardship Council to conduct a Phragmites Control Eco-Socio Study working with Utah State, Santa Clara, Purdue, and Chapman Universities, and an initial team meeting was held on June 17th.

On June 14th, SRCD coordinated the second meeting of the SCF Fun Shoot Organizing Committee, and on June 18th, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Chappell, and Mr. Takekawa joined the RD2129 annual meeting at the SRCD office. On June 22nd, all SRCD staff attended and passed CPR and First Aid training at Lower Joice. On June 28th, Mr. Takekawa attended the Resource Stewardship Advisory Task Group meeting of the Delta National Heritage Area, and on July 1st, the meeting of the Delta NHA Board.

On June 29th, Mr. Takekawa and Mr. McKinney hosted a job walk for the DWR Volanti Salinity Station dredging project. A single bid was received on July 6th, but after review, DWR decided not to implement the project this work season. On June 30th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa attended an DFW Interagency Drought Coordination meeting.

During the last week of June and the first week of July, all of the Water Managers and Ms. Collins attended training on endangered plant identification with Ms. Sarah Estrella of DFW. Also, Mr. Chappell continued correspondence with Mr. Dan Smith from UC Davis to assist in his analyses of waterfowl seed sampling data.

On July 8-9, Mr. Chappell, the Water Managers, and Mr. Mouton worked with Ramarkable Solar to install 6 solar system upgrades as part of the Essential Fish Screen Project. SRCD appreciated the assistance of Mr. Mark Moragne from RD #2112. Mr. Edmunds is studying to take the Department of Pesticide Regulation examination on Saturday July 17th for operation certification of the spray-drone.

- g) 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. On June 10th, a plumber came out to the island and repaired a bad valve in Mr. Mouton's shower. On June 11th, Pape Machinery to came out to diagnose a problem with the bulldozer. The mechanic found that rats had chewed through electrical harness. He repaired the damage but recommended replacing the wiring harness after the work season.

On June 15th, Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, and Mr. Mouton worked on assessing leaks in the water control structures to dry the marsh plain for upcoming NAWCA

fieldwork in the north unit. We were able to isolate the problem to a leaking gate on Montezuma Slough and closed it off on Saturday, July 10th. In late June, Mr. Mouton continued to dry out the island and used herbicide to control Phragmites in the north unit as part of the NAWCA project.

On June 28th, Mr. Takekawa and Mr. Edmunds prepared and submitted the Lower Joice Island diversion reports. Also on June 28th, Mr. Takekawa with USGS scientists Karen Thorne and Scott Jones to discuss upcoming work on carbon sequestration at Lower Joice Island.

On July 9th, Mr. Andy Twiss came out to assess the 60 hp Mercury motor on the caretaker boat, and he found that we needed need fuel injectors. On July 10th, Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, and Mr. Mouton finished closing off the leaking gate on Montezuma Slough, and on July 13th, Mr. Takekawa assisted Mr. Mouton in transporting the rented water pump from the island and brought it back to Pierce Harbor for its return.

- h) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell indicated we have met all of our obligations with meetings. The SCF Fun Shoot is scheduled for July 30th. Discussion ensued.

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 ~ The Chair of the Finance Committee Mr. Connolly requested Board Consideration of SRCD Resolution No. 2021-4 ~ Approving Recommendations for Fiscal Year End 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 Journal Entries -- The Board reviewed the resolution for 2020 ending and 2021 beginning fund balances. Mr. Chappell read the resolution for the Board. Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Waters seconded the motion. The members then voted and unanimously agreed to adopt the resolution.
- e) Associate Directors Committee ~ No report.

- 10. Adjourn** ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Waters and seconded by Mr. Lenk; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 PM.