

## **MINUTES**

**SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023, AT 2:00 PM  
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS  
675 TEXAS STREET  
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** H. Kent Hansen  
Mike Lewis  
Jim Waters

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Laureen Barthman-Thompson, DFW  
Steven Chappell, SRCD  
John Eudy, SRCD Assoc. Director  
Marina Guzman, SRCD  
Melissa Riley, DFW  
Orlando Rocha, DFW  
Jamel Stewart, DWR  
John Takekawa, SRCD  
Jeff Taylor, SRCD  
John Telfer, SRCD Assoc. Director  
Dick Vanderkous, SRCD Assoc. Director

**1. Call to Order** ~ Mr. Waters called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

**2. Public Comments** ~ There were no public comments.

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

a) Approval of the June 14, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Waters asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2023, Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hansen; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**4. Financial Reports** ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for June 2023 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the June 2023 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$90,911.42. Most of these claims were normal SRCD operational expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the June 2023 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$9,516.12. All expenses were normal LJI operational expenses including maintenance repairs on the pontoon boat. Mr. Chappell reported the June 2023 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$39,629.31. Claims were normal operational expenses and salaries for the program. Mr. Chappell reported the June 2023 Special Revenue Department vendor claims totaled \$4,086.02 for portable pump program diesel purchase. Mr. Lewis moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

b) Adopt SRCD Draft Budgets FY 23-24 ~ Mr. Chappell presented the FY 23-24 Revised Budgets for adoption. The revised SRCD General Fund included an increase of \$10K for legal expenses and the additional expense of paying down the CalPERS unfunded retirement liability. A salary consideration of 5% was included with staff reviews coming next week. The Water Manager Program is funded under the SMPA contract with DWR and USBR is reimbursable and includes 3.5 positions and operational expenses with a COLA. Lower Joice Island (LJI) operational expenses are offset by the Suisun Conservation Fund. The Revised LJI budget includes the purchase of a used UTV (\$10K) and an AED (\$2K) for the coming year. After discussion, the Board recommended that the UTV should be purchased by the SRCD General Fund and stored on LJI. The LJI budget also included a line-item budget item of \$4,000 for SRCD Supervision, but that is now being offset by the blue carbon grant revenues and should be removed from the LJI FY 23-24 department budget. Discussion ensued. Mr. Lewis moved to approve the SRCD FY 23-24 draft budgets as presented, Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

c) 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY 22-23 Budget Summary Review ~ Mr. Chappell presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter FY 22-23 SRCD budget summary. The budget reports are for 75% of the fiscal

year. Lower Joice Island was at 69% salaries and 79% of expenses. The blue carbon study and DSC Phragmites socioecological study funds are offsetting SRCD Staff salary expenses for participating. The Water Manager's program expenses are 81% for salaries and 72% for supplies. Fish screen department includes reimbursable expenses for maintenance and the NFWF grant costs have been billed out the revenue has not been received. The DWR Support Grant expenses are minor, the PAI fund shows a negative balance until DWR payment for landowner reimbursement has been received. DWR Mein's Landing has a larger negative balance, but DWR payment has been received since this report was generated. The Phase 1 essential fish screen retrofit grant was completed and final payment received by SRCD. The SRCD General Fund salary and benefits expenses are 67% and supplies are at 59% for the quarter. The \$5K in landowner pump usage has been billed, and Enxco Fund has no activity. Discussion ensued.

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

**Elk Season:** Elk season is fast approaching again. The Wildlife Area will be open until July 30<sup>th</sup> for public use and will close after that. Our first elk hunt begins on August 5<sup>th</sup>. The general hunt season begins on August 15<sup>th</sup> and will extend until October 1<sup>st</sup>. For the 2023 season DFW has issued 33 tags.

**Grizzly Island:** Contractors are continuing to conduct weed control discing for the upland pollinator project and DFW is still planning to plant in the fall. Dredge spoils from last year's work activity have been used to raise the Montezuma levee. Phase II of the dredging project is set to commence when the dredge window opens August 1<sup>st</sup>. The third and final year of dirt work in Pond 12 is currently occurring, with internal levees being repaired and swales being created. Summer field work continues at the Wildlife Area. DFW crew has been mowing levees, conducting ditch cleaning, and discing the upland fields. Rabbit hunting and dog training on the Wildlife Area opened on the first of July, and a few hunters have shown over the past week. Most water has been pulled from the Wildlife Area at this point, and we hope to get equipment into dry ponds soon. We're leaving Crescent Family Unit, the 16 ponds, and ponds 3, 5, and 6 flooded until next spring. We also have our two reverse cycle brood ponds flooded and have been seeing a good number of waterfowl broods, mostly Gadwall.

