

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tony Vaccarella
Terry Connolly
Mike Lewis
Jim Waters

OTHERS PRESENT: Laureen Barthman-Thompson, DFW
Dennis Becker, SRCD Assoc. Director
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Robin Cheng, DWR
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
John Eudy, SRCD Assoc. Director
Marina Guzman, SRCD
Kelli Perez, SRCD
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Dajanae Stitts DFW
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 2:00 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ There were no public comments.

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

a) Approval of the January 11, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Vaccarella asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2023, Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Waters; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for January 2023 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the January 2023 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$67,810.02. Most of these claims were normal SRCD operational expenses with claim #100 to WRA for the mouse studies grant, which is reimbursable. Mr. Chappell reported the January 2023 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$7,575.14. All expenses were normal LJI operational expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the January 2023 Water Managers Program Department of the General Fund vendor claims totaled \$24,595.74. Claims were normal operational expenses. Mr. Connolly moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, Mr. Waters seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

b) Fiscal Year 22-23 ~ 1st Quarter Budget Summary ~ Mr. Chappell presented the budget summary expenses for the first 25% of SRCD's current fiscal year. For Lower Joice Island, salaries were at 19% of the budget and supplies were at 20%, and the hunt least was paid in advance of the hunting season under revenues. The Water Manager program salaries were at 18% with services and supplies at 22% of projected budget. The reimbursable NFWF, Mein's Landing Support, Fish Screen, and DWR FRPA grant expenses and revenues were reviewed. For the SRCD General fund Salaries were at 22% with office operational expenses at 14% of projected budget. The portable pump program expenses include fuel expenses and inventory that will be reimbursed by landowner when used.

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

Joice Island Pig Hunt - Pig Hunt applications close February 14th at 16:00PM. After last year's successful hunt program, this year pig hunts will run from the first weekend in March through the last weekend in May, affording 52 hunters the opportunity to harvest pigs.

Wildlife Area - The crew is servicing equipment in anticipation for the upcoming field season. Wild mustard and radish are already starting to bloom, staff will be preparing to do some vegetation management, spraying thistle, and clearing water control structures. Our phragmites control project will continue this year with some slight modifications. We

anticipate conducting spring burns on phragmites and mowing dead stands from previous treatments. With many of our old and failing water control structures replaced this past summer, we are hopeful to get equipment into ponds that have been wet the last few years to do some much needed mowing. Last week we got seed delivered for our upland native grass planting project, so we are on track to plant soon.

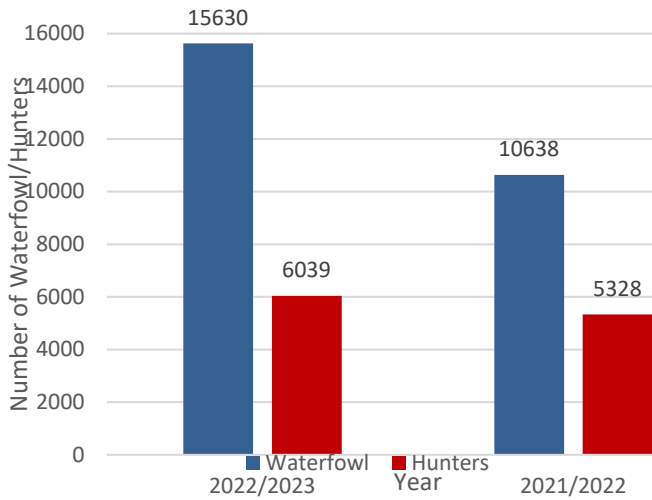
Closures and Levee Issues - During the last Board meeting, several of our hunt units were closed to address exterior levee overtopping. We were able to reopen Grizzly Island Unit on 1/13 after a week of being closed (208 hunters, 899 ducks, 4.32 avg.). We had anticipated the other areas remaining closed, but fortunately we were able to reopen the West Family Unit (4 hunters, 15 ducks, 3.75 avg) and Joice Island for the last weekend of the general season (14 hunters, 32 ducks, 2.29 avg.). We deployed additional sandbags and plastic at Goodyear Slough to address critical low spots, but high-water levels forced us to keep the area closed throughout the end of the season.

Ducks - Overall, we had one of the best waterfowl seasons here that we've had in a long time. 5,000 more ducks were harvested this year compared to last, with an uptick of 700 waterfowl hunters. Species composition of the 5 most harvested duck species remained the same as last year, with Northern Shoveler (5249) as the most harvested duck, followed by American Wigeon (3855), Green-winged Teal (2678), Northern Pintail (753, exact same amount as 21/22), and Bufflehead (731). The average waterfowl per hunter was 2.59, higher than we've seen here in over two decades. Pheasant harvest was comparable to last year with 14 wild birds and 49 planted birds taken. We saw a decrease in the number of pheasant hunters, from 57 last year to 38 this year.

