

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022, AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: **Tony Vaccarella (remote)**
Mike Lewis
Jim Waters

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dennis Becker, SRCD Assoc. Dir.
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Dan Lehman, SRCD Assoc Dir
Phelan McKinney, SRCD
Melissa Riley, DFW
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Jamel Stewart, DWR
John Takekawa, SRCD
Jeff Taylor, SRCD
Larry Wyckoff, DFW

1. Call to Order ~ Mr. Waters called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:01 PM. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953, Subdivision (b), the following Board Member will participate by teleconference: Director Tony Vaccarella, from 2397 Goodwin Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94061

2. Public Comments ~ There were no public comments.

3. Open Session ~ Mr. Waters opened the May 11, 2022, Board of Directors meeting and asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the May 11, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2022, Board meeting was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Waters; all were in favor and the motion carried.

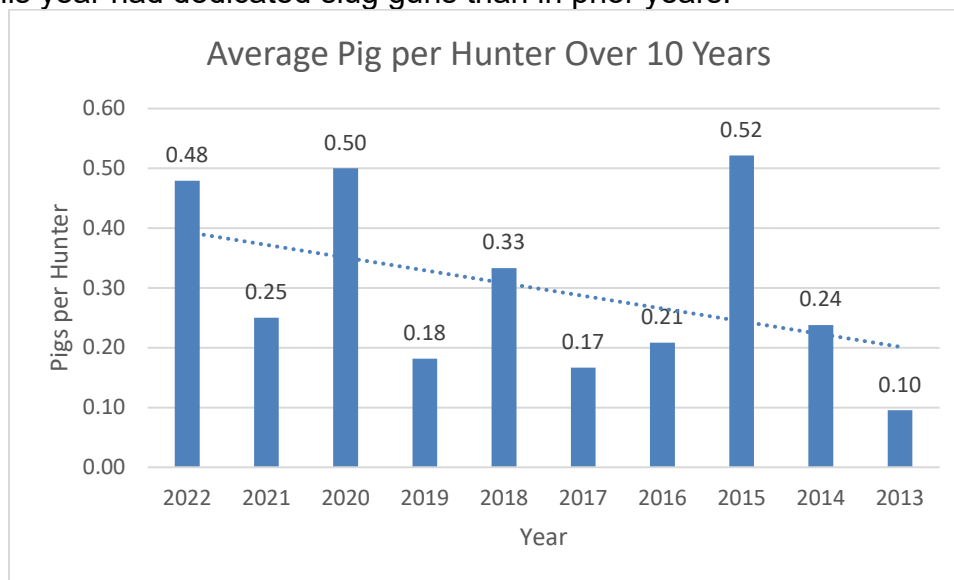
4. Financial Reports ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for May 2022 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the May 2022 General Fund vendor claims totaled \$72,513.74. These claims included normal operational expenses, payment of audit services, and the Walnut Creek Gun Club 2020 PAI cost share project landowner reimbursement. Mr. Chappell also reported the May 2022 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$7,495.39. All expenses were normal operational expenses of the island. Mr. Chappell reported the May 2022 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$27,407.77. These were all normal operational expenses. Mr. Lewis moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, Mr. Waters seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

b) Review of Fiscal Year 22/23 Draft Budgets ~ Mr. Chappell presented the fiscal year 2022-2023 draft SRCD budgets. For the upcoming fiscal year, Ms. Jesirae Collins has requested part-time status starting in FY22-23. Mr. Jason Hagani position is fully funded under grants, and we will be adding Mr. William Claffin, a summer seasonal position. The SRCD budgets are heavily influenced by grants and especially the Water Manager Program under the Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement (SMPA) and DWR support contracts which are difficult to predict what activities may be requested in the upcoming fiscal year. The current budget has no allocation for discretionary payments towards SRCD CalPERS Unfunded retirement liability. Mr. Chappell recommended increasing it to \$100,000 in the final budget in July. The SRCD General Fund salaries and operational expenses are like previous years, but fuel costs are increased, and worker's compensation rates likely to increase 25% or more next year. Lower Joice Island needs worker's compensation adjustment, but the Kioti tractor was sold for \$6,500 today. An additional \$10,000 was budgeted for a UTV purchase this year, and the Suisun Conservation Fund contribution next year will be about \$49,000. The Water Manager budget is balanced with reimbursement for salary costs and operational expenses, from the SMPA contract. The 2021 COLA calculation was received from USBR and it has been adjusted for the current budget projection. Discussion ensued.

