

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022, AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tony Vaccarella (remote)
Terry Connolly
Arnold Lenk
Mike Lewis
Jim Waters

OTHERS PRESENT: Lauren Barthman Thompson, DFW
Kelli Perez, SRCD
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Marina Guzman, SRCD
Nimal Jayasundara, DWR
Charlene Lenk
Phelan McKinney, DU
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Jamel Stewart, DWR
John Takekawa, SRCD
Ryan FitzGerald, Deputy County Counsel

1. Call to Order ~ Mr. Lenk called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953, Subdivision (b), it was announced that the following Board Member will participate by teleconference: Director Tony Vaccarella, from 2397 Goodwin Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94061 (open to the public).

2. Public Comments ~ Mr. Lenk asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.

3. Open Session ~ Mr. Lenk opened the September 14, 2022, Board of Directors meeting and asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the August 10, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes ~ A motion to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2022 Board meeting was made by Mr. Waters and seconded by Mr. Lewis; all were in favor by roll call vote and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for August 2022 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the August 2022 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$88,509.02. Most of these claims were normal SRCD operational expenses except for vendor claim #16 to Wetland Construction and claim #21 to SCMAD both for DWR's Mein's Landing Support Contract, which are reimbursable expenses under the contract. Mr. Chappell reported the August 2022 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$27,757.85. These were all normal Water Manager Program operational expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the August 2022 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$12,711.09. All expenses were normal LJI operational expenses with the exception of claim #8 to Americ Machinery for the acquisition of a used Polaris Ranger. Mr. Chappell reported the August 2022 Special Revenue Program vendor claims totaled \$4,889.56, for the portable pump program diesel purchase. Mr. Connolly moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, Mr. Waters seconded the motion, all were in favor by roll call vote, and the motion carried.

b) Board Review of District's current Conflict of Interest Code ~ The Political Reform Act requires every agency review their conflict-of-interest code biennially and to notify the code reviewing body if their current code is accurate, or alternatively, that their code be amended. Mr. Chappell presented the existing SRCD Conflict of Interest Code and the designated positions and reportable interests that must be disclosed. Mr. Waters asked to consider an amendment to clarify that any reportable interest in real property be specific to interest in real property within the Suisun Resource Conservation District, and the Board of Directors discussed the issue. A motion to approve an amended SRCD Conflict of Interest Code was made by Mr. Waters, Mr. Lewis seconded the motion, and all were in favor by roll call vote and the motion carried.

c) Board Consideration authorizing use of DocuSign for Financial Transactions ~ Mr. Chappell presented a draft resolution 2223-1 for the Board to consider the approval of SRCD's use DocuSign for SRCD financial transactions. This would improve efficiency

for administrative paperwork and expedite timely payment of SRCD's Warrants and Vendor Claims. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Waters and seconded by Mr. Connolly. All were in favor by roll call vote and the motion carried.

d) Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Fourth Quarter Year End Budget Summary Review ~ Mr. Chappell presented a summary report of SRCD's Fiscal Year 2021–2022-year end expenses and revenues and reviewed each of the SRCD departments financial activities. Mr. Connolly also provided a summary sheet of each of SRCD department's income for the past fiscal year. In summary, SRCD had a balanced budget for fiscal year 21/22. SRCD General Fund ended the fiscal year with a net income of \$367,372, but \$362,442 is attributed to unexpected revenue from Covid-19 pandemic relief funds.

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

Elk Season: After 3 weeks of hunting, the auction tag hunter was able to harvest the elk that he was pursuing, a nice 10x10 bull. Preliminary scoring of the animal indicate it will enter 3rd, 4th, or 5th in the Boone and Crockett record book, but time will tell depending on the mandatory 60-day drying period. DFW has completed 3 periods of our general season with a 100% success rate so far, with the 4th period ongoing through Friday. Tomorrow our first period of bull hunting will begin. We've seen a total of 18 animals harvested to this point, and we have 15 tags left to fill throughout the rest of the month. A few elk hunters came out over Labor Day weekend to scout in preparation for their upcoming hunts.

Grizzly Island: Normally our auction tag hunter fills his tag well before the general season begins leaving DFW staff with some time to get last minute work done on the wildlife area, but this time around, we had just over a week to scramble to complete projects. We used this time to continue pond mowing, with staff focusing on *Salsola* in Ponds 6 and 12, and contractors tackling *Phragmites* on the southern half of the wildlife area. Contractors finished adding material to Poleline Road, completing our project to raise the road to prevent winter flooding. Additional dirt work in Ponds 10 and 23A was also completed. During the elk hunts, we've switched our focus to work on the west side and in our Crescent Units. Aside from mowing, we are still planning on completing a pipe replacement in 17B and resetting blinds in Crescent Unit.

