

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District

Board of Director's Meeting

April 20, 2017

- CALL TO ORDER** President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 11:08 p.m. Meeting held at the USDA Stockton Service Center- 7585 S. Longe Street, Stockton, CA 95206
- ATTENDANCE** Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Molly Watkins, John Thoming, Jack Hamm, Diego Olagaray, Bill Koster, Phil Balmat, Ora Van Steyn (NRCS), Mike Wackman, Ruth Mulrooney, Jennifer Spaletta (Counsel). Guests present, John Cain (American Rivers), Julianne Phillips (SJCFB).
- PUBLIC COMMENTS** No Public Comments at this time.
- MEETING AGENDA** Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from the March 16, 2017 meeting with the correction to add additional names to the attendance list made by Mr. Koster, second by Mr. Olagaray. Motion passed unanimously. Also, to accept the written Agenda for the meeting today, April 20, 2017 made by Mr. Hamm, second by Ms. Watkins. Motion passed unanimously.
- DISCUSSION ITEMS** No items at this time.
- TREASURER'S REPORT** Income and bills to be paid for both the RCD and Coalition were presented, along with current financial reports. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay all late bills presented at meeting in the Supplemental Packet including the \$300 CARCD Annual Membership invoice, made by Mr. Koster, second Mr. Hamm. Motion approved unanimously.
- NRCS UPDATE** Ora Van Steyn reported that there is one Batching Period left. There is currently \$3.5 million in contracts this year. Total of 70 contracts. The Farm Bill Assistant Vicky Pierini is doing well. The USDA is continuing the hiring freeze.
- RESOURCES** Farm Bureau report- Coffee Shop talks have started and will be hitting on major issues with staff and their annual meeting that will be held on May 12th at the Farm Center.
- Ag Commissioner- Mr. Pelican reported that San Joaquin County has been declared a Federal Disaster for Crops. He needs growers to report their losses to his office.
- CRAE Report- Karen Ross attended the last meeting. Topics included Regulations chasing farmers, water labor expectations from farmers, and drinking water. A motion to pay for next month's CRAE Meeting lunch that will be held at the Farm Bureau for up to \$20 per person, made by Mr. Hamm, second by Mr. Koster, motion passed unanimously.
- The RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator reported that she has been working on monthly duties. An Excel spreadsheet of available funds for all NRCS Agreements and monthly standings are attached in the meeting packet for monthly review.
- GRANT UPDATES** Ceres Imaging workshop for growers and interested parties was held this morning at the SJC Farm Bureau. All other grant updates were discussed in New Business below.
- NEW BUSINESS** John Cain reviewed attached Memo presented to the Board. Documents on Easements were reviewed and Easements Documentation are available upon request for the existing agriculture use on the properties and allow habitat to remain consistent. John Cain will be preparing a Funds Memo to pay an indirect cost for administrative duties and the RCD.

A motion to approve the Planning Grant Agreement for the Paradise Cut Project in the amount of \$99,924.00 with the Delta Conservancy made by Mr. Koster, and second by Mr. Olagaray. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the ESA agreement- subject to Legal Counsel and Director Balmat edits for payment based on receiving grant funds, subcontractors, changing the project contact to Director Phil Balmat, the contract shall not be delivered to ESA until there is a separate contract from American Rivers for 15% administrative costs, plus hourly administrative costs, and the ability to terminate the ESA contract if the SJCRCD does not receive payment under the American Rivers Agreement made by, Mr. Olagaray, second by Mr. Hamm. Motion passed unanimously.

IRRIGATED LANDS

Coalition financials were reviewed. A motion to approve monthly financials from the Supplemental packet provided at the meeting made by Mr. Koster second Mr. Olagaray, and passed unanimously. Mr. Wackman presented the Board with a Draft Budget for next year with explanations for each category as to why the budget is lower this next fiscal year.

Discussion of the annual water rate for the coming year, and a recommendation from the Steering Committee to come down \$1.00 from last year. A motion to accept Revenue portion of the budget as presented for the 2017-2018 budget year with a minimum fee of \$50, and \$4.00 per acre made by Mr. Olagaray, second by Mr. Koster. Motion passed unanimously.

Recap of the Steering Committee Meeting and the new Member Portal that will soon be available to growers. All information on this database will be owned by the SJCRCD and not shared with any other entities. A motion to accept recommendation of Steering Committee Portal made by Mr. Hamm, second by Mr. Koster. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership report was given by Ruth Mulrooney. A motion to accept a website based payment option for Growers for a charge of 3% per transaction, and to pay the \$9.95 monthly administrative fee, made by Mr. Thoming, and second by Mr. Olagaray. Motion passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Board entered into Closed Session at 12:23, and entered back into Open Session at 1:00 pm. No reportable action at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communications at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2017 at the Stockton Service Center- NRCS, 7585 S. Longe Street, Stockton, CA. Adjourn meeting at 2:23 p.m. Motion by Mr. Hamm, second by Mr. Koster, Motion Passed unanimously.