

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023, AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Terry Connolly
Mike Lewis
Jim Waters

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Chappell, SRCD
Mike Frost, Landowner
Marina Guzman, SRCD
Kent Hansen, SRCD Assoc. Director
Jamel Stewart, DWR
John Takekawa, SRCD
Jeff Taylor, SRCD
John Telfer, SRCD Assoc. Director
Dick Vanderkous, SRCD Assoc. Director

1. Call to Order ~ Mr. Connolly called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:04 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ There were no public comments.

3. Open Session ~ Mr. Connolly opened the January 11, 2023, Board of Directors meeting and asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the December 14, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Connolly asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2022 Board meeting. A motion 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 2022 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the December 2022 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaling \$418,386.05. Most of these claims were normal SRCD operational expenses but included fifteen PAI Cost Share Program landowner reimbursements. Claim #93 was payment of a portion of SRCD's CalPERS unfunded liability (approved in the SRCD current budget) and payroll expenses for 3 pay periods. Mr. Chappell also reported the December 2022 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaling \$14,029.73. All expenses were normal LJI operational expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the December 2022 Water Managers Program Department of the General Fund vendor claims totaling \$35,240.73. Claims were normal operational expenses for the Water Managers Program. Mr. Connolly moved to approve the December 2022 vendor claim summaries as presented and Mr. Waters 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 Mr. Chappell.

Wildlife Area Closures and Levee Issues: Like many others in the Marsh, DFW has had our fair share of levee overtopping, at this time all of our units except the Island Slough unit are closed to hunting. DFW has deployed, approximately five thousand sandbags and about 1,000 feet of plastic to protect some of the overtopping exterior levee sections. DFW could not have done this without the help of 3 inmate crews this past weekend. We are hopeful that we can reopen the Grizzly Island Unit this coming weekend (1/14-1/15) but West Family, Goodyear, and Joice will most likely remain closed for the remainder of the season.

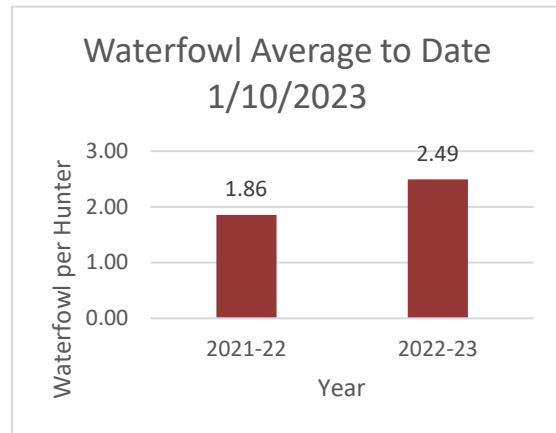
Joice Island Pig Hunt: Joice Island Wild Pig Hunt will be available for online applications beginning the 15th of this month, the deadline to apply will be February 14th. The pig hunts will take place Saturday-Sundays beginning March 4th and ending

Sunday May 28th. The first weekend will be reserved for junior hunters only. With 13 weekends of hunting, 52 lucky hunters will have the opportunity to hunt pigs on Joice. Hunters in 2022 were able to kill 25 pigs with many other missed opportunities.