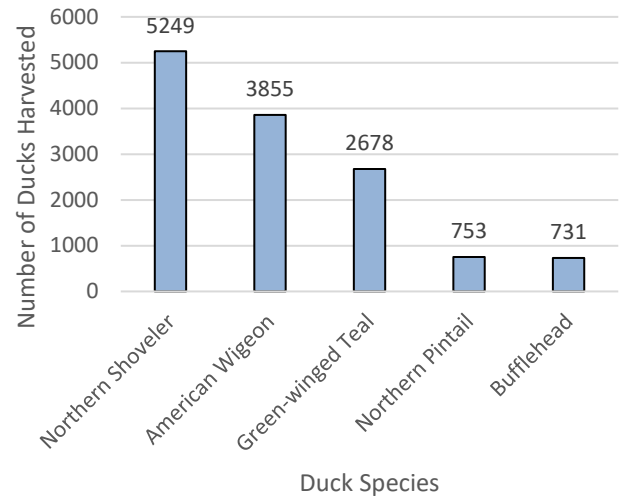
2022/2023

Date	# of jr. hunters	# of ducks	Waterfowl Average	#1 Species	#2 Species
4-Feb	33	68	2.09	AMWI	AGWT
5-Feb	14	22	1.57	NSHO	AGWT
2021/2022					
Date	# of jr. hunters	# of ducks	Waterfowl Average	#1 Species	#2 Species
5-Feb	13	14	1.08	AMWI	NOPI
6-Feb	10	16	1.6	NSHO	AMWI

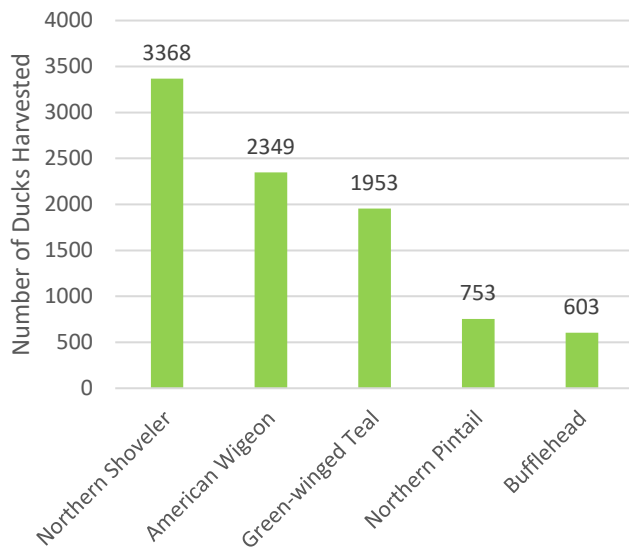
GIWA Waterfowl Season Comparison 2021/2022 vs 2022/2023