There have been more staff hired to handle nutria detections in the Marsh. As of this morning, 20 animals had been captured. Private landowners are being contacted to provide access and please let the nutria crew know if you observe on your property.

**Island Slough:** The contract to repair and upgrade the Island Slough fishing pier has been signed. The project will include a new ADA parking spot and ramp that comply with ADA standards.

**Joice Island:** USACE is issuing a provisional letter for the Joice Island bridge repair project, to be approved when the consultation with the Regional Water Quality Control Board is complete. The bidding period will open on July 27<sup>th</sup> and the proposed award

date and start date will be September 2023.

**6. Department of Water Resources Report** ~ Mr. Jamel Stewart presented the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of June, there were no salinity standards in the Marsh. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 0.6 to 2.1 mS/cm. At the end of June, net Delta outflow was 39,319 cfs. As of July 9<sup>th</sup>, salinities ranged from 1.1 to 7.1 mS/cm with no salinity standards. Delta outflow was 7,720 cfs.

The Roaring River Distribution System annual maintenance was completed on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Levees continue to be monitored with extreme tides events. A levee inspection and environmental surveys were completed on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Both drains were opened on June 5<sup>th</sup> and will remain open until water levels recede.

The Morrow Island Distribution System routine maintenance and levee repairs will begin by the week of June 14<sup>th</sup> and was scheduled for completion on July 11<sup>th</sup>. DWR staff conducted a site visit on June 13<sup>th</sup> to mark erosion areas and conduct environmental surveys. DWR continues working with Union Pacific Railroad and landowners to address Morrow Lane Road maintenance needs. The Ibis sonde was pulled on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) maintenance will occur later in the summer. DWR is planning to dredge in front of the intakes, remove sediment from the pipes, and clear ditches to reduce sediment build up. Monthly debris removal was removed on June 20-21, and levees continued to be monitored. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates flashboards were removed on June 11<sup>th</sup> and will be installed on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Gate 1 remains out for refurbishment. It will be swapped with Gate 2 from November 8-17. The Montezuma Day Use area was visited a few times, and no maintenance was needed. Discussion ensued.

California reservoir capacity in June ranged from 58-98% in the northern Sierra and in the southern Sierra 75-100%. 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. The SMPA draft remains in review. 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 contract review.

- b) 2023 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update for the PAI Program. The second round of the 2023 projects were received by SRCD on June 30<sup>th</sup> and reviewed by the Technical Review Panel on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The technical review panel recommended 8 of the projects for DWR for approval while 3 were requested to provide more information.
- 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 June 8<sup>th</sup>, and the Applicant's Compliance Team meetings will now be the month before the ECAT meetings.
- 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 monthly June package approved in July. The 2023 LOP dredging permit applications resulted in 15 applications and ~50,000 cys of dredging proposed. The Marsh Development Permit was submitted to BCDC for dredging and a separate BCDC permit for all fish screens sites will be submitted this summer. Also, the State Lands Commission 10-year dredging lease is expiring, and SRCD has begun the renewal process.
- e) Potrero Hills Landfill (PHLF)– Phase 2 Expansion Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update on the Potrero Hills Landfill Phase 2 expansion. Before the last Board meeting, SRCD received a Memo from the PHLF stating that the expansion of the PHLF into Phase II has been initiated. SRCD met with legal counsel to review the Memo, the 2006 Settlement Agreement, and the PHLF expansion and permitting process. Mr. Chappell met with Solano County Local Enforcement Agents on July 5<sup>th</sup> to understand the PHLF's reporting process and disposal reporting. The County uses this disposal schedule for the County tipping fee collection. Mr. Chappell was provided with a RWQCB staff contact for landfill and has a meeting scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss landfill liner placement and expansion grading. HDR Engineering has been recommended to assist in technical reporting reviews. Initial tipping fees are proposed to be 6% of the current placement cell and 100% in future Phase 2 expansions. Discussion ensued.
- f) Water Manager (WM) Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Water Manager program update. The Water Managers assisted landowners in preparation of PAI grant application deadline. They tended to SRCD's portable pumps on several clubs, and fiscal year end bills were prepared for all outstanding pumping jobs. At the end of June, we hosted a 2-week internship with a high school senior interested in wildlife conservation who is a son of one of the members of a Club in

the Marsh. He had experienced several different tasks working with the Water Managers and assisting in ongoing ecology projects in Suisun Marsh.