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

Joice Island Pig Hunt: Joice Island pig hunts have concluded for the season, and we had a successful year. This year we had 48 hunters with 4 no shows. Of the 48 hunters, 19 were able to harvest 23 pigs, resulting in an average of 0.48 pigs per hunter. This is up considerably higher than last year's average of .25 pigs per hunter. One factor in increased success seems to be an increase in hunter effort, with the average hunter this year spending about 14 hours pursuing pigs, while last year's average was only 9 hours and 20 minutes. Other factors that likely had some impact on this year's increased success may have been hunters possessing better equipment with it seeming like more hunters this year had dedicated slug guns than in prior years.



Elk: Applications for our tule elk hunt closed last week. The tag draw results will be posted next week. DFW will be issuing the same number of tags again this year as the last two, with 33 total tags consisting of 7 bulls, 10 spikes, and 16 antlerless. The hunter who purchased the fundraising tag in 2020 will return this year and attempt to take another bull via archery in August.

Wildlife Area: Contractors are continuing their work around the Wildlife Area with Pole-line Road being built up to combat flooding from the drain ditch. Lepidium was sprayed in the upland fields in preparation for planting native plants for waterfowl and pollinators, and Grizzly Ditch is being cleaned to increase water movement efficiency. The wildlife area acquired some new equipment that should be a huge asset in accomplishing field work this season, to include a new 15-foot flail mower, and a skid steer with multiple attachments. Wildlife area staff is already putting this equipment to good use keeping levees mowed, and we anticipate that as ponds finish drying out, we'll be able to start conducting pond work later this month. Staff has also been spraying Lepidium when the wind allows for it, but as always, we don't get as many days as we would like. This summer we will be keeping 3 units flooded for brood water and are starting to see some

Gadwall broods.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Jamel Stewart provided the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of May, the salinity standard was 11.0 mS/cm for eastern stations and 12.5 mS/cm for western stations. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) Salinities in the Marsh ranged from 8.1 to 16.2 mS/cm, and the Drought Response Program salinity standards trigger values were exceeded. At the end of May, net Delta outflow was 4,214 cfs. The June 6th salinities ranged from 9.9 to 18.2 mS/cm. Delta outflow was 5,074 cfs, but there are no salinity standards for June.

The Roaring River Distribution System maintenance activity plans for 2022 are ongoing including ditch clearing and dredging and at the Hammond Pond intake pond for 2023-2025. Levees are being monitored after high tides. Morrow Island Distribution System routine maintenance planning for 2022 is ongoing. Levee monitoring continues after high tides. Goodyear Slough Outfall operations continued by removing debris at the intake as needed with debris cleaning on May 11-12. Planning for 2022 routine maintenance is ongoing. Levees continued to be monitored after high tides. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates were in tidal mode since May 31, and one gate is out for refurbishment with flashboard in place for the summer. We remain in a deficiency period as this seems like a critically dry year. The 50%-exceedance value estimates for water year 2022 were deemed to be critical as of May 1. The earliest the Deficiency Period could end is the Spring of 2023. There are new modeling techniques being introduced for the drought response fund to improve allocations. Discussion ensued.

California reservoir capacity ranged from 31-87% in the northern Sierra and in the southern Sierra 31-71%. All reservoirs are below historical averages. Precipitation year to date was 79% of normal in the northern Sierra and 63% 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. Bi-monthly calls continue with DWR Branch Chief Mr. Dean Messer including updates on monthly payment of SRCD expenses. The Principal's meeting occurred on June 1st and again on June 20th. The 5-year review of the SMPA is progressing with regular meetings including last week, with a clean draft at the June meeting.
- b) 2022 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided a summary of the 2022 PAI Program. 22 Agreements were sent to participating landowners in late May, and to date we've received 11 signed agreements. For the PAI Program's second round of proposed project applications the deadline is June 30th. This is the 7th year of the program, and with the high cost of labor and materials the total available funding is

being depleted. It is likely that future project approval will require prioritization in the last years in the program. This will be assessed once this year's project expenses are known.

- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. There is a SMP Principal's meeting tomorrow morning and an ECAT and Applicant Compliance Team meeting next Tuesday, June 14th. Discussion ensued.
- d) USACE Permits – RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ SRCD continues to administer the 2022 RGP 3 permit. The Water Managers prepared and submitted the RGP May application package. Landowners 2022 dredging application packages are being processed and pre-inspections completed. The deadline for the dredging permit applications was mid-May. For dredging, 35,000-38,000 CYS of dredging will likely be requested this year. Drafts of RGP 3 renewal application package was shared with DWR and DFW for review. Jeff submitted 401 and 404 permit RGP 3 renewal documents to the Agencies on May 19th. Discussion ensued.
- e) Water Manager (WM) Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Water Manager program update. Pumping operations were completed at several clubs and several pump bills were submitted for processing. Spring Delta Smelt monitoring was concluded on May 24th, and Jeff submitted a final report to the Agencies. Maintenance of the boom truck cable and outriggers and all 3 WM trucks was conducted. The gate monitoring boat hull was tested for leaks and sealed. The exterior stairs on the WM trailer were repaired.

