

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023, AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tony Vaccarella
Arnold Lenk
Mike Lewis
Jim Waters

OTHERS PRESENT: Sean Barstad, DFW
Laureen Barthman-Thompson, DFW
Dennis Becker, SRCD Assoc. Director
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
John Eudy, SRCD Assoc. Director
Marina Guzman, SRCD
Charlotte Lenk
Kelli Perez, SRCD
Melissa Riley, DFW
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Loren Roman-Nunez, DFW
Jamel Stewart, DWR
John Takekawa, SRCD
John Telfer, SRCD Assoc. Director
Dick Vanderkous, SRCD Assoc. Director

1. Call to Order ~ Mr. Vaccarella called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:08 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ There were no public comments.

3. Open Session ~ Mr. Vaccarella opened the March 8, 2023, Board of Directors meeting and asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the February 8, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Vaccarella asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2023 Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Lenk; all were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion ensued.

4. Financial Reports ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for February 2023 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the February 2023 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$278,289.51. Most of these claims were normal SRCD operational expenses with several 2022 PAI landowner reimbursement claims. Mr. Chappell reported the February 2023 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$4,939.70. All expenses were normal LJI operational expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the February 2023 Water Managers Program Department of the General Fund vendor claims totaled \$26,533.42. Claims were normal operational expenses and salaries. Mr. Waters moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, Mr. Lenk seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

b) Fiscal Year 22-23 ~ 2nd Quarter Budget Summary ~ Mr. Chappell presented the budget summary expenses for 50% of SRCD's current fiscal year. For Lower Joice Island, salaries were at 45% of the budget and supplies were at 58%. The Water Manager program salaries were at 49% with services and supplies at 54% of projected budget expenses. Mr. Chappell reviewed the expenses and revenues of the reimbursable DSC Phragmites, NFWF Mouse, Mein's Landing Support, SFBRA Fish Screen, DWR Meins Landing and FRPA grants. For the SRCD General fund salaries were at 42% with office operational expenses at 51% of projected budget. The portable pump program expenses include fuel purchase expenses and inventory that will be reimbursed by landowner when used.

c) Review FY 2021-2022 Draft Audit of Financial Statements ~ Mr. Chappell presented a summary the draft audit of SRCD's Fiscal Year 21/22 financial statements. The audit was initiated in December, this is the initial draft was provided by the auditor. Terry Connolly is reviewing the financial and will be requesting minor adjustments or clarifications. Mr. Chappell requested the Board review the draft audit and let him know if they have any questions or concerns.

d) Board Authorization to enter into a new five-year Copier Lease & Maintenance Agreement ~ Mr. Chappell presented the background requesting authorization for a new 5-year lease for the copier from Wixix. The cost has increased a small amount, but SRCD has been very happy with the copy machine dependability and the vendors service of the machine. Mr. Waters made a motion to accept the new lease agreement,

Mr. Lenk 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. Loren Roman-Nunez.

Joice Island Wild Pig Hunt: Wild pig hunts at Joice Island started up this past weekend. Out of the 4 junior hunters drawn, we had 3 successful hunters harvest one pig each. Hopefully the remainder of our hunters continue to have similar success.

Wildlife Area: We've begun spring drawdown, starting with ponds that we will be continuing projects in, like finishing Pond 12 improvements. We've started running leach cycles in Crescent Unit. While the spring rains are good for the drought and for bringing some fresh water into our systems, it's causing us to delay spraying and mowing. Once the rain lets up, we're hopeful that we'll be able to get a couple spring burns in to continue moving forward with phragmites control efforts. Joice Island bridge repairs are moving forward and is in the permitting phase. There is a design plan in place, and details of the construction plan just need to be finalized to address permitting needs. The planned start of construction will be September 1st, 2023, with an approximate 40-day construction window.

Elk: In coordination with our Region 4 counterparts, our crew spent two days assisting in tule elk captures at San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. 16 females and 14 males were successfully captured and relocated to Grizzly Island. These animals are the second additions to our herd in recent years, after we moved 20 animals last year. Last year's effort was spread over 8 days; this year using a helicopter team, we were able to move 30 elk over only 2 days.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Jamel Stewart provided the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of February, the salinity standards were 8.0 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 0.4 to 7.2 mS/cm. At the end of February, net Delta outflow was 18,785 cfs. As of March 6th, salinities ranged from 0.2 to 7.2 mS/cm with a salinity standard of 8.0 (east) to 15.6 mS/cm (west). Delta outflow was 30,129 cfs.

The Roaring River Distribution System has been inspected weekly with an area of erosion at mile marker 4.5. Some areas still have sandbags and plastic on them. DWR submitted an RGP 3 application for routine operations and repair work for this summer. Levees continue to be monitored with extreme tides and rain events.

DWR submitted a RGP 3 application for Morrow Island Distribution System routine maintenance and levee repairs to be undertaken in 2023. Levee monitoring continues

after high tides and rain events, and a California Ridgway's rail was conducted on February 16th for work at the Morrow Lane bridge. Goodyear Slough Outfall routine maintenance dredging was planned for 2023, and DWR submitted a RGP 3 application. 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 remain suspended due to low salinity conditions, and Gate 1 remains out for refurbishment. There was no exceedance in February 2023.

