

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022 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: Laureen Barthman-Thompson, DFW
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Marina Guzman, SRCD
Nimal Jayasundara, DWR
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Jamel Stewart, DWR
John Takekawa, SRCD
Jeff Taylor, SRCD
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 November 9, 2022, Board of Directors meeting and asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the October 12, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Chappell noted a correction to the October minutes ~ Director's Present ~ Mr. Lenk did not attend the October 2022 board meeting, and his name was deleted. With that correction noted, a motion to approve the October 12, 2022, Board Meeting minutes 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 October 2022 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the October 2022 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$213,830.72. Most of these claims were normal SRCD operational expenses with Claims 45, 47, and 48 reimbursable contract expenses and claims 36, 37, 38, 49, and 50 are Drought Response Fund reimbursements. Mr. Chappell also reported the October 2022 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$5,554.69. All expenses were normal LJI operational expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the October 2022 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$25,334.45. Mr. Connolly moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, and Mr. Waters seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

b) Board Review of SRCD's existing Conflict of Interest Code ~ At the September 2022 SRCD Board Meeting, the Board reviewed the existing Conflict of Interest Code (COI) and proposed amending it to clarify that the COI only apply to areas within the SRCD District boundary. County Counsel reviewed this proposed amendment and indicated that it was inconsistent with the Form 700 Conflict of Interest filing requirement addressing "reportable interest in real property", which requires disclosure of property within 2 miles of the District or land owned by the District. The previous motion was inconsistent with County Counsels guidance. So, Mr. Chappell recommended on the advice from County Counsel, that the September motion be withdrawn and that the current District's Conflict of Interest Code doesn't need to be amended. Mr. Connolly moved to withdraw the previous motion and no amendment was needed to the existing SRCD Conflict of Interest Code, Mr. Waters seconded that motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

c) Board Consideration to approve amendment to SRCD Personnel Policy ~ Mr. Chappell proposed a change to the SRCD Personnel Policy. Last summer the SRCD Personnel Policy was amended to allow paydown of a portion of employee accrued vacation. However, the County Payroll Department indicated that this policy change was

inconsistent with the IRS Tax Code requirements and SRCD needed to add an irrevocable election procedure to allow the cash out of accrued vacation hours. This proposed revision was presented as edit / strike through version of the SRCD Personnel Policy and the inclusion of Attachment D and E to the Personnel Policy. Mr. Connolly moved to approve the proposed changes as presented to the SRCD Personnel Policy, Mr. Lewis 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. Waterfowl season has started, and the wildlife area was nearly fully flooded. There were 407 hunters opening day, which was above the capacity of 350, and 24 more hunters compared to last year. The average was 3.40 opening day including shovelers, wigeon, green-winged teal, and cinnamon teal. While averages were a bit lower than last year, they were still much higher than they were during the 2020/21 and 2019/20 season openers. The species composition changed slightly, with a lot more American Wigeon harvested than previous years, beating out Green-winged Teal. Mallard harvest continued its downward trend this year, falling from the 3rd to 4th most harvested duck in the previous two years. Northern Pintail edged out Gadwall to become the 5th most harvested species over the weekend

Waterfowl summary of birds harvested opening weekend across seasons

2022/2023 Opening Weekend Summary					
Date	Total Waterfowl Hunters	Total Ducks	Total Geese	Total Waterfowl	Average
10/22/2022	407	1376	6	1382	3.40
10/23/2022	170	377	3	380	2.24
Top Five Birds for Opening Weekend 2022/2023					
Bird	Northern Shoveler	American Wigeon	Green-winged Teal	Mallard	Northern Pintail
Number	678	442	334	129	58
2021/2022 Opening Weekend Summary					
Date	Total Waterfowl Hunters	Total Ducks	Total Geese	Total Waterfowl	Average
10/23/2021	383	1457	0	1457	3.8
10/24/2021	107	347	0	347	3.24
Top Five Birds for Opening Weekend 2021/2022					
Bird	Northern Shoveler	Green-Winged Teal	Mallard	American Wigeon	Gadwall