Flood Up: Flood up is going as planned, we are still expecting to be fully flooded by opening weekend of waterfowl season. Ponds 8A, 1B, 16A, 16B, 19, 21, 22A are at shoot level and circulating. We will continue flooding the southern half of the wildlife area throughout the rest of the month. This week we started flooding our closed zone, barring any pump issues we will see pond 12 flooded well before opener. Our Island Slough unit is also fully flooded at this point.

As we continue flooding up, we've seen more ducks arriving, wigeon, shovelers, and green-winged teal. We are still waiting to see a big push of northern pintail and white-

front geese, but there are a few around. With elk season closing at the end of this month and the weather feeling a bit more “ducky”, we’re slowly shifting gears into waterfowl mode. Within the next 30 days, we’ll start preparing the check station and training new staff in anticipation of a busy and successful waterfowl season.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Jamel Stewart provided the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of August, there are no salinity standards for the Marsh. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 11.2 to 21.7 mS/cm. Mean salinity values in late August over 17 mS/cm at one compliance station or S-35 require the operation of the Montezuma Salinity Control Structures operations in September, and this was triggered at the end of August. Net Delta outflow was 3,171 cfs. The September 11th salinities ranged from 11.8 to 20.8 mS/cm. Delta outflow was 4,398 cfs.

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 2025 or later requiring multiple seasons and significant funding to complete. Levees are being monitored after high tides. Maintenance was ongoing. DWR and SRCD will conduct a levee inspection on September 15th. Morrow Island Distribution System routine maintenance planning for 2022 is ongoing with potential ditch clearing. Levee monitoring continues after high tides. Planning is ongoing for repairs of a potential leak on the M-line levee. Goodyear Slough Outfall operations continued by removing debris at the intake as needed increasing to twice per month as needed, and 2022 routine maintenance is ongoing. Levees continued to be monitored after high tides. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates tidal operations began on September 1st, and Gate 3 has been refurbished and being reinstalled, while Gate 1 has been removed for refurbishment and now has a stop log in the gate. Russian Thistle is prevalent at Meins Landing, so DWR has been conducting a study on best practices for removal. Randall Mager has been leading efforts for DWR. The Phragmites treatment for the fall with contracting through SRCD remains in discussion. A vegetation management plan is in development.

California reservoir capacity ranged from 24-68% in the northern Sierra and in the southern Sierra 14-63%. All reservoirs are below historical averages. Precipitation year to date was 78% of normal in the northern Sierra and 62% in the southern Sierra. Discussion ensued.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement: Mr. Chappell reported that the programs in the SMPA agreement continue to be administered. Bi-monthly calls continue with DWR Branch Chief Mr. Dean Messer including payment updates of SRCD monthly invoices. The 5-year review of the SMPA is progressing with regular

meetings on August 17th, September 7th and 15th. There is a draft 100+ page document. The review team is currently preparing Executive Summary and Recommendations to share with the Executive of each of the four Agencies that are signatory to the 2015 SMPA Agreement.

- b) 2022 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update for the 2022 PAI Program. Agreements were sent to landowners in late May, and most have been returned and signed. We are currently obtaining signatures on the last of the agreements. A few projects have been completed and landowners are now starting to submit invoices for reimbursements. Discussion ensued.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. Participated in the monthly Principals call September 8th.
- d) USACE Permits – RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ SRCD continued to administer the 2022 RGP 3 permit. The Water Managers prepared and submitted the RGP August application package on August 31st which was approved on September 12th. The Regional General Permit renewal public comment period closed. We only received comments from BCDC on the CZMA Consistency Determination process. SRCD will be working with BCDC and the Corps to address any issues. The Letter of Permission Dredging Permit has not been completed yet, but we are awaiting a BCDC Marsh Development Permit, although it will be close to the end of the work season. Discussion ensued.
- e) Water Manager (WM) Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Water Manager program update. Interviews for the Water Manager Biologist vacancy were completed on August 12th, and Marina Guzman was selected for the position and started work on August 22nd. Marina is a graduate of UC Davis and has worked for USGS, CDFW, and CWA in Suisun Marsh and in the Central Valley over the past 5 years.