California reservoir capacity ranged from 32-81% in the northern Sierra and in the southern Sierra 42-99%. Most reservoirs are above historical averages. Precipitation year to date was 118% of normal in the northern Sierra and 157% 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. 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 completed with the draft report. On March 14th, there will be a quarterly ECAT and applicants compliance team meeting.
- b) 2023 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update for the PAI Program. The 2023 program announcement was sent out on February 7th with projects due on March 31st and June 30th for technical committee review. There are two remaining 2022 projects for reimbursement. All other landowner reimbursements have been processed for payment as summarized in the February vendor claim summary, previously discussed under Agenda Item 4a.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. There were meetings on February 9th and March 9th for the SMP Principals. Principal's meeting will include discussion of proposed RGP 3 work activities at Chipps Island, to support future tidal restoration planning.
- d) USACE Permits – RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ SRCD continued to administer the RGP 3 permit. In February SRCD processed all landowner applications submitted in the monthly package. The 10-year LOP Dredging Permit expires at the end of the 2024 work season. Yesterday (March 7th), SRCD had a meeting with BCDC to discuss timing of the 2023 LOP program and permit application procedures. The timeline will be moved up this year, thus requiring landowner permit requests will be submitted earlier. Also, the State Lands Commission dredging lease must be renewed.

- e) Water Manager (WM) Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Water Manager program update. The Water Managers processed the first 2023 monthly RGP 3 applications, and Jeff submitted the package with 29 applications to USACE on February 28th. The Water Managers have organized meetings with several landowners to discuss upcoming habitat work and assisted some clubs in preparing of smoke management plans for spring Water Manager marsh burns. Several clubs have requested pump installations. The water managers discovered one pump had failed and took it to Davis Machine in Meridian for repairs. The Water Managers also assisted some landowners in submitting any outstanding Diversion reports to the Delta Watermaster. Spring salmon closure gate monitoring was conducted on February 22nd and March 2nd with good compliance, and the 2023 PAI program letter and application was distributed by email and regular mail to landowners.

Mr. Edmunds mailed out the annual letter to landowners on the Lepidium control program. He worked on our treatment plan to apply herbicide and control weeds on levees at Chipps Island now scheduled for March 22-24. He and Mr. Takekawa continued working on a draft Russian Thistle control plan with Dr. Krista Hoffmann at DFW. Mr. Edmunds also continued to lead meetings of our drone team in February and March to continue our program development. Ms. Guzman worked on drafting the 3rd quarter April newsletter and requested suggestions for articles. Ms. Guzman, Ms. Collins, and Mr. Takekawa continued working with webmaster Charles Fox to update SRCD's website. Also, Mr. Takekawa worked with Ms. Collins to assist the Central Valley Joint Venture organization committee to host a Waterfowl Workshop at Pete Smith's Equipment Warehouse on May 9 & 10, 2023.

Ms. Collins and Mr. Hagani completed conversion of IMP maps from ArcMap to updated ArcPro software. Mr. Hagani submitted his final draft paper to Frontiers that reports on measuring the historic spread of Phragmites with remote sensing. He continued to work on manuscripts on spray-drone application for Lepidium control to submit to a journal in March and a manuscript applying LiDAR imagery to determine habitats used by Salt Marsh Harvest Mice for which he hosted a review meeting with coauthors on February 16th. He also started taking images of plants for the new landowner vegetation field guide.

On February 14th, Mr. Takekawa updated our Essential Fish Screen project information on the SF Bay EcoAtlas. On February 15th, Mr. Hagani, Ms. Collins, and Mr. Takekawa attended a monthly update meeting of the Phragmites Socioeco Study, and on February 17th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa attended a call with the Delta Conservancy to provide review comments on our draft grant contract. On February 21st, Mr. Takekawa attended a monthly update meeting of the Fish Restoration Project, and on February 23rd, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa boated to Mein's Landing to map the Montezuma Slough levee erosion with DWR. Also, that

day, Mr. Chappell, Mr. Waters and Mr. Takekawa met with the vendor of our boom truck, and they agreed to complete repairs to satisfy OSHA safety requirements. The boom truck was hauled to the vendor's shop for repairs on March 2nd.

On March 6th, Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, and Ms. Collins met with BCDC staff to discuss how to submit annual updates of landowner IMPs. Also, Mr. Takekawa attended a Justice, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion or JEDI meeting with Solano RCD. On March 7th, Mr. Chappell, Ms. Collins, and Mr. Takekawa, and the Water Managers attended a meeting with BCDC to discuss dredging permit processing information and efficiency improvements. On March 14th, Ms. Collins and Mr. Takekawa will meet with Dr. Brett Harvey at DWR to discuss the analyses of fish food from managed wetlands for a manuscript, and Ms. Collins was working on organizing the annual habitat management team meeting at Mein's Landing on March 17th. Staff is continuing to work our upcoming Suisun Marsh Spring Landowner Workshop on April 19th. This year also is the 60th anniversary of the Suisun Resource Conservation District, and we planning to commemorate the occasion by having a few dedicated talks about the history of SRCD as well as a few other celebration events.

- 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. The veteran's hunt was February 11-12, and 3 veteran hunters were very successful. Marque helped the hunt group with moving their gear from the island after the season. On February 27th, Mr. Takekawa signed the clubhouse check-out for the end of this year use agreement. Mr. Mouton also finished repairing the side wall on the shed and obtained the supplies to paint it. He continued to pack and haul garbage from the island to our dumpster at the Family Club. He also worked on maintenance of the UTV and ATVs with Andy Twiss, and on the bigger equipment with mechanic Eric Wylie. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa drafted a smoke management plan to submit for marsh burning in the north unit this spring. Mr. Mouton obtained a load of propane to refill what was used in the winter.
- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Friday is a retirement party for Larry Wyckoff at Grizzly Ranch. The Spring Landowner Workshop and SRCD 60th Anniversary celebration will on April 19th.

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 ~ Mr. Chappell reported that he initiated the first monthly associate director call on February 27th. Discussion ensued.

9. **Adjourn** ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Lenk and seconded by Mr. Waters, all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM.