

MINUTES

**SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023 AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tony Vaccarella
Terry Connolly
Kent Hansen
Mike Lewis
Jim Waters

OTHERS PRESENT: Lauren Barthman-Thompson, DFW
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Kevin Clark, DWR
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Marina Guzman, SRCD
Jamel Stewart, DWR
John Takekawa, SRCD
Jeff Taylor, SRCD
Dick Vanderkous, SRCD Assoc. Director

1. Call to Order ~ Mr. Vaccarella called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ There were no public comments.

3. Open Session ~ Mr. Vaccarella opened the July 12, 2023, Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Vaccarella asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the July 12, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Vaccarella asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2023 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 July 2023 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the July 2023 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$97,803.71. Most of these claims were normal SRCD operational expenses including a chemical purchase for the 2023 Phragmites control program. Mr. Chappell reported the July 2023 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$8,016.95. All expenses were normal LJI operational expenses including maintenance repairs on the pontoon boat. Mr. Chappell reported the July 2023 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$23,161.80. All expenses were normal Water Managers operational expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the July 2023 Special Revenue Department vendor claims totaled \$321.54 for a portable pump program maintenance purchase. Mr. Connolly moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, Mr. Hansen 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 Laureen Barthman-Thompson.

Elk Season: The Fundraiser Tag hunt began on Saturday the 5th, the hunt period extends for 30 days. No animal has been taken at this time, the hunter has 10 uninterrupted days to hunt before our general hunts start on the 15th, we are hopeful that her hunt will conclude before then. We have a break in the hunts from August 21st to September 6th, staff and contractors will use the time to finish up remaining dirt work and mowing before fall flood up starts.

Grizzly Island Wildlife Area: Weed control conducted by staff and contractors for the upland pollinator project via disking has been ongoing. We are not entirely satisfied with the level of weed control reached, so final planting will likely be pushed back one season. There is a possibility we will plant a cover crop this fall, that will depend on conditions as we move forward. Pump replacements and installations are continuing. Pump 2 has been rebuilt and reinstalled, and pump 7 has been pulled and is being rebuilt. The installation of a new flood pump for pond 15 is underway. The dredging project on the Montezuma has been underway and is going well, with the crew on

schedule to finish Friday. Early flood up of select ponds has begun for early migrants like pintail, but this year we held so much summer water, we won't be flooding many new ponds up early. We have been seeing a good number of flighted waterfowl broods, and a few late gadwall broods utilizing our new reverse cycle brood ponds and I'm sure we will begin seeing pintail joining them soon.

Island Slough: Work started last week on the Island Slough fishing pier, the pier will be rebuilt out of wood and brought up to current ADA compliance. The project will include a new ADA parking spots, compliant ramp up to the road and solar powered light for the parking area. The existing parking lot will also be segmented off so there will be less unauthorized use of the back of the parking lot outside of waterfowl season. The contractors hope to be finished with the project by early September.

Joice Island: We are still waiting for the final permit for the Joice Island bridge project. The contractor bid period is now open and we have been receiving bids. The bidding period will close around the end of August.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Jamel Stewart presented the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of July, there were no salinity standards in the Marsh. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 1.6 to 9.2 mS/cm. At the end of July, net Delta outflow was 7,856 cfs. As of August 6th, salinities ranged from 3.1 to 11.0 mS/cm with no salinity standards. Delta outflow was 7,734 cfs. The salinity station at Ibis Club is not in operation and will not be repaired until next year.

The Roaring River Distribution System levees continued to be monitored with extreme tides events. Both drains were opened on June 5th and will remain open until water levels subside. Replacement of flashboards will occur after August 14th. The Morrow Island Distribution System routine maintenance began on June 14th and finished on July 11th. DWR continues working with Union Pacific Railroad and landowners to address Morrow Lane Road maintenance needs. Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) maintenance activities will be later this summer. DWR is planning to dredge in front of the intakes, remove sediment from the pipes, and clear ditches to reduce sediment build up. Environmental staff conducted a survey on July 28th. There was no update for the Montezuma Day Use Area. Russian Thistle has become more prevalent at several sites in the Marsh. Discussion ensued.

California reservoir capacity in July ranged from 58-98% in the northern Sierra and in the southern Sierra 74-100%. Most reservoirs are above historical averages. Precipitation year to date was 122% of normal in the northern Sierra and 159% 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. AMAT meeting was held August 8th led by the Delta Stewardship Council. There was a presentation on the proposed Potrero Hills restoration project, with has been canceled because of downstream effects that could not be mitigated. The Chipps Island Restoration project was then discussed including clearing levees of vegetation for access and construction beginning in 2024 or later. The SMPA 5-year review remains in review with the agencies. If it is determined that the 2015 SMPA needs to be revised, the SMPA Negotiators group will be convened and SRCD will have to engage counsel to assist in document and any contract amendment review.
- b) 2023 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update for the PAI Program cost share program. The technical review panel reviewed and approved the final 2 2023 projects that had additional information provided which were forwarded to DWR for funding approval.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. Regular monthly meetings for the SMP Principals continue. The last Principal's meeting was July 13th with a meeting scheduled for August 10th. There has been a petition to list Long-finned Smelt as threatened or endangered. If USFWS determines listing is appropriate our Suisun Marsh Plan USFWS Biological Opinion, would need to be updated to provide Marsh Activates under the RGP 3 and LOP Endanger Species Take coverage.
- d) USACE Permits – RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ SRCD continued to administer the RGP 3 permit. SRCD processed all landowners RGP 3 applications and submitted them in the July monthly package on August 1st, which was approved on August 3rd. The 2023 LOP dredging permit applications are awaiting a BCDC Marsh Development permit for this year's levee maintenance dredging. This year SRCD is also preparing a separate BCDC 3-year dredging permit for all fish screens sites will be submitted later this summer. Also, the State Lands Commission 10-year dredging lease is expiring, and SRCD has begun the renewal process with a meeting held on July 19th.
- e) Water Manager (WM) Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Water Manager program update. Mr. Taylor and the Water Managers prepared and submitted the monthly RGP3 work applications for July. The Water Managers worked on obtaining and taking exterior work photos. Dredging letters and invoices

were prepared for landowners, and dredging notices were posted at all participating properties.

Mr. Taylor also provided walkthroughs on procedures and protocol for importing soil for a few landowners. The fall marsh burning program letter was distributed to landowners. The water managers continue to service and operate several pumps, as this year's freshwater conditions have resulted in landowners irrigating late into the summer. Chemicals were obtained and delivered to those landowners who requested them for this year's invasive species control. Mr. Edmunds coordinated the Phragmites aerial spray program and set a tentative date for the helicopter application of August 11th. Ms. Guzman continued working on the contents and organization of our archive library shed.

Ms. Collins continued to request BCDC approval for our updates of the Individual Management Plans, and she will deliver those revisions to landowners once BCDC has completed the process. She updated the SRCD website. Ms. Guzman and Mr. Edmunds scheduled August 11th for drone mapping of a property for which we have grant support to improve drainage. Ms. Guzman worked with the university partners on developing the Phragmites control project survey.

On July 14th, Ms. Guzman and Mr. Taylor repaired the gate monitoring boat by switching out a bad fuel tank. On July 17th, we had our third triannual review and staff meeting and annual performance review. The week of July 17th, Ms. Guzman pulled water level loggers at Meins Landing, Wheeler Island, Rich Island, and Dead Duck Country Club. They will be reinstalled prior to flood-up.

On July 18th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with DWR's Fish Restoration Program team to discuss upcoming work. On July 19th, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Chappell met with State Lands about the State Lands lease. On Thursday July 20th, we assisted County Parks at Belden's Landing in removal of a damaged kayak launch that had filled with water. They plan to repair and reinstall on Monday July 31st. The water managers attended a listed plant training session led by Sarah Estrella from DFW.

On August 1-3, Tuesday through Thursday, the Water Managers pulled the fish screens for assessment and cleaning, although some of the 12' screens were weighted down by algae and sediment requiring an excavator for removal. On August 2nd, Mr. Takekawa led a morning marsh walk at Rush Ranch for a group of 31 teachers as part of the Solano RCD Water Institute. On August 3rd, Mr. Takekawa attended a meeting of the advisory committee for the Delta National Heritage Area. On August 4th, subcontracted work was completed on a Montezuma Slough water control structure that had failed at Mein's Landing. On August 7th, Mr. Chappell and

Mr. Takekawa met with DWR staff at the Arnold Slough Restoration to assess an area along the access road that eroded during the previous winter. We developed a scope of work to repair the eroded area, under the DWR support contract.

- 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. Mr. Mouton worked with our mechanic to finish repairs on our tractor and completed mowing of the levees. Mr. Mouton purchased material to install riser boards in the new flap gates. He repaired the bumpers on the Pierce Harbor dock. He worked on clubhouse repairs including renovation of the porch. He found out that several of the porch supports were rotten, so he dismantled the entire structure including the water system, and he replaced the support structures and sills with new piers. The next steps will be to replace the flooring and then to rescreen the porch and reinstall the doors. He spent the last 2 weeks of the month assisting Utah State University and USGS with transport and sampling of Phragmites and blue carbon plots. Also, on July 13th, Mr. Edmunds and Ms. Guzman recharged the batteries on the fish screen that had fallen below voltage levels allowing operation.
- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell is expecting the Individual Management Plan updates to be approved by BCDC. The 19th Annual Fun Shoot and Social was held at Bird's Landing on Friday, July 28th. Attendance included more than 100 people with 93 shooters. The event raised \$22,519 for the Suisun Conservation Fund. The Fall Landowner Workshop will be held on September 20th at Pete Smith's warehouse. Mr. Chappell attended the Delta Conservancy Board meeting on July 26th.

8). Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~

- a) Agency Committee ~ No report.
- b) Legal Committee ~ The Potrero Hills landfill indicated that they had opened the final cell of the Phase 1 landfill and expanded partially into Phase 2 that triggers a tipping fee to SRCD. Only 8% of the placement of fill will be within Phase 2, and the landfill proposed payment to SRCD at 8% of material placed in this cell. A settlement agreement was signed with the landfill 17 years ago, and these documents and the new fill plan have been reviewed with the SRCD's legal counsel. Steve met with the Solano County local enforcement agent, County engineers and the Regional Water Quality Control Board Staff that regulates the landfill liner and water runoff. SRCD counsel's recommended that an engineer assess the air space/fill report provided by the landfill operators. Mr. Chappell asked the Board if they would like SRCD to hire an engineer firm to review the air space/fill report provided by the landfill operators (as recommended by counsel)? Mr. Hansen made a motion to engage an engineering firm to review the report, Mr. Connolly seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

- c) Personnel Committee ~ No report.
- d) Finance Committee ~ No report.
- e) Associate Directors Committee ~ No report.

9. Meeting Adjournment ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Waters, all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.