Number	753	671	174	103	38
2020/2021 Opening Weekend Summary					
Date	Total Waterfowl Hunters	Total Ducks	Total Geese	Total Waterfowl	Average
10/24/2020	362	744	7	751	2.07
10/25/2020	128	139	1	140	1.08
Top Five Birds for Opening Weekend 2020/2021					
Bird	Northern Shoveler	Green-Winged Teal	Mallard	American Wigeon	Gadwall
Number	297	241	218	70	22
2019/2020 Opening Weekend Summary					
Date	Total Waterfowl Hunters	Total Ducks	Total Geese	Total Waterfowl	Average
10/19/2019	391	903	1	904	2.31
10/20/2019	129	173	4	177	1.37
Top Five Birds for Opening Weekend 2019/2020					
Bird	Northern Shoveler	Mallard	Green-Winged Teal	Gadwall	American Wigeon
Number Harvested	530	294	167	29	21

There are infrastructure projects continuing including work on the Pond 14 brood pond. There is dredging that will happen at the former Long Point Land Company property. The fishing pier at the Red Barn was recently burned by someone which resulted in its closure with a temporary repair proposed. Funds are now available after January for a metal pier to be installed. Equipment repairs and beaver den removals are also being conducted around the WLA.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Jamel Stewart provided the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of October, the salinity standards was 19 mS/cm for the Marsh. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 11.4 to 21.4 mS/cm. At the end of October, net Delta outflow was 4,590 cfs. The November 6th salinities ranged from 8.7 to 20.8 mS/cm with a salinity standard of 15.5 (east) to 16.5 mS/cm (west). Delta outflow was 6,325 cfs.

The Roaring River Distribution System maintenance activity plans will resume in 2023 with work at the Hammond Pond intake pond for 2025 or later requiring multiple

seasons and significant funding to complete. Levees are being monitored after high tides. Morrow Island Distribution System routine maintenance planning for 2022 is ongoing. Levee monitoring continues after high tides. Planning is continuing for MIDS access while repairs are completed on the Morrow Island Bridge. Goodyear Slough Outfall operations continued with removing debris at the intake. Planning for dredging sediment, potentially in 2023, is ongoing. Levees continued to be monitored after high tides. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates tidal operations have been ongoing due to high salinity conditions, and Gate 1 is out for refurbishment. The S-97 salinity station exceeded the drought trigger value in October, and this will be enacted if one more month exceeds the trigger values. Russian Thistle is being monitored and removed when possible, and permits have been requested for Phragmites removal at Blacklock. A vegetation monitoring work plan is in development.

California reservoir capacity ranged from 22-65% in the northern Sierra and in the southern Sierra 15-65%. All reservoirs are below historical averages. Precipitation year to date was 46% of normal in the northern Sierra and 27% in the southern Sierra.

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 contract expenses. The 5-year review of the SMPA is progressing with regular meetings to complete the draft.
- b) 2022 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update for the 2022 PAI Program. Almost half of the projects have submitted invoices and receipts for reimbursement. Post-construction inspections are being finished and payment to landowners will begin when DWR pays SRCD for submitted reimbursements request. Discussion ensued.
- 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 is a Principal's meeting tomorrow and there was also one on October 13th. The Quarterly AMAT meeting occurred yesterday with SRCD Providing a presentation the Individual Management Plan update. Estimates of existing tidal wetland areas were corrected to remove exterior patches by SRCD staff Mr. Hagani for the Arnold and Bradmoor Restoration Tidal Restoration Projects measurement of tidal habitat created.
- 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 in February 2023. There was a meeting with BCDC staff to review their comments from their comment letter, and these changes are called out on the SRCD website. The water board is working on the permit renewal, and the water board permit fee (\$2,417) was paid today. There were no other additional comments from the USACE. The Letter of Permission for dredging was submitted late in the year, and dredging is allowed through the end of November. DFW will be conducting dredging on their properties during November. Most of the private landowner projects have been completed. Discussion ensued.

- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Water Manager (WM) program update. The Water Managers completed fall flood coordination and Mr. Taylor conducted water quality monitoring on October 18th. On the west side, PAI funding was processed for 5 clubs, and drought response funding was processed for several clubs; two clubs had dredging inspections completed. The WM's began to receive final work reports from their landowners. Ms. Guzman submitted water quality reports and assisted with PAI and water diversion questions with several landowners. The gate monitoring boat hull sanding and sealing repairs were completed and the new Yamaha 4-stroke 25hp motor was installed and tested on October 28th. The first gate monitoring inspection of the season conducted by Mr. Edmunds and Ms. Guzman on November 1st and 3rd with good compliance.