The Water Managers assisted on the Lower Joice Island pontoon boat and caretaker boat repairs. The SRCD boom truck repairs are completed, including a 4-year certification, and Cal-OSHA signed off on it for use. We plan to use it for summer fish screen maintenance in the next few weeks.

A lot of time was spent preparing bills for the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Collins continued assisting Ms. Perez in tracking grant hours, working on grant reports, assisting in preparing several grant invoices, and updating the landowner database. Ms. Collins has completed 36 Individual Management Plan updates, Geomark coverage updates for those plans, converting all club maps from ArcMap to ArcPro, and a final amendment to BCDC. Ms. Collins and Mr. Takekawa continued work with semimonthly meetings with DWR's Brett Harvey on fish biomass and wetland drains in Suisun Marsh, and she met with Mr. Edmunds and Mr. Takekawa on drone mapping.

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Takekawa and Mr. Chappell had a call with WRA on future restoration work at Chipps Island. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Takekawa met with Steve Andrews and Scott Burdick at RMA to discuss our Delta Conservancy drainage improvement project. He also met with Robert Eddings to discuss their Phragmites treatment and monitoring, and we had an update meeting with DWR FRPA. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Collins and Mr. Takekawa worked with Charles Fox on website updates. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa attended a review discussion of the USGS AIMS program. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mr. Takekawa conducted a job walk on Mein's Landing. He also met with a research team to complete a draft pre-proposal examining ecosystem services values of blue carbon and zooplankton production with increasing salinity conditions – Ms. Collins is preparing the budgets so we can submit the pre-proposal by early next week.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, SRCD staff attended CPR and First Aid refresher training. Also, on the evening of June 27<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Takekawa presented an online talk about waterfowl and avian influenza for the China Wildlife Disease Network conference.

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Edmunds and Ms. Guzman fixed a leaking hose on the boom truck. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a lunch for Mr. Hagani prior to his last week at SRCD ending July 7<sup>th</sup>. On July 7<sup>th</sup>, we had a meeting of the blue carbon project team to discuss coordination of sampling. On July 10<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Edmunds and Ms. Guzman completed an RTK elevation survey of a drainage pipe for a PAI project. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Taylor arranged for the servicing of all the fire extinguishers at the office and Lower Joice. Ms. Guzman completed a draft of the quarterly newsletter which

will be edited for mailing next week. Also on July 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Takekawa hosted the second PAI panel review to discuss 9 projects. The reviews were completed, and the recommendations were disseminated to the participating landowners.

- g) 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 trailered his boat to the main office and conducted maintenance including a 300-h service of his 60 hp outboard and bottom hull scraping and painting of his tracker boat with assistance from Mr. Chappell, the Water Managers, and our intern. He scheduled a welder to repair damage to the aluminum hull of the boat which was completed on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mouton also loaded and hauled 5 drums of diesel to the island for summer fieldwork, and he completed a final leach cycle for the year. He helped to troubleshoot a fuel leak in the Massey-Ferguson tractor, and he worked with mechanic Eric Wylie to order parts to complete the repair later this week.
- h) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell is expecting the Individual Management Plan updates to be approved by BCDC. The Fun Shoot will be held at Bird's Landing on Friday, July 28th.

**8). Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~**

- a) Agency Committee ~ No report.
- b) Legal Committee ~ We are working with Counsel Nick Jacobs on PHLF agreement, and we have a closed session to follow this meeting.
- c) Personnel Committee ~ No report.
- d) Finance Committee ~ No report.
- e) Associate Directors Committee ~ No report.

**9. Closed Session ~**

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) significant exposure to litigation: 1 case(s)

**10. Reconvene** ~ Report of Action from Closed Session (if applicable). Nothing to report except thanking Deputy Counsel Megan Callaway for her legal assistance.

**11. Meeting Adjournment** ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hansen, all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.