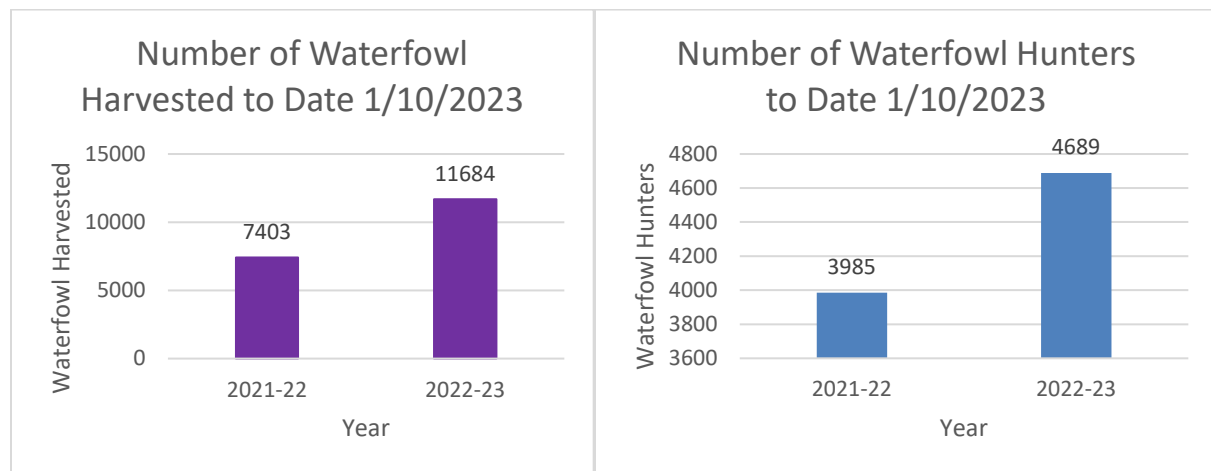
Wildlife Area: Harvest summaries

Top 5 ducks

	2021/22	2022/23
1	2698 NSHO	4376 NSHO
2	1470 AGWT	3050 AMWI
3	1249 AMWI	1587 AGWT
4	436 BUFF	537 MALL
5	430 MALL	461 BUFF



2022-2023 Waterfowl Season Graphs:



6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Jamel Stewart provided the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of December, the salinity standards were 15.5 mS/cm for the eastern stations and 15.6 mS/cm for the western stations. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 7.7 to 17.5 mS/cm. At the end of December, net Delta outflow was 10,541 cfs. As of January 9th, salinities ranged from 0.7 to 4.6 mS/cm with a salinity standard of 12.5 (east) to 15.6 mS/cm (west) for the month of January. Delta outflow had increased to 95,973 cfs.

The Roaring River Distribution System had significant levee erosion on January 1st with

repairs initiated on January 2nd. Overtopping occurred on the southern levee on January 5th. An Incident Command Team (ICT) was initiated on January 6th with repairs continuing through January 10th. Both drains are open to 100%, and there are some sections with visqueen sheeting and sandbags, so DWR requests that landowners avoid the areas, if possible.

Morrow Island Distribution System maintenance was delayed with the Morrow Lane Bridge repairs, and levee maintenance was deferred to February after waterfowl season. Levee monitoring continues after high tides and rain events, and planning is continuing for MIDS ditch clearing in 2023. Goodyear Slough Outfall operations were completed with debris removal at the intake and mowing and grading levee roads. Dredging sediment from the intakes and ditch clearing is planned for 2023. Levees continued to be monitored after high tides and rain events. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates tidal operations were suspended on January 5th due to high stage and low salinity conditions, and Gate 1 remains out for refurbishment. There is no drought trigger value for December.

California reservoir capacity ranged from 19-59% in the northern Sierra and in the southern Sierra 19-61%. Most reservoirs remained below historical averages in December. Precipitation year to date was 134% of normal in the northern Sierra and 185% 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, which continue to be administered. Bi-monthly calls continue with DWR Branch Chief Mr. Dean Messer, including updates on monthly payment of SRCD contract expenses. The 5-year review of the SMPA is progressing with regular meetings, the last on December 21st and January 9th. A complete draft for each Agencies review should be ready in January.
- b) 2022 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update for the 2022 PAI Program. Most of the completed projects have submitted invoices and receipts for reimbursement. Post-construction inspections are finished by the Water Managers, and three invoices have been reimbursed DWR.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. We are on task for the plan implementation. There was a December 8th Principal's meeting and regulatory compliance meetings that was attended by Mr. Chappell.

- d) USACE Permits – RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ SRCD continued to administer the 2022 RGP 3 permit. We are awaiting the renewal of the USACE permit hopefully around the first of the new year, before it expires the end of February 2023. The RWQCB completed the 401 certification at the end of December and BCDC issued their CZMA Consistency Determination also at the end of December. USACE is working on final comments from the EPA and there should be a new permit in early January. The 2022 actual work completed reports were completed and SRCD prepared all required annual compliance reports. Dredging activities continued through the end of November 2023 under the Letter of Permission. This year 10 properties including 4 DFW sites participated in the Program. The 10 year LOP Dredging Permit expires in 2024 and SRCD will begin the renewal process the beginning of next year.
- e) Water Manager (WM) Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Water Manager program update. The Water Managers finished end of year reports from their landowners for managed wetland maintenance and dredging and drafted final summaries for the Army Corps of Engineers, BCDC, NOAA Fisheries, USFWS and for the DFW Incidental Take Permit. Mr. Taylor submitted the annual water quality monitoring report to the Agencies. The Water Managers completed pump winterization and oil and filter changes. Landowner notification letters were prepared for the spring salmon and California Ridgway's Rail closure periods, spring marsh burning, and diversion reporting. Mr. Taylor completed initial drafts for the 2023 USACE Permit, 401 Certification, and BCDC determination to distribute to landowners next month.

Ms. Guzman printed all the individual management plans for our files, and Ms. Collins collated updates on the 2021-2022 infrastructure work from the water managers, and she prepared it for updating BCDC and Geomarsh. She also worked on updating the club maps to the new GIS program version ArcPro. She also updated the website and scheduled an annual update meeting with our webmaster for later this month. Mr. Hagani completed the draft final report for the Phase 1 Essential Fish Screen project, and he worked on the draft final Phase 1 Suisun Marsh Harvest Mouse range-wide survey grant report. He distributed a phragmites remote sensing paper for coauthor review comments, and also inspected the Tule Red levee. Our drone team had coordination meetings in late December and early January.

On December 15th, Mr. Chappell, Mr. Edmunds, and Mr. Takekawa hosted a fieldtrip with Randy Mager, Molly Ferrell, and David Julian from DWR and Mark Lindley from ESA to look at an existing fish screen site, for installation of a new fish screen at the Dutch Slough Restoration Project near Brentwood. That afternoon, Mr. Takekawa provided a presentation on the spray drone application for a State Parks training

session at the McClellan Training Center in Sacramento. At the end of the week, Mr. Chappell and the Water Managers met with Dr. Vaish Tripuraneni from Purdue University prior to completing her Phragmites control study interviews.

On December 16th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa attended the Board meeting for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. The SFBRA approved \$1.3 million in funding for Phase 2 of our Essential Fish Screen Project to repair 2 screens in the worst condition here in the Marsh.

On December 20th, Mr. Chappell, Ms. Guzman, and Mr. Takekawa were invited by Mr. Chris Lanzafame to a meeting with the Van Sickle Reclamation District, Campbell Ingram – director of the Delta Conservancy, and Steve Deverel, blue carbon expert. They hosted a discussion of possible availability of funding support from the Delta Conservancy if they were interested in a blue carbon demonstration project, associated with a tidal wetland restoration on their island. Also, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with the DWR Fish Restoration Program Agreement staff for an update on work at DWR restoration properties. On December 30th, Ms. Guzman assisted DWR by inspecting the Roaring River levee and worked on a draft January newsletter. On January 6th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa hosted SFBRA Program Coordinator Karen McDowell on a final inspection of the Phase 1 Essential Fish Screen project completion.

- 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 conducted regular levee surveys and found no evidence of problems and only minor overtopping occurring near the caretaker house. He installed a patch on the main dock where a metal support had failed, and he attached new boat cleats to replace those ripped out during the windstorm in early January. For the December 9th through January 10th period, the total bag for 51 hunter days was 197 birds including 83 spoonbills, 44 teal, 3 wigeon, 7 mallards, 3 sprig, and 4 divers. For the period, the average was 3.9 birds/hunter day which is higher than the previous month's average of 3.6 birds per hunter day and the 2021 overall average of 1.9 birds/hunter day. Mr. Hagani and Ms. Guzman led a Christmas Bird Count at Lower Joice Island on December 19th. On January 9th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa attended a team meeting with CWA and USGS for the blue carbon project at Lower Joice Island to obtain an update on work accomplished last year and plans for the upcoming year.
- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported Mr. Waters attended the Delta Conservancy Board meeting. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa attended the SF Bay Restoration Authority meeting on December 16th when the Phase 2 fish screen grant resubmittal was granted SFBRA

Board approval. Mr. Chappell submitted a comment letter on the Delta Conveyance Project objecting to Project approval. Also, the Coast Guard denied the S.P. railroads request for eliminating the swing bridge on the tracks that allows water access to clubs above the bridge. Mr. Jeff Cavanagh let SRCD know that his father Dave passed away in mid-December. 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 ~ Conference with Labor Negotiators: Agency designated representatives: Directors Terrance Connolly, James Waters, and Mike Lewis. Unrepresentative employees: Executive Director, Operations Manager, Office Supervisor, Water Managers, Biologists, and Lower Joice Island Resident Caretaker.

10. Reconvene ~ Report of action from Closed Session (if applicable): Personnel Committee chair Mr. Lewis made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the SRCD Personnel Committee for annual SRCD Staff Salary Considerations, Mr. Waters seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion passed.

11. 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 3:15 PM.