Mr. Chappell, Ms. Guzman, and Mr. Takekawa attended weekly Roaring River coordination flood-up calls every Thursday until the last call on October 20th, and the flood-up this year was very smooth without any water supply problems. Mr. Edmunds completed final repairs to the fish screen solar systems, and the Phase 1 project billing ended on October 31st with the final grant compliance report due at the end of the year. Ms. Guzman completed her first effort as the editor of the West Wind Newsletter, and she handled the mailing in late October. She also worked with Mr. Edmunds on cleaning up the garage, and she started the organization of the papers in the office Tuff Shed, where we are now storing archival paperwork. On October 18th, Mr. Chappell, Mr. Hagani, and Mr. Takekawa attended the first advisory group meeting for the Suisun Marsh Landscape Tool project led by the San Francisco Estuary Institute. Also on October 18th, Mr. Takekawa met with Ms. Amy Stork who was consulting for DWR on their interest in involving RCDs on levee stewardship projects. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with the DWR Fish Restoration Project staff for an update. Also, Mr. Hagani and Mr. Takekawa met with the salt marsh harvest mouse regionwide survey team to discuss sampling locations. On October 19th, Ms. Guzman, Mr. Chappell, and Mr. Takekawa met with the new landowner of Volanti Duck Club #219. On October 21st, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Guzman met with Brian Olson and a group on a call to discuss a potential incentives program for managing for semi-permanent wetlands in Suisun Marsh.

Ms. Collins continued working on fish biomass and location data related to managed wetland drains, and on October 21st, she and Mr. Takekawa met with Brett Harvey to advance the analysis work for a draft paper. Ms. Collins, Mr. Chappell, and Mr. Takekawa met with Mr. Randy Mager at DWR to discuss drafting an interim management plan for Mein's Landing, and Ms. Collins and Mr. Takekawa worked with Dr. Vaish Tripuraneni from Purdue University on selecting landowners for interviews about Phragmites control efforts starting in late November.

Mr. Hagani completed the first cut of the draft final report for the SF Bay Restoration Authority Phase 1 Essential Fish Screen project. Also, he prepared quarterly update reports for the regionwide mouse survey Phase 1 and Phase 2 grants. He continued working on the draft Phragmites classification analysis manuscript, and data acquisition and processing for a mouse habitat selection analysis. He worked on drafting a report on historic trapping efforts. Mr. Hagani attended some of the talks of the California Invasive Pest Council Conference from November 1st-3rd.

Mr. Edmunds and Mr. Takekawa invited biologists Mr. Brad Cook and Mr. Matt Perryman of Solano County Agriculture to the Marsh on November 7th to see the invasion Russian Thistle. They took a few samples for additional genetic analyses. We are moving forward on developing a Russian Thistle treatment plan with Dr. Krista Hoffmann at DFW. On November 8th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa attended a call with the Delta Adapts project to discuss Suisun Marsh Levees. Today, M. Hagani and Mr. Edmunds joined a call to discuss Phragmites management strategies for DWR's Dutch Slough Restoration.

- 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. For the October 22nd opener at Lower Joice Island, the total bag was 53 birds including 11 mallards and 29 teal taken by 10 hunters (5.3 birds/hunter), and 21 birds were taken on Sunday by 9 hunters (2.3 birds/hunter) which was very similar to 2021. In 2021, 49 birds were taken on the opener by 9 hunters (5.4 birds/hunter) including 6 mallards and 16 teal on the opening Saturday by 9 hunters (5.4 birds/hunter) with 10 taken by 4 hunters (2.5 birds/hunter) on Sunday. The average for the first 3 weekends (41 hunter days) was 5.2 birds including 69 teal and 40 spoonbills, compared with the 2021 average for the first 3 weekends (29 hunter days) was 2.6 birds including 36 spoonbills and 27 teal. So, there were more than double the teal taken this year compared with last year. On October 31st, Mr. Takekawa drove the pontoon boat for a Marshrat Construction crew to install 3 fish screen platforms on Lower Joice Island. At the same time, we were assisted with repairs of the LJI excavator by Howeco Machinery, and new batteries were installed in the excavator and the fuel line was cleaned.

- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported on recent meetings. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Waters continue to participate on the Delta Conservancy Board. Mr. Chappell attended the SF Bay Restoration Authority Advisory meeting on November 4th. Our Phase II fish screen grant resubmittal was recommended for funding by staff, formal approval will be considered in December. The final inspection of Phase 1 Fish Screen project was scheduled for November 29th, but this was later delayed. 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. 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 3:04 PM.