

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**REGULAR MEETING**

USDA Stockton Service Center – NRCS  
7585 S. Longe Street, Stockton CA 95206  
**Thursday, September 20, 2018, 12:05**

**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm.

**ATTENDANCE**

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, Molly Watkins, John Herrick, Marden Wilber, Ruth Mulrooney (Coalition), Ora Van Steyn (NRCS), Mike Wackman (Coalition), Bill Koster, John Thoming, Alma Alvarez (SJCRCD).

**MEETING AGENDA**

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from the August 16, 2018, and the Agenda for September 20, 2018 with the correction of changing Mr. Watkins to Ms. Watkins, made by Ms. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Koster. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

All bills received for the month were presented. A motion to pay all invoices presented in the meeting packet and supplemental packet, with an updated excel financial sheet handed out with current debit and checks for payment this month, made by Mr. Koster and seconded by Mr. Herrick. Motion passed.

**IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM**

- A. Financial Report** – Monthly financial statements were reviewed from the board meeting packet. Mr. Wackman reported that the RCD overhead fees will be transferred to reflect on next month's financial statement. Mrs. Mulrooney reported that on a double payment that will be returned to a coalition member. There were \$42k gained on memberships, and are still currently collecting yearly dues. Additional late bills were presented in the Supplemental Packet. Michael L Johnson has changed their company name to Michael L Johnson Environmental, and will be billed under this new name. Motion to approve and file all monthly financials with additional deals presented, made by Mr. Koster, second by Mr. Wilber. Motion passed unanimously.

**B. Steering Committee**

Mr. Wackman reported that testing mostly clean; everything running smoothly. Michael L Johnson Environmental will have Norman Nursery assist with testing and bring it into the coalition. Additional information regarding the Regional Board and ESJ standings. The Coalition has filed to be a petitioner and legal counsel will be intervening on behalf of the water board.

**C. Membership Report**

Mrs. Mulrooney reported on September 12<sup>th</sup>, Regional Water Board mailed out close to 300 certified letters to growers in our coalition. They were notices of violation letters for not having filed a 2017 Farm Evaluation / Nitrogen management summary report. 14 days to respond; high phone call volume. May have more time to file if they are provided an updated list and recap of the outreach effort.

**D. Program Report** – Program managers report is attached in the supplemental packet for directors’ review. Mr. Wackman reported having discussions with regional board to have Santa Rosa control plan for E. Coli.

**E. Sediment Erosion Control Plan** – No comments

**F. Regional Monitoring Program**

Mr. Wackman has a meeting next week. TAC meeting with pesticides monitoring program coming up. New order. Timeline to be adopted in the first part of February

- 2019: Well testing portion
- 2020: Reporting portion

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Rodriguez reported that the District Administrative Secretary gave her notice of resignation. Mr. Rodriguez has directed staff to work out a draft of activities to re-hire for the open position.

**A. NACD Grant**

Ms. Van Steyn reported, Alma is working on the NACD grant. She has been assigned several contracts (9 contracts), mainly with NAQI contracts (Truck replacement); has done training, assisted in other duties. Molly, Ora and Alma will go to Bay Area Delta meeting October 3rd. Ms. Alvarez presented her status report for the month. Assisted with conservation planning, mainly with the NAQI program. Mailed 38 invitations for the Speak-Off contest to local high schools. Got 1 application from a student at St. Mary’s high school, Mishall Khamisa. She will be attending at 2:00PM, right after the meeting. Attended and assisted the NRCS staff with the Warm Cover Crop season field day at the Plant Material Center. LMWSSC meeting minutes copies included with the supplemental packet. New grant opportunities are being researched and ideas were presented at the meeting. Status report and grant opportunities included with the supplemental packet. Review of Mission Statements and Long Range Plans from different Resource Conservation Districts. Summary in the status report for the board to review.

**B. Paradise Cut**

Mr. Balmat updated the status of being unable to negotiate with the property with regards to the acquisition of a flood and habitat easements. The deal is dead. Drafted a letter to withdraw from the Acquisition grant. Will continue to work on Phase II of the Planning grant.

Planning Grant (Phase II):

- Public Support
- Bathymetry (Chronological comparison analysis of river depth differences)

Motion to withdraw from the acquisition grant and send letter of withdraw made by Mr. Herrick, second by Ms. Watkins. Motion passed unanimously.

**C. DWR Grant** – Quarterly Reports are being worked on for the second flying season for reimbursements.

### **NRCS UPDATE**

Ms. Van Steyn reported on new employee Lisa Harper, Senior Planner, started to work at the office. There is also a new soil conservationist position open. Fiscal year 2018 ends at the end of the month. Completed 127 contracts totaling 6.8 million. A new ranking system will be used. The new ranking system will utilize GIS and other technologies to identify resource concerns and attempt to facilitate the work. Big push to spend money quickly. System scheduled for February 2019. Concerns with delays in establishing eligibility with the FSA. Agency changes: FPAC is consolidating NRCS processes and admin personnel with FSA and RMA.

### **RESOURCES**

**A. Ag Commissioner's Report** – No report

**B. San Joaquin Farm Bureau Report** – No report

**C. CRAE Report**

Ms. Watkins reported that CRAE is trying to do a statewide program with easements. Kern county has no easements. It is the number one Ag county followed by Tulare county.

- The almond commission reported that they have four goals:
  1. Improve water used by 20%
  2. Increase pest management
  3. Figure out how to use 100% of the product
  4. Reduce all dust in orchards by 50%
- The almond commission gave funds to the rice industry to support a research project involving the feeding and protection of salmon in fields close to the waterways.
- The CA Water Action Collaborative (CWAC) meeting will be held in several places including Fresno and Modesto, CA.
- The almond commission is going to host them on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Watkins plans to attend.

**D. RCD Administrator** – No report

**COMMUNICATIONS** – All communications were placed on the meeting table. Mail communications included application referrals.

Mr. Koster reported the realignment of Little John's creek, to physically relocate it. Never placed any letter of opposition to it, but might be of concern.

**CLOSED SESSION** – No closed session

**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn the Board Meeting of September 20, 2018 at 1:30 pm, made by Mr. Herrick and second by Mr. Wilber. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for October 18, 2018, 12:00PM at the USDA Stockton Service Center 7585 S. Longe Street, Stockton, CA 95206