

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District

Board of Director's Meeting

February 18, 2016

- CALL TO ORDER President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Molly Watkins, John Thoming, Phil Balmat, and Bill Koster, Diego Olagaray. Staff members and contractors present included Ora VanSteyn (NRCS), Mike Wackman, Ruth Mulrooney, Shasta Burns, and Margaret Smither-Kopperl (NRCS-PMC). Guests present included Julianne Phillips (SJFB), Tim Pelican (Ag Commissioner), John Brodie, and Susan Brodie, Jennifer Spaletta (Spaletta Law), and Russell Frink (Spaletta Law).
- CLOSED SESSION After introductions the Board entered into closed session at 12:08 p.m. No action taken at this time.
- PUBLIC COMMENTS No public comments at this time.
- MEETING AGENDA Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from the January 21, 2016 meeting with a correction to a motion from the minutes, and adding to the attendance that Marden Wilber was present, and accept the meeting Agenda made by Mr. Olagaray, second Mr. Herrick. Approved unanimously
- Discussion Items Pending State Water Resources Control Board Order were discussed and a Motion to send out a special mailing as soon as possible, to inform growers about proposed changes to the program made by Mr. Hamm, and second by 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, and to issue Shawn Vue a check for work performed in January after the NRCS Agreement expired. Motion by Mr. Balmat, second Mr. Herrick. Motion approved unanimously.
- NRCS UPDATE Update on EQUIP was given by Ms. VanSteyn. NRCS is currently in its third batching period for the EQUIP program. NRCS personnel update was provided. Positions still remain unfilled.
- RESOURCES No Ag Commissioners Report at this time.
- No San Joaquin Farm Bureau Report at this time.
- No CRAE meeting report
- The RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator reported that she has been working on monthly duties. An Excel spreadsheet of available funds for all NRCS Agreements and monthly standings are attached in the meeting packet for monthly review. Ms. Burns will be moving forward to get the SJCRCD website up to date and in working order.
- GRANT UPDATES Ms. Burns gave an update of emails and conference calls with American Rivers. Mr. Herrick will be assisting American Rivers with the necessary Resolutions and information to finalize and submit the grant application.
- The next item on the agenda was the application for state grant money for use on the Paradise Cut Expansion Project. Director Herrick gave an overview of this issue in light of his previous involvement with the proposed project. He explained how the Delta Conservancy, American Rivers and RD 2062 were pursuing the Paradise Cut Expansion project as means of addressing increased southern Delta flood protection in combination with habitat related actions. The project seeks to add a new intake to the Cut which would siphon off high San Joaquin River

flows under certain circumstances. That water would then overflow onto approximately 4-500 acres of land which would act like a mini flood reservoir. The water would eventually be routed back into Paradise Cut with areas downstream of this being protected against any increased flood flows. The initial modeling shows that decreases up to 23 inches of flood stage at Mossdale can be accomplished which would provide significant benefits to urban areas. The RCD was the applicant on the initial round for grant money and the application made it to the final consideration. American Rivers is taking the lead on writing the grant application and requested that the RCD Board pass another Resolution indicating its support and confirming it will act as the applicant. After a short discussion including directions that the grant monies if awarded would be used in accordance with normal RCD policies, upon motion made and duly seconded, it was:

RESOLVED: The San Joaquin County Resources Conservation District Board authorizes its staff to work in conjunction with American Rivers personnel to finalize two grant applications for State funds to be used for the Paradise Cut Expansion Project. The first is a planning grant which will be used to further investigate, evaluate and define the Paradise Cut Expansion Project. Those fund will be used in conjunction with other funds available from River Islands. The second is an acquisition grant which will allow the applicant to begin negotiations with willing landowners in order to secure either easements, options or fee purchases of lands needed for the Project. The RCD Board supports the pursuit of the project in order to increase local flood protection and habitat opportunities while at the same time preserving agricultural lands. A motion to have Mr. Herrick work with American Rivers to finalize and submit the Paradise Cut Grant Application was made by Mr. Hamm, and second by Mr. Thoming. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Leong from EBMUD explained the Hoffman Project to the SJCRCD board and its needs for potential grant funding to finish the project. The project is over half way finished, but needs a funding source. The SJCRCD board was in favor of working to finish this project with the Lower Mokelumne River Stewardship Steering Committee. Ms. Burns will be giving the necessary contact information to each party to keep the communication going to move forward. This will be a continuous agenda item for future meetings.

Molly Watkins and John Herrick who were apart of the Grant Writing Subcommittee met with Erik Ringelberg. A motion to have Mr. Ringelberg investigate potential grant funding for Hyacinth and Hoffman Project opportunities made by Mr. Herrick, and second by Mr. Olagaray. The motion passed unanimously.

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| NEW BUSINESS | New business for the meeting was talked about above in the Grant Updates portion of the meeting agenda. |
| IRRIGATED LANDS | Coalition financials were reviewed. A motion to <u>approve financials, and late bills included in the supplemental packet</u> made by Mr. Koster, second Mr. Hamm, approved unanimously. Budget vs. Actuals for the year were reviewed, and still remain under the proposed budget. |
| COMMUNICATIONS | A membership report was provided. Foot traffic has increased in the office due to mailings. Growers are coming in with questions and concerns. Most questions asked, answers were available on the Coalition website. |
| PROGRAM REPORT | A Brief Program Report was given about current invoicing from Michael L Johnson LLC. |
| ADJOURNMENT | The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 17 th , 2016 at the San Joaquin Country Resource Conservation District Office, located at the USDA Stockton Service Center, 3422 W. Hammer Lane Suite A, Stockton, CA. <u>Adjourn meeting at 2:05 p.m.</u> Motion by Ms. Watkins, second by Mr. Herrick. Motion Passed unanimously. |