

MINUTES

**SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022, AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET, FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: **Tony Vaccarella**
Terry Connolly
Arnold Lenk
Mike Lewis
Jim Waters

OTHERS PRESENT: Lauren Barthman-Thompson, DFW
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Robin Cheung, DWR
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Charlotte Lenk
Nita McHugh, DFW
Lauren Roman-Nunoz, DFW
John Takekawa, SRCD

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 ~ There were no public comments.

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

a) Approval of the March 9, 2022 and April 13, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2022 and April 13, 2022 Board meeting was made by Mr. Lenk and seconded by Mr. Waters; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for March 2022 & April 2022 ~ Mr. Chappell reported that the March 2022 General Fund vendor claims totaled \$185,487.02. These claims included normal operational expenses including claim 105 to Arnold Ranch for two PAI reimbursements, claim 108 for ISI for Fish Screen Grant cleaning brush motors upgrades, and claim 109 for annual SRCD liability insurance. Mr. Chappell also reported that the March 2022 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$6,962.71. All expenses were normal operational expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the March 2022 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$25,295.80. These were all normal operational expenses. Finally, Mr. Chappell reported the March 2022 Special Revenue claims totaled \$5,143.67 for the portable pump program diesel costs. Mr. Waters moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, Mr. Lenk seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

Mr. Chappell reported that the April 2022 General Fund vendor claims totaled \$82,231.20. These claims included normal operational expenses with exception of claim 115 to WRA for consulting reimbursement under the NFWF Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse grant and claim 123-124 for the fish screen improvement grant. Mr. Chappell also reported that the April 2022 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$12,276.98. All expenses were normal operational expenses except for claim 51 for dozer and tractor repairs. Mr. Chappell reported the March 2022 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$25,282.94. These were all normal operational expenses. Finally, Mr. Chappell reported the April 2022 Special Revenue claims totaled \$13,663.38 for the portable pump program diesel costs and claim #6 and #8 were for separate pump repairs. Mr. Connolly moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, Mr. Waters seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

b) Board Consideration: Disposal of a Fixed Asset ~ Kioti Tractor #K3504, SN#823500115 ~ Mr. Chappell recommended the disposal of a small Kioti tractor and mower. We could use the proceeds for purchase of a side-by-side vehicle for transport on the island. Mr. Waters moved to dispose of the fixed asset. Mr. Connolly seconded

the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

c) SRCD 3rd Quarter FY 21-22 Budget Summary Review ~ Mr. Chappell reported on the SRCD 3rd quarter budget summary at 75% of the year. The Integrated Financial System Report was provided to the Board members for review, and Mr. Chappell reported on each Department.

Lower Joice Island operational expenses are 69% for salary and 55% for services and supplies. Reimbursements included FEMA levee repairs and NAWCA habitat enhancement grant, and revenues have exceeded costs. The SRCD Water Manager program is at 71% for salary and 71% for services and supplies. Fish screen maintenance shows -\$4,657 deficit for boom truck improvement expenses which exceeded grant support amount. The NFWF mouse grant includes expenses that the district will be reimbursable. Pest-weed program shows a negative balance from last year's Phragmites treatment, which still needs to be billed to the participating landowners.

DWR Support grant department includes a small amount of indirect costs. The PAI department shows the SRCD program administration fee for last year program. DWR Mein's Landing Support grant department includes expenses for the caretaker's salary expenses and grant administration overhead revenue. Accrued expenses for the Fish Screen Retrofit grant will be submitted for payment to the granting agency shortly. The SRCD General Fund Department salary expenses are at 74% of budgeted amount, services and supplies are at 54% of budget, but annual financial services and the audit are yet to be billed.

The Auditor has been conducting fieldwork for the annual SRCD audit. A draft audit should be available next week. The audit may be considered at the June meeting. Discussion ensued.

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: In past years, the pig hunts took place in March and April, but this year, we extended the spring hunt opportunity to include May. At this point, 29 hunters have taken 20 animals, and this has been one of the most successful seasons the Wildlife Area has seen. We are hopeful that the remainder of the season continues to be as productive for the remaining hunters.

Elk: We have been receiving calls about our tule elk hunts, the Big Game Hunting Digest is available online and has all the information to apply for all big game hunts in the State. The deadline to apply is June 2nd. We will issue the same number of elk tags

as last year.

