

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District

Board of Director's Meeting

December 17, 2015

- CALL TO ORDER President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 11:05 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Diego Olagaray, Molly Watkins, Jack Hamm, John Thoming, and Bill Koster. 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).
- PUBLIC COMMENTS Mr. Koster made an announcement of what a great President Mr. Rodriguez is.
- MEETING AGENDA Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from the November 19, 2015 meeting with the correction made for Waters of the US "WOUS" made by Mr. Olagaray, second Mr. Thoming, 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 monthly bills, including a late warrant written by Ms. Burns to Pre-Sort Center that was approved at the October 2015 monthly meeting, and a transfer of funds to the Coalition Debit card in the amount of \$5,000. Motion by Mr. Koster, second Mr. Olagaray, 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 have been filled. A letter from President Richard Rodriguez was presented for the board to review and scheduled to be sent out this week to the WDC with hope to get this area some help. President Rodriguez would like to meet with Carlos Suarez (State Conservationist) to discuss this matter personally. Mr. Wackman suggested that he could potentially put the two in contact for a meeting. 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. Mrs. VanSteyn and Ms. Burns have discussed potential interaction with ESRCD. Ms. Burns will continue the SWEEP/SLEWS conversations after the first of the year. 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.
- RESOURCES No Ag Commissioner's report at this time
- Ms. Phillips from the SJFB reported that she will also send a letter of support to the Chief in Washington DC regarding NRCS personnel matters as well.
- No CRAE meeting report

The RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator reported that she has been working on monthly duties, and making connections for potential grant writers for the district. Daniel Kramer, from Petrologix is a person of interest and ask for the boards permission to invite him to the next monthly board meeting to discuss potential grant writing opportunities. Petrologix is a local company that specializes in geophysics, environmental, and geological practices. 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 (LMRWSSC), and Rick Leong from EBMUD in preparing and presenting this award to him.

Ms. Watkins has been in contact with a potential grant writer in the Watsonville, CA area by the name of Kathleen Robins. Her name was given to Ms. Watkins by John Brodie. There is a grant proposal coming up that will be due March 4th, but nothing critical to move forward with at this meeting. Ms. Watkins will follow up with the board at the January board meeting. Ms. Watkins also received emails from Karen Burh regarding SWEEPs that need to be made by April 30, 2016, and will forward this information and moving forward the point of contact for this will be Ms. Burns.

Mr. Olagaray attended the CARCD Convention in Yosemite and gave a brief update on Resolutions that were presented. A Resolution Audit passed, for state funding to help low funded RCD's with audits. This is a statewide issue.

- GRANT UPDATES Grant writing position is still available. 3 potential candidates will likely make presentations at the January Board meeting.
- NEW BUSINESS Mail correspondence for lot line adjustment put in the board packet for review.
- IRRIGATED LANDS Coalition financials were reviewed. Approve financials, and late bills included in the supplemental packet. A late warrant was written, but approved at the November board meeting for Pre-Sort Center. Possibly over budget on mailings, this is due to all of the mailings going out for reminders and grower certifications. Motion Mr. Koster, second Ms. Hamm, approved unanimously. A review of the Budget to Actuals for the year were reviewed.
- COMMUNICATIONS A membership report was provided. Self-Certification reminder mailings have gone out to growers. This Self -Certification is statewide. Upcoming billing of 200 parcels from East towards the end of the month. Review of an email sent to Mr. Wackman regarding a membership letter that was included in the board packet. Mr. Wackman explained to the board the area of land that the disgruntled member was talking about. The land owner is asking for a refund in the amount of \$2,400. It is stated that this piece of land is dryland farmed, and not covered under the irrigated lands program. The board has agreed to give a refund for the past 2014, 2015 years, in the amount of \$869.77.
- HYDROFOCUS No report at this time

CLOSED SESSION

No closed session at this time

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled for Thursday, January 21th, 2015 at the USDA Stockton Service Center at 12:00 a.m. Adjourn meeting at 11:57 a.m. Motion by Mr. Thoming, second by Mr. Olagaray. Passed unanimously.