The Water Managers received RGP3 approvals from the August package on September 12th. We received the dredging Army Corps permit approval, and Mr. Taylor handled the mailing of invoices and contractor agreements. He continued to work on water quality sondes for flood-up including deploying in Goodyear Slough on August 16th and downloads on August 31st and September 13th. The SRCD staff met with the Mosquito Abatement District on August 11th to discuss flood-up coordination. Mr. Chappell, Mr. Takekawa, and Ms. Guzman attended weekly Roaring River coordination flood-up calls, and we will have a tour Roaring River tomorrow, with DWR. Also, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa continued attending DFW regional interagency drought calls.

The Water Managers also conducted inspections on completed PAI projects. We have been working on boat repairs for the larger navigation boat and are seeking to replace the gate boat which has outlived its useful life. The last pumping work for the year was done at Volanti this week. Mr. Edmunds completed the helicopter herbicide applications for Phragmites treatment at all participating clubs on August 31st. He also continued to work on fish screen maintenance. On August 24th, he and Mr. Chappell installed the SFB Restoration Authority essential fish screen project sign off Grizzly Island Road on Balboa Club.

Ms. Collins continued to work on administrative tasks and updating of the webpage. She helped with the landowner workshop announcements and met with Mr. Bret Harvey (DWR) and Mr. Takekawa on the Suisun Fish biomass study. She helped prepare a NFWF Phase 3 mouse proposal. Mr. Hagani continued to develop a manuscript on historical Phragmites analyses and worked on a historic trapping summary report for salt marsh harvest mouse. Mr. Takekawa hosted Dr. Zhao Ma and Dr. Vaish Tripuraneni from Purdue University from August 28th to September 2nd, and they visited several agency staff and landowners to discuss Phragmites control. Also, Santa Clara University Professor Virginia Matzek and two students completed sampling of Phragmites patches and seeds at the end of August.

The first regionwide small mammal mouse survey was completed on August 28th by biologists working across the Bay Area led by SRCD, DFW, and WRA Consulting with several regional partners. Mr. Jason Hagani and Mr. William Clafin represented SRCD in the fieldwork and coordinated genetics and eDNA sampling. Despite setbacks caused by Covid-19 delaying the survey from 2021 until 2022, the 3-year effort was highly successful. We received access for permission from nearly every land manager asked. We trapped at 55 sites: 18 in the South Bay, 19 in the North Bay, and 18 in Suisun Bay and collected samples for eDNA analyses at 29 sites. Captured Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse included 150 in South Bay, 193 in North Bay, and 191 in Suisun Bay for a total of approximately 534 animals. We captured over 100 Harvest Mice (genetic analyses are being conducted on all *Reithrodontomys* to confirm species), 121 Western Harvest Mice, 264 House Mice, 91 California Voles, 10 Deer Mice, and 7 Rats. Also, we submitted a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation proposal for Phase 3 on September 6th to complete final genetic analyses for the study.

On September 7th, Mr. Takekawa had a call with other Resource Conservation Districts about coordination on carbon hubs that look at best management practices to sequester carbon. Also, preparations and setup have been completed for a hybrid Fall Landowner Workshop that is set for 9-2 on September 21st.

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 used the newly acquired coring bucket to complete coring the leak in the middle levee. He moved

a new electric refrigerator to the clubhouse kitchen for installation. We have an electrician scheduled to come and install a new power circuit for it by the beginning of October. Marque spent several days mowing Phragmites in the South Unit and between the Spider and Harrison ponds. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mouton completed repairs on the Spider and Ropp blinds with epoxy and fiberglass to repair leaks that arose after installation last year. The blue carbon team continued to set plots and measure gas exchange on different areas of the island. Work continued on Phragmites revegetation studies with last measurement planned for the last week of September. From today through Friday, Mr. Mouton is mowing and disking the study plots in the North Unit as the culmination of the blue carbon work this year. He also opened gates to initiate flooding in the South Unit today.

- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported on our meetings. The fish screen grant resubmittal was completed on July 29th. September 21st is the date of the Fall Landowner Workshop. 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 ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update that Mr. Dan Lehman is working out of state and is resigning as Associate Director until he returns. Mr. John Eudy, Mr. John Telfer, and Mr. Dick Vanderkoos have expressed interest about becoming SRCD Associate Directors.

9. Closed Session ~ the meeting entered closed session at 3:13PM.

- a) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. Initiation of litigation paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: 1 case.

10. Reconvene ~ Report of action from Closed Session (if applicable). The meeting was reconvened at 3:50PM. There was nothing to report from the closed session.

11. Meeting Adjourned ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Waters and seconded by Mr. Lewis, all were in favor by roll call vote and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.