Wildlife Area: Contractors are already busy around the Wildlife Area beginning the projects that can be completed while the pond bottoms continue to dry up. Pole-line Road is currently being worked on, addressing a major problem with road flooding in the fall or anytime the drain ditch is full. The road is being raised where needed and the ditch is being cleaned, allowing water to flow to the pumps more efficiently without flooding the road. Every year during waterfowl season Pole-line Road closes to our waterfowl hunters reducing access to popular hunting areas. This shouldn't be a problem this coming waterfowl season. Continuing work for a second year on Grizzly Ditch, and this is our main supply ditch and improvements will make delivering water to over half the wildlife area more efficient. All the projects are carried out with the same goal - gaining control of our water delivery and more efficient drainage. Discussion ensued.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Cheung provided the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of April, the salinity standard was 11.0 mS/cm for eastern stations and 14.0 mS/cm for western stations. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 5.4 to 12.6 mS/cm, and the Drought Response Program salinity standards trigger values were not exceeded. At the end of April, net Delta outflow was 7,752 cfs. The May 8th salinities ranged from 5.7 to 12.2 mS/cm. Delta outflow was 3,361 cfs.

The Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) 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 (MIDS) routine maintenance planning for 2022 is ongoing. Levee monitoring continues after high tides. Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) operations continued by removing debris at the intake as needed. Planning for 2022 routine maintenance is ongoing. Levees continued to be monitored after high tides. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG) were in tidal mode since April 7th, but one gate is out for refurbishment with flashboards in place so the gate can be reinstalled this summer and the next gate removed for refurbishment. We remain in a deficiency period as this seems like a critically dry year. The drought response fund has been triggered, and production of the map of affected areas is being developed.

California reservoir capacity ranged from 31-87% in the northern Sierra and in the southern Sierra 37-71%. All reservoirs are below historical averages. Precipitation year to date was 80% of normal in the northern Sierra and 66% 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-weekly calls continue with DWR Branch Chief Mr. Dean Messer including updates on outstanding payments of SRCD expenses. The 5-year review of the SMPA is progressing with regular meetings occurring and final review.
- b) 2022 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided a summary of the 2022 PAI Program. The first phase of the program was reviewed on April 11th. All proposed projects were approved by DWR on May 10th, and agreements will now be written for the landowners.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. The AMAT met on May 10th, and there is a SMP Principal's meetings on May 12th. Discussions continue improving managed wetlands for better production of fish food resources, compared with tidal restoration sites. Discussion ensued.
- d) USACE Permits – RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ SRCD continues to administer the 2022 RGP 3 permit. The review and approval by the USACE have been timely. There is a deadline for the 2022 dredging permit of mid-May, currently there is only one request, but more are expected. Drafts of RGP3 renewal package have been prepared and submitted to DFW and DWR for review comments. SRCD plans to submit the renewal applications mid-month.
- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Water Manager program update. Mr. Taylor and the Water Managers prepared and submitted the RGP3 request at the end of April. Portable pumps were installed and operated at several clubs. Mr. Edmunds completed minor repairs on the gate monitoring boat. Two gate checks were completed by the Water Managers. Ms. Collins updated employee timesheets and summarized grant tracking hours, assisted with quarterly billings, and a contract modification for the Suisun Marsh Landscape Tool project with SFEI. She completed an updated Water Manager zone map with an updated spreadsheet with club names and numbers. Mr. McKinney completed the quarterly West Wind newsletter and mailed it out today.

On April 18th, Mr. Hagani conducted an inspection of the Tule Red levee and found that it was in good condition. From April 21-25, he worked with Dr. Adrienne Ernst from Utah State to conduct fieldwork on the Phragmites Socioecological Study. He completed a historical image analysis on the spread of Phragmites from 2003-2020, and he began work on a salt marsh harvest mouse analysis that uses LiDAR

mapping to look at habitat structure. On April 19th, Mr. Takekawa attended a meeting on Public Access at Belden's Landing and later at a Dredging Project Coordination Meeting where he presented on the Sedimatch Project at Lower Joice and Joice Island.

