

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District

Board of Director's Meeting

October 15, 2015

- CALL TO ORDER President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Diego Olagaray, Molly Watkins, Marden Wilber, Phil Balmat, Bill Koster, Jack Hamm, and John Herrick. Staff members and contractors present included Ora VanSteyn (NRCS), Mike Wackman, Ruth Mulrooney, Jonna Spaletta. Guests present included Julianne Phillips (SJFB), Margaret Smither-Kopperl (NRCS Lockeford PMC), Tim Pelican (Ag Commissioner), and Shasta Burns (RCD).
- PUBLIC COMMENTS There were none.
- MEETING AGENDA Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from the September 17, 2015 meeting made by Mr. Koster, second Mr. Wilber, approved unanimously.
- TREASURER'S REPORT Income and bills to be paid for both the RCD and Coalition were presented, along with current financial reports. Accept the Treasurer's report and pay all the bills. Motion by Mr. Koster, second Mr. Hamm, approved unanimously.
- NRCS UPDATE It was reported that the office has \$7 million in EQIP applications, with 158 contracts and stands number 5 in the state. An update on NRCS personnel was provided, noting that there is a new 7-day window for application. This new application period automatically closes after this short window. Meaning inside personnel has had the opportunity to apply, and this position still remains unfilled. Concerns with NRCS' current hiring process were discussed, along with the number of times each job position has been filled. Discussion of a possible letter to be written to the WDC to help out. Margaret Smither-Koppler is grateful for the two staff members at the PMC. Margaret is trying to coordinate a "Soil Health Network" which would coordinate between farmers who are already doing trials and practices. There is funding to hire a part-time coordinator through the ESRCD. The next meeting for this will be held at the beginning of November to further discuss. An invitation has been given to the board to attend the Bay Delta Area Meeting and the SJFB office on October 28, 2015 from 10:00-1:30 p.m.
- RESOURCES The Ag Commissioner's office reported that the annual crop report will be presented to the Board of Supervisor's October 20th. November 3rd Brandon Nakagawa and Tim Pelican will be giving a presentation on Lotus. November 10th will be an Apiary Symposium at the Ag center. Inviting all growers and commissioners. This symposium will be held from 10:00-3:00 p.m. (register on the DPR website). The Governor signing a Bill for medical marijuana was discussed, and CDFA requesting the Ag Commissioner's office to estimate the number of legal growers in the County. The Ag commissioner's office is highly involved in regulating the industry. Stating laws that you cannot have one big "grow." Each plant must be registered and specifically

tagged. Funding will come from the registration of the plants. The foreseen problem will be Recreational Marijuana on the 2016 ballot open for voting. An update on light brown apple moth (LBAM); noting that funding for this program may be cut in the next few months. Lastly, looking at new regulations for pesticides being used around schools. December this will be open for public comment, and regulations may be set into place as soon as July 2016. Regulations may state that there will be no pesticide use within a quarter mile of any public schools. Currently there are 630 schools in San Joaquin County. This regulation will be set within one hour before school hours begin, and able to apply again 2 hours after school has adjourned. Schools may be exempt from county planning.

SJFB reported that the Grower self-certification will start this January with the Coalition. There will be an upcoming informational meeting regarding the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act on November 18, 2015 at Hutchins Street Square in Lodi, 10:00 a.m.

CRAE meeting report from the Sept 29th meeting was not a typical meeting. It was held at UC Davis. Secretary of Agriculture spoke in regards to Ecosystem Services, and the "cap and trade" water implementations that may occur in the future. Karen Sweet spoke about rangeland easements. Lastly, Sierra Nevada Conservancy gave a report and is looking to partner with Agriculture for upcoming projects. There will be another meeting held at the end of the year, location TBA.

The CARCD convention in Yosemite Nov 18th-21st was discussed. Two hotels rooms have been booked for Thursday and Friday night, but conference fees have not yet been paid. Ms. Watkins will be attending this meeting

The RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator reported that the annual RCD audit could now be conducted, but would also serve as a good way to familiarize a new hire with RCD files. A Hydrogel contract the RCD holds with DWR is also being researched. It was noted that the remainder of items pertinent to this report will be discussed throughout the remainder of the meeting topics.

GRANT UPDATES

Grant writing call for proposal December 2, 2015. Sustainable Ag- Farmer and Rancher involvement for \$25k. This would involve anyone interested in studying Farm Stream water by the areas burned upland from the recent Butte Fire

NEW BUSINESS

It was discussed that information/feedback is still pending for both the tunnel acquisition letter and MokeWISE letter of support. Letter was presented at the meeting, board agreed to move forward and send the letter. Motion Mr. Balmat, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously.

MokeWISE- Groundwater Banking Authority- John Herrick will draft a letter based on the GBA for possible funding from the state. (\$820k from the state)

John Brodie will be receiving the Beeler award. This award will be presented at the Christmas meeting. RCD will be working with Kathy Grant who is part of the LMRWSSC in preparing and presenting this award to him.

IRRIGATED LANDS

Coalition financials were reviewed. Approve financials. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously. A review of the Budget to Actuals for the year were reviewed.

A brief steering committee report was provided; it is recommended to the RCD board about the upcoming meetings for the self-certification programs. Dates of these meetings for certification

are 1/7/16, 1/12/16, 1/20/15, 2/11/16. The coalition will not charge growers, and the Ag Commissioners office will be donating the meeting room free of charge, and CURES received a grant to help pay for half of the cost of the trainers. \$ 15k was set aside in the CURES budget to help fund this certification program. Some specifics were explained regarding this Nitrogen Certification- Farmers can only self-certify the property they own and operate, not a neighbor.

COMMUNICATIONS

A membership report was provided. There is a \$77k deficit in member revenues. Also, additional outstanding members that have not yet paid their membership. Ms. Mulrooney will be mailing a pink "past due" post card as a reminder. Also a few memberships were lost due to dairy program. Discussion of MPEP for \$200k-\$300k/year for the next five years, starting in 2016. 3 refund checks will be issued for members that are already apart of the Westside. These checks are being issued so there is no double payment of members. Motion by Mr. Hamm, second by Ms. Watkins. Passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board members retired into closed session to discuss the RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator positions, contracting considerations and financial matters.

Upon adjourning from closed session, the Board approved offering the RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator contracted positions to Shasta Burns at \$40/hr, and to attend meetings as directed. Wendy Grupe's hourly wage is \$25/hr in contract. Motion by Mr. Koster, second Mr. Hamm. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 19th, 2015 at the USDA Stockton Service Center at 12:00 noon. Adjourn meeting at 1:59 p.m. Motion by Mr. Balmat, second by Ms. Watkins. Passed unanimously.