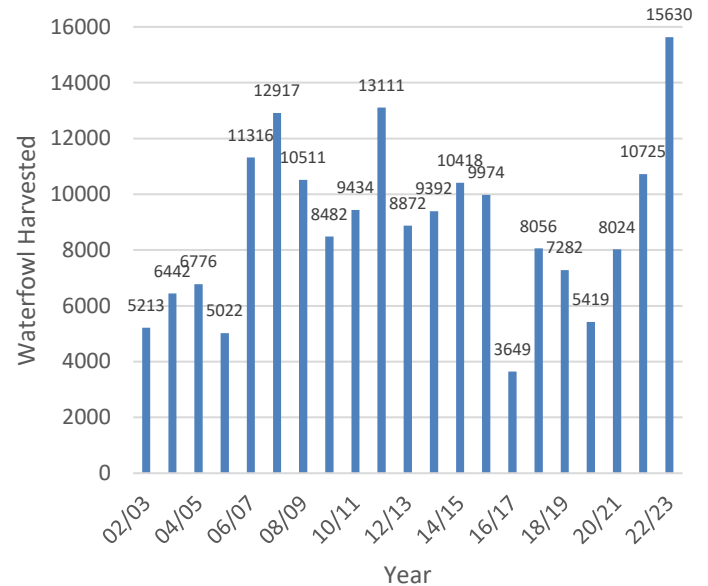
Top 5 Duck Species Harvested 2022/2023

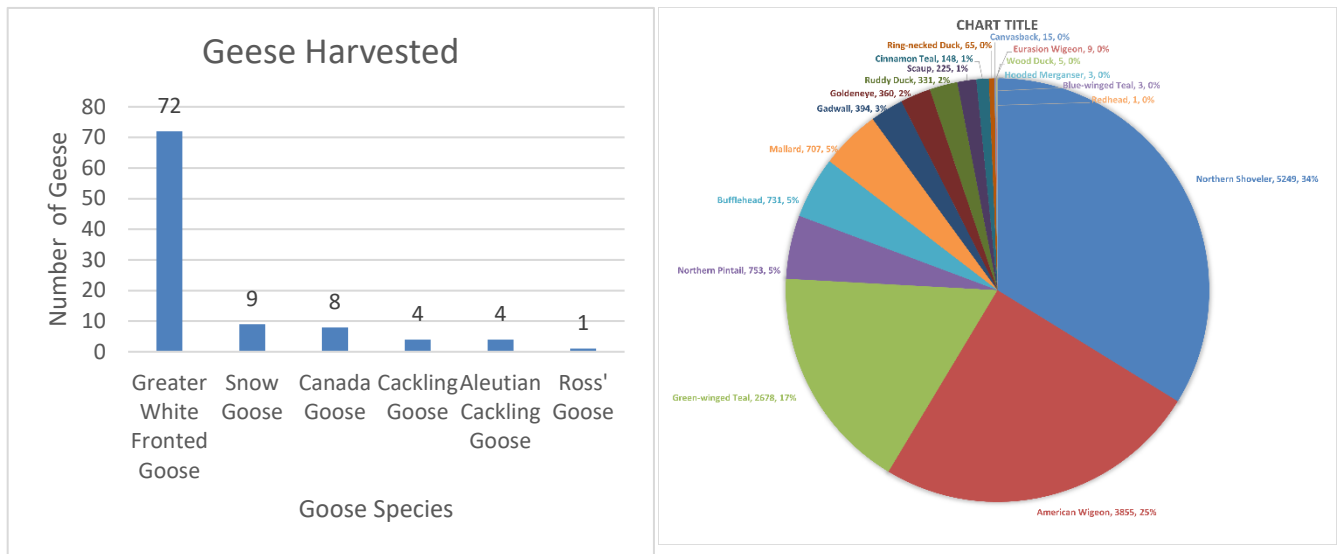


Top 5 Duck Species Harvested 2021/2022



Waterfowl Harvested





6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Robin Cheng provided the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of January, the salinity standards were 12.5 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 0.2 to 5.0 mS/cm. At the end of January, net Delta outflow was 98,277 cfs. As of February 5th, salinities ranged from 0.3 to 5.4 mS/cm with a salinity standard of 8.0 (east) to 15.6 mS/cm (west). Delta outflow was reduced to 21,126 cfs.

The Roaring River Distribution System conducted emergency repairs in response to levee erosion and overtopping. A separate report was provided on the flood fighting work completed by DWR. DWR submitted an RGP 3 application for routine operations and repair work. 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. Goodyear Slough Outfall routine maintenance 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 were suspended on January 5th due to high stage and low salinity conditions, and Gate 1 remains out for refurbishment. There is no drought trigger value for January, and the only exceedance was from October 2022.

California reservoir capacity ranged from 26-73% in the northern Sierra and in the southern Sierra 47-101%. Most reservoirs remained below historical averages in

December. Precipitation year to date was 134% of normal in the northern Sierra and 165% 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. 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, the last on January 9th, 20th, and February 1st. All writing assignments are complete and there is a final draft being prepared for review. This may lead to a recommendation for amend the Agreement.
- b) 2023 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update for the PAI Program. He provided a summary of the funds left in the grant program. There have been 162 PAI projects completed in the 8 years of the program. The 2023 program announcement was sent out on February 7th. Two projects from the 2022 PAI program have yet to be submitted for reimbursement, since the projects were completed late in the year. There should be 1-2 more years of funding for the 75-25 and 50-50 programs, but there are more funds in the Joint Use program. It may be reasonable to combine these two funds if an amendment of the SMPA Agreement occurs.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. We are on task for the plan milestones. The Principal's meeting call is tomorrow, and John will be attending the AMAT meeting on the 14th.
- d) USACE Permits – RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ SRCD continued to administer the RGP 3 permit in January. The 5-year USACE permit was renewed on January 27th, with the RWQCB 401 certification, and BCDC consistency determination completed earlier in the month. The 10-year LOP Dredging Permit expires at the end of the 2024 works season. A permit renewal will be drafted at the end of this year. We have set up a meeting with BCDC to discuss timing of the 2023 LOP program and permit application procedures.
- e) Water Manager (WM) Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Water Manager program update. The Water Managers worked on initiating 2023 permits and notifications. Mr. Taylor distributed the new RGP 3 permit and BCDC determination to landowners along with invoices. On January 24th, Mr. Taylor worked with Ms. Collins to complete a required GIS map of the 2022 dredging work that was completed and sent to BCDC. Ms. Collins and the Water Managers completed preparation of 2021 and 2022 IMP Geomorph updates, and the Water Managers assisted landowners with diversion reporting that was due on February 1st. Water Managers began to meet with

landowners to discuss salinity and this year's water management. They also worked on ordering repair parts for the 2023 pumping season. All staff assisted landowners by responding to flood fighting calls. Mr. Taylor completed a gate monitoring schedule and recruited observers to accompany the boat drivers. Mr. Edmunds worked on organizing the chemical shed and spray equipment, and Ms. Guzman continued working on organizing the paperwork in our library shed.