On April 20th, SRCD held the Spring Landowner Workshop at Pete Smith's warehouse. We had more than 100 people attend the workshop with 70-80 in person, and we provided an option for remote attendance option by Zoom that was joined by more than 32 people. We had 19 talks at the workshop, including an excellent plenary presentation by Dr. John Spring on Russian Thistle. We hosted a fieldtrip on Russian Thistle with him on the morning of Thursday April 21st. Ms. Collins provided final copies of the Individual Management Plans to distribute to landowners at the Workshop, and 52 clubs (42%) obtained plans. The Water Managers will be distributing the remaining printed copies by hand and emailing pdf files to all of the clubs.

On April 25th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa attended a fieldtrip with the DWR FRPA program to look at work at Chipps Island. Also, Mr. Takekawa had an evening interview on our Phragmites Socioecological Project with writer Michael Adamson of Bay Nature. On April 26th and 27th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa attended parts of the Salinity Management Workshop. On April 27th, Mr. Hagani and Mr. Takekawa hosted a call of the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Group to continue preparations for the upcoming July and August range-wide survey. On April 29th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa conducted a boat inspection of the Mein's Landing levees with Mr. Randy Mager of DWR. On April 29th, Mr. Takekawa submitted a request for an amended travel budget to the Delta Stewardship Council for our Phragmites Socioecological Study. On May 3rd, Mr. Chappell attended the first 2022 interagency drought coordination meeting, and Mr. Takekawa delivered the Mein's Landing habitat team final summary notes and infrastructure recommendations to manager Mr. Randy Mager.

On May 5th, Mr. Takekawa hosted a job walk at the DWR Tule Red Restoration Site for mowing and removal of a derelict sailboat with the SRCD pre-qualified vendors and DWR coordinator Ms. Ling-Ru Chu. Mr. Takekawa attended the Delta National Heritage Area organizational committee meeting to discuss progress on the Delta NHA plan. On May 6th, Mr. Takekawa hosted a job walk at Wings Landing with DWR coordinator Ms. Emma Mendonsa, and on May 7th, Mr. Takekawa attended the levee inspection tour with landowners of Grizzly West Reclamation District 2136 that included a segment of Tule Red's levee off Van Sickle Road.

Finally, Mr. Hagani attended a Coast Guard boat safety course in Rio Vista and obtained his boating card.

- f) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. Mr. Mouton continued to maintain the facilities and habitat on the Island. He received 5 diesel drums and will bring them to the Island for the summer fieldwork. He completed another round of levee mowing and helped the phragmites and blue carbon project staff with travel to the Island. We had 2 seasonal technicians, Ms. Lisa DeFillip and Mr. Eric Nunez, start work for our cooperative carbon sequestration project at Lower Joice Island under summer seasonal positions with CWA. The second leach cycle was completed on April 20th, and the Caltrout zooplankton project sampled invertebrates for fish food production. On May 4th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa worked with Mr. Mouton at Lower Joice Island to find leaks in 2 blinds, locate hydraulic lines for the fish screen, and repair the fish screen solar system panel racks. Mr. Mouton initiated the third and last drain and leach cycle on April 29th before he drained the Island on May 5th in advance of summer work. Mechanic Eric Wylie was scheduled to come out for equipment tune-ups on May 12th.
- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported we plan to have the Suisun Marsh Fall Landowner Science Workshop on Wednesday, September 21st. He participated in the drought call for all wildlife areas in the state. Planted rice acres will drop to 350,000 acres from a high of 715,000 acres with 30,000-60,000 acres flooded in the fall this year. Sacramento, Colusa, and Delevan refuges currently expect to only obtain 18% of normal water allocation. Sutter Bypass is expected to be dry this year with most rice planting on the east side of the valley. Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District will receive only 18% allocation with non-rice supported. Gray Lodge expected a 50% allocation with the Grasslands 40-50%. 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 ~ No report.
- e) Associate Directors Committee ~ No report.

9. **Closed Session** ~ A1) Real Property Negotiations: Property: Lower Joice Island in unincorporated Solano County. District negotiator: Mr. Steven Chappell.
10. **Reconvene** ~ The meeting was reconvened at 3:31 PM. Report out of Closed Session – The Board provided guidance to Mr. Chappell on the Lower Joice Island draft Use Agreement terms.
11. **Adjourn** ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Lenk and seconded by Mr. Lewis; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 PM.