

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING**

USDA Stockton Service Center
7585 S. Longe Street, Stockton, CA 95206
Thursday, August 17, 2017, 12:00 am– 2:00 pm

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:14 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Board present include Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, John Thoming, Jack Hamm, Diego Olagaray, Molly Watkins, Marden Wilber, Julianne Phillips (SJFB), Ora Van Steyn (NRCS), Ruth Mulrooney (Coalition), Mike Wackman (Coalition), Shasta Burns (SJCRCDD).

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from the July 20, 2017 Board Meeting, and the Agenda for the August 17, 2017 with the correction of the additional agenda item under New Business adding A. Twin Tunnels, Regular Board Meeting, made by Mr. Hamm, second Mr. Thoming. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A presentation of all bills received for the month. A motion to pay all invoices presented in the meeting packet and supplemental packet made by Mr. Thoming, second by Mr. Balmat. Motion passed unanimously.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report** – A motion to receive and file all invoices for the month, with an addition of a Spaletta Law bill, retainer fee for Sarah Lucchetti's insurance, and additional reimbursement for Sediment Erosion Control Binders for growers purchased at Staples made by Mr. Olagaray, second by Mr. Hamm. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Wackman reviewed Irrigated Lands Financial Statement and income received from Membership income including the BAC Debit Account. Internet issues at the Coalition office due to the growth of recent data added to the system. New internet options are being discussed. A motion to approve Mr. Wackman to move forward in researching and signing a contract for internet services at the Coalition Office with an amount not to exceed \$1500.00 made by Mr. Balmat, second by Mr. Wilber. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Steering Committee** – Lightly attended August meeting. A review of new testing being done. Meeting minutes presented by Ms. Mulrooney. Mill tax for fertilizers for CV Salts explained. Money collected would go to communities with nitrate issues. The State Water Board will hold all the funds, and explained potential programs that this money will go towards. Informational item only.
- C. Membership Report** – Ms. Mulrooney reported Regional Water Board of a list of growers that have not filled out a Farm Evaluation this year or last year. Member portal will be live in the next week. Ability to check membership and items that are missing. Access information will be directly mailed to the grower.

- D.** Program Report – No huge problems at this time. No exceedances lately. Waiting for the launch of the portal. Changes are being made to make it more grower and user friendly. Will be up and running by the time grower meetings are held. New water testing will start in the coming months.
- E.** Sediment Erosion Control Plan – Sarah L. is just about finished helping growers.
- F.** Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman reviewed current monitoring. Certified letters are being sent out by the Regional Board. Efforts to help growers with emails and phone calls are done by the Coalition office. Growers are stopping in the office for help with paperwork.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Twin Tunnels – Postponed until September meeting.
- B.** Paradise Cut – Mr. Balmat reviewed an email update from John Cain on the latest agreements and discussions with the landowners on the Borges/Machado property. Having a hard time coming up with an appraised value that the landowners think is appropriate. Central Valley Farmland Trust, American Rivers, and the owner of the existing agricultural conservation easement, have preliminarily agreed to convene and independent evaluation of the acquisition. Meeting will happen on August 22, 2017. The ESA Contract was approved in prior meetings upon approval from General Counsel. ESA contract can be signed and finalized.
- C.** DWR Grant- Official grant has been signed and a physical copy has been sent to the Department of Water Resources for final execution. Moving forward after executed, invoicing to growers will be sent.
- D. SWEEP** – Ms. Burns has been staying current on recent webinars and special conference calls taking place. Proof of insurance has been sent, and now waiting on landowners to finish projects.

NRCS UPDATE

- A.** EQIP – Good EQIP year. Almost to \$6 million dollars in EQIP money for the year so far. Irrigation systems, cover crop, rangeland, and air quality projects have been funded so far.
- B.** Personnel – Still on a global hiring freeze and operating on 77% and will remain on a freeze for the months to come. USDA does have the ability to hire student interns. Review of

RESOURCES

- A.** Ag Commissioner's Report – n/a
- B.** San Joaquin Farm Bureau Report – Cannabis report from Ms. Phillips, along with water issues in Southern California.
- C.** CRAE Report – Ms. Watkins reported on meeting held in Sacramento. Roundtable ideas from the meeting were discussed. A letter was written to understand that the Farm Bill is important to California. Idea of the letter is to give some background of what is the Farm Bill.
- D.** RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator Report – Ms. Burns reported that there will be a meeting on August 18th.

COMMUNICATIONS – No communications at this time.

CLOSED SESSION

Entered into closed session at 1:55 pm and came out of Closed Session at 2:00 pm.

A motion that Sarah Lucchetti be paid \$75 an hour for time and preparation for SECP self-certification classes and presentation classes. Retroactive to August 1, 2017 made by Mr. Balmat, second by Mr. Hamm.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the Board Meeting of September 21, 2017 at 2:05 pm, made by Mr. Thoming and second by Mr. Hamm. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 noon Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the USDA Stockton Service Center, 7585 S. Longe Street, Stockton CA 95206.

DRAFT