Phelan completed a change for Can-can Club diversion reporting and developed a procedure for handling future changes. The WM's continued to have landowner site visits to discuss projects including the second round of PAI applications due on June 30th. Updated management plan pdfs were sent to most clubs, and distribution of paper copies will be completed this month. Phelan and Tim worked on loading landowner workshop videos on the website. Jesirae completed an updated water manager zone map that Phelan posted on the SRCD website.

Jason continued his work focusing on the upcoming regionwide mouse survey in July and August and habitat analyses. He continued analyses on historic Phragmites data and started drafting a paper. Jesirae updated staff grant hours and finished DFW and DWR reports assisted with grant billing and budgeting, and credit cards. She continued to track the completion of the Individual Management Plan distribution, and she prepared a map for Steve and Tim for a draft Frost Slough Joint Use Facility Agreement and a map on vegetation tracking.

On May 12-13, Jason and I attended invasive Phragmites meetings for planning June fieldwork with our university coinvestigators, and we had a blue carbon fieldwork scheduling meeting. On May 16th, I videoconference on Chapman University student presentations for studies on Phragmites ecology in the Tule Red tidal restoration led by Delta Science fellow Dr. Richelle Tanner. On May 17th, I attended a Belden's Landing Solano County Parks and DWR public use meeting, and Steve and I had a regular coordination call with FRPA. On May 18th, Jason and I met with Cody Aylward at UC Davis about eDNA mouse sampling.

On May 20th, I attended a DWR-led discussion with Chico State on vegetation analyses. On May 23rd, Jason and I led a Phragmites study team meeting, and Tim, Jesirae, Jason, and I met with Brent Alger of Ag-Air to discuss helicopter spray records over the past 3 years. On May 26th, I attended a call to discuss our levee breach salinity manuscript and additional calls on Phragmites fieldwork and blue carbon, and Jason and I talked with Santa Clara University students about Phragmites chemical resistance studies.

On June 1st, Jason and I coordinated with USGS on the regionwide mouse survey, and on June 3rd, we attended a trapping training session with the DFW leaders and later contacted FWS refuge biologists on survey coordination. Also, we hired William Claflin, a senior at UC Davis to help us as an hourly summer technician supported by the mouse project grant starting in mid-June. On June 6th, Steve and I met with Brett Williams from DU about revising the fish screen grant for this year. We also conducted a fieldtrip with 2 Delta Conservancy staff on our submitted grant for drainage improvements that will be decided in July. On June 7th, Jason, Phelan, and I completed mouse trapping checks, and I attended the monthly interagency drought call.

- f) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. Marque continued to maintain the facilities and habitat on the island. Mechanic Eric Wylie completed equipment tune-ups on May 12th, and Marque conducted a tune-up on his boat on May 23rd and finished oil changes on all the ATVs. He replaced the couplings on the fire suppression system. On May 16th, Steve and I met with Robert Eddings to prepare for canal gate installations on the 4 middle levee pipes at Lower Joice Island that we scheduled for June 15-17. The gates and couplers were moved from Grizzly Ranch to the Pierce Harbor dock on May 23rd, and Marque brought them to the island on the barge and unloaded them with the excavator. On May 31st, we completed a chemical inventory and cleaned the equipment shed. We used the barge to move the small Kioti tractor to Pierce Harbor and loaded it on a trailer. Tim cleaned the tractor and drove it up to Ritchie Brothers in Dunnigan on June 1st. It was sold in the June 8th auction. Marque

acquired the lumber and supplies for the canal gate installation this week and brought them to the island.

- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported on our meetings. He noted the Delta Conservancy site visit mentioned in the Water Manager report. The fish screen grant resubmittal will be conducted in July. The Suisun Conservation Fund Fun Shoot will be 29th of July and SCF will be seeking donations. September 21st will be the Fall Landowner Workshop. Steve attended the Delta Conservancy Board meeting on May 25th. Discussion ensued.

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 reported that a draft audit was shared with the SRCD Board, Terry is working with Kelli on some minor adjustments, and the final audit should be ready for Board approval at the July meeting.
- e) Associate Directors Committee ~ No report.

- 9. Meeting Adjourned** ~ 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 2:53 PM.