Mr. Hagani and Ms. Collins successfully converted all club maps from ArcMap to ArcPro for recording future work. Ms. Collins worked on preparing the first annual update to the new IMPs for BCD. The SRCD drone team of Mr. Edmunds, Ms. Collins, Mr. Hagani, and Mr. Takekawa met a few times in January to develop a plan for spray drone and survey drone training and development this year. Mr. Hagani also prepared the final draft of a Phragmites remote sensing paper for submittal to a scientific journal.

On January 12th, Ms. Guzman completed the publication of the quarterly newsletter and sent it out to the distribution list. Mr. Hagani, Mr. Chappell, and Mr. Takekawa used the gate boat to inspect the Wings Landing levee for DWR. The repair work from last summer appeared to be in very good shape. Ms. Collins, Ms. Guzman, and Mr. Takekawa worked with our webmaster Charles Fox on updating the SRCD website served on GoDaddy, the WordPress update caused the website to crash on February 1st, but Mr. Fox was able to move it to his server to restore it to functioning. We're continuing to work on restoring the website.

On January 17th, Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa met with FRPA to discuss upcoming work. Besides property inspections, we agreed to begin Chipps Island levee herbicide treatment, which will be led by Mr. Edmunds. On January 18th, Mr. Hagani, Ms. Collins, and Mr. Takekawa attended the monthly DSC Phragmites team meeting. On January 20th, Mr. Takekawa requested applications for SRCD pre-qualified vendors on our website and in the Daily Republic with a due date of February 15th.

On January 20th and 23rd, Mr. Hagani and Mr. Takekawa inspected sections of the Tule Red levee for DWR following high tides. On January 30th, Mr. Hagani and Mr. Takekawa met with the core SMHM team to discuss the final Phase I report which was submitted and accepted – we continue to work on the Phase 2 range wide survey and are receiving a new grant genetic work for Phase 3. On February 1st, Mr. Hagani and Mr. Takekawa met with USGS biologists (S. De La Cruz and L. Hall) to discuss statistical analyses for SMHM habitat selection. On January 23rd and February 1st and 6th, Mr. Takekawa attended meetings of the CVJV science team to help organize the CVJV Science Meeting scheduled for Pete Smith's warehouse on May 9-10.

On January 27th, Mr. Edmunds and Mr. Takekawa boated to Chipps Island and looked over the project site for applying herbicide to suppress vegetation on recently cleared

levees. Also, on the 27th, Mr. Takekawa met with Wells Fargo bank specialist to establish a new credit card account to replace BOA. On January 30th, Mr. Takekawa reviewed the 2023 PAI program with all involved staff and prepared the letter and application for release on February 7th. On February 2nd, we held our annual SRCD holiday staff luncheon, and on February 3rd, Ms. Collins, Mr. Chappell, and Mr. Takekawa met with Randy Mager, DWR at Meins Landing to discuss 2023 work and an interim management plan.

- 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 conducted regular levee surveys after each high tide series and found no evidence of problems with only minor overtopping. USGS began conducting fieldwork on January 23rd and continued with fieldwork on February 1-3 and February 6-8. Mr. Mouton provided the LJI hunting records for 2022-2023, and Mr. Taylor entered them into a spreadsheet. For 2022-2023, the LJI club harvested 643 ducks over 190 hunter days, for an average of 3.38 ducks per hunter day. The bag included 296 teal, 225 spoonies, 58 wigeon, 23 sprig, and 21 mallards with 2/3rds taken in the north unit. Looking over the records since 2001, the 643 birds harvest exceeded the 15-year average of 514 birds. This was the fifth highest total at the club. It was the largest number harvested since 2012, the highest number of spoonies harvested, and the largest number of teal since 2008. However, it was the lowest recorded number of mallards and the lowest number of sprig since 2004.
 - g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported on he and Mr. Waters attended the Delta Conservancy Board meeting on January 25th. Yesterday, Mr. Chappell attended the Fairfield Suisun Sewer District and the Pacific Flyway meeting and discussed that use of purple water would not be economically feasible. 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. Mr. Chappell proposed instituting a monthly associate director call which we propose to try as a 6-month pilot. Discussion ensued.
- 9. Adjourn** ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Waters and seconded by Mr. Connolly, all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:59 PM.

