

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District

Board of Director's Meeting

November 19, 2015

- CALL TO ORDER President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Diego Olagaray, Molly Watkins, Marden Wilber, Phil Balmat, Jack Hamm, John Thoming, and John Herrick. Staff members and contractors present included Ora VanSteyn (NRCS), Mike Wackman, Ruth Mulrooney, Shasta Burns. Guests present included Julianne Phillips (SJFB), Margaret Smither-Kopperl (NRCS Lockeford PMC), and Tim Pelican (Ag Commissioner).
- PUBLIC COMMENTS There were none.
- MEETING AGENDA Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from the October 15, 2015 meeting made by Mr. Herrick, 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. A correction was made to the financial report for a warrant written and accounted for in the Excel Spreadsheet Financial report for the amount of \$550.00 written to Spaletta law. Accept the Treasurer's report and pay all the bills, including new warrants written to Molly Watkins for reimbursement, and also Ruth Mulrooney for lunch reimbursement. Motion by Mr. Olagaray, second Mr. Hamm, approved unanimously.
- NRCS UPDATE Update on NRCS personnel was provided. Positions still remain unfilled. Concerns with NRCS' current hiring process were discussed, along with the number of times each job position has been filled. Discussion for a letter to be written to the WDC to help out. A concern for work that needs to be done, that may not get serviced due to this staffing issue. The letter will be written by the December meeting for Board review. Mrs. VanSteyn gave an update of employees being promoted in the company. This leaving 6-9 positions open for hire. Mrs. VanSteyn has been contacted by local Ag Teachers who are interested in the SLEWS and the SWEEP's program. There is potential to have a connection made with LMRWSSC and Stanislaus RCD (with a written Memorandum of Understanding- MOU) for local schools for support. This MOU will be written with the consent of Stanislaus for a contract of 1 year, hopefully by the December or January board meeting.
- RESOURCES The Ag Commissioner's reported that the first Grower Meeting held on November 18, 2015 had an attendance of 300+ people. The Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution requesting the Lotus be over turned and was in favor by the House and Senate Bill. Also, the Ag Commissioner's office is waiting for the second Supervisors meeting to hear if the County will become a GSA for the whole county. There were over 4,000 people in attendance at the AgVenture program. The Governor signing a Bill for medical marijuana was discussed.

SJFB reported that she attended the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Seminar held at the Lodi Grape Bowl. Other reports were, RAIN! New Melones Reservoir is at 111% of average for this time of year.

CRAE meeting report was a very brief telephone report, about topics for the next meeting.

The CARCD convention in Yosemite Nov 18th-21st was discussed. Mr. Olgaray will be attending this meeting in place of Ms. Watkins

The RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator reported that she has been working to get familiarized with the current duties of the position. Ms. Burns would like to move forward with the communication for the extension for the agreement with the LMRWSSC ending December 31, 2015 to renew for the following 2016 calendar year. The Beeler Award will be presented to Mr. John Brodie at the February 18, 2016 Board Meeting, held at the San Joaquin Farm Bureau office, with a small reception to follow. RCD will be working with Kathy Grant who is part of the LMRWSSC in preparing and presenting this award to him.

GRANT UPDATES Grant writing position is still available

NEW BUSINESS No new business at this time

IRRIGATED LANDS Coalition financials were reviewed. Approve financials, and late bills included in the supplemental packet. A check written for CURES in the amount of \$1404.13, and the invoice from Spaletta Law from the RCD account written for \$550.00. Motion Mr. Olgaray, second Ms. Watkins, approved unanimously. A review of the Budget to Actuals for the year were reviewed.

A brief steering committee report was provided; a transaction for the 1% administration fee in the amount of \$28,483.45 was transferred to the RCD General Account

COMMUNICATIONS A membership report was provided. Walk ins and phone calls have picked up due to the mailing of the membership post card that was mailed out. Notice of Violation letters have been mailed. It was discussed that if two well-known businesses have received letters, and have not made an attempt to respond. This will conclude with a fine, and an indefinite removal. It is noted that there have been several attempts for correspondence with these members. Ms. Mulrooney presented the board with a Coalition logo. This logo will be represented at the Farm Bureau office. Approval of the Logo design was made by the board. Motion by Mr. Hamm, second by Mr. Olgaray. Passed unanimously.

Grower meetings have started. These meetings count towards Continuing Education. The January and February meeting will be held with the monthly Coalition meeting. There has been contact from Central Valley Salts. A letter will be coming to the Coalition with hopes that we will become more involved in their business. It is likely that it will be \$25,000.00 per year to participate with CVS. The board would like to wait and see what the financial responsibilities are before making a decision. The board will revisit at the December board meeting.

HYDROFOCUS A letter received needing approval regarding the Groundwater Assessment Report. HydroFocus has performed work for the Coalition in the past and has a standing reputation. Mr. Wackman recommends that the board amend the contract and have HydroFocus do the monitoring again.

Suggestions from board members include sending this current project out for Request For Proposal so that the Board can see what other companies have to offer. Mr. Wackman will present a quote from HydroFocus to the board at the December meeting for the Development Trend Monitoring Program.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board members retired into closed session to discuss the RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator position review of contract.

Upon adjourning from closed session, the Board approved offering the RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator contract for Shasta Burns.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled for Thursday, December 17th, 2015 at the USDA Stockton Service Center at 11:00 a.m. Meeting will Adjourn at 12:00 p.m. for Christmas Lunch. Adjourn meeting at 1:53 p.m. Motion by Mr. Herrick, second by Mr. Olagaray. Passed unanimously.