

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Board of Director's Meeting
April 16, 2015

- CALL TO ORDER President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Diego Olagaray, Phil Balmat, Jack Hamm, Bill Koster, Molly Watkins, and John Herrick. Members absent excused included John Thoming and Marden Wilber. Staff members and contractors present included Ora Van Steyn (NRCS), Mike Wackman, Ruth Mulrooney, and Jonna Spaletta. Guests present included Julianne Phillips (SJFB).
- PUBLIC COMMENTS There were none.
- MEETING AGENDA The meeting agenda was amended to include the addition of Range Camp under New Business. Accept meeting agenda as amended. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously.
- Approval of March 19, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Motion Mr. Hamm, second Mr. Koster, approved unanimously.
- TREASURER'S REPORT Jonna S. presented the list of income and bills to be paid, along with current financial reports. It was noted that the Fund Summary Report had been reformatted as requested during the last meeting to include beginning balances, income, accounts payable and ending balances. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay all the bills. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Hamm, approved unanimously.
- NRCS UPDATE Ms. Van Steyn reported NRCS' third batching period ends this Friday. She estimated 50 tractor, 2 irrigation and 2 dairy applications have been received. She noted the next batching date will be June 19th. She referenced the fund codes list, and California receiving \$85 to \$100mln in EQIP funding per year; \$17.5mln being for air quality.
- Ms. Van Steyn shared that a Wetland Reserve (conservation) Easement to address vernal pool habitat is in the process on the westside of the County with the Ospital family. She also mentioned that interviews for the soil conservation technician had been conducted, with 3 candidates being from California out of the 14 total. It was noted that the top candidate will be choosing between accepting the Stockton position or another Coastal office position. She confirmed that Robin's last day will be tomorrow, due to the lapse in funding for the Farm Bill Assistance agreement with NRCS. There was discussion of how her workload will be absorbed. Ms. Van Steyn concluded by noting that she has been tasked with furniture shopping for the new location although a moving date has not yet been confirmed. There was discussion of the size of the RCD office at the new location.
- RESOURCES No Ag Commissioner report was given.
- Ms. Phillips from San Joaquin Farm Bureau reported that lots of calls about the drought have been received. She noted the article being featured in The Record by SJFB President and SJCRCD Director Jack Hamm. She discussed the new groundwater regulations, including the amendments made to restrict uses of Eggman's groundwater recharge bill. Ms. Phillips noted post-1914 curtailments are occurring now, and pre-1914 curtailments are expected this summer. She discussed the Zone 2 letter sent out to landowners by the County, to fund the GBA; the previous assessment had to be converted to a fee because of Prop 218, requiring the notifications to be sent out. There was discussion of the error in the document, noting the

correction was “no more than” 3%. Ms. Phillips concluded by addressing the Regional Ag Water Conservation Project that is part of the MokeWISE process, and currently sponsored by the SJCRCD.

Ms. Watkins reported there was no CRAE report to be given as a meeting had not been held since the last RCD meeting; she noted the next meeting will focus on Ag myths and water.

Ms. Spaletta built on the comments made by Ms. Phillips regarding the Ag Water Conservation Program, noting efforts to reach agreement on project description language; the next step in the process will be a conference call with environmental interest groups, SJFB, SJCRCD and (hopefully) GBA. She noted that after consulting the SJCRCD Executive Committee, she had forwarded SJCRCD sponsored MokeWISE project descriptions to John B. for review and editing; substantial changes were made to the Riparian Restoration- Below Camanche Project, to build on previous work done by the SJCRCD. Ms. Spaletta noted that she: had recently met Ben Wallace of the CCRCD, would be meeting with Sustainable Conservation tomorrow and attending the Bay Delta Regional meeting at the end of the month; all good opportunities for networking.

GRANT UPDATES

There was discussion of RCPP grant opportunities continuing to be pursued.

Ms. Spaletta reported that as requested, she had contacted Donna Plunkett about providing services to the RCD. Ms. Spaletta shared details as to the services Ms. Plunkett could provide and their respective costs. It was decided that Ms. Spaletta should contact Mr. Brodie to obtain a list of previous grant projects completed as a starting point for what types of future grant funding opportunities should be pursued.

NEW BUSINESS

The final June 30, 2014 Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s report, with no findings or recommendations, was presented for review and acceptance. Motion to accept the report as presented. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously.

The annual requirement of Form 700’s was discussed. It was noted that none were currently on file for 2015; they should be filed by April 1st; and current copies of the form were contained in the meeting packet.

The details of this year’s Range Camp were discussed. It is being held June 21st-June 26th in Monterey. There was discussion that the SJCRCD had sponsored attendees in the past. Motion to provide \$400 sponsorship of student to attend, with the requirement of an oral report to be provided to the RCD Board as a condition of the sponsorship. Motion Mr. Hamm, second Mr. Herrick, approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Spaletta called the attention of the Directors to communication items in the meeting packet. She specifically mentioned the GRAP letter written by the Board of Supervisors and the 2015 CARCD Membership Application. It was noted that the CARCD Application should not be paid until the June meeting, since it is not due until July 1. There was a brief discussion of the Pombo Scholarship, noting that application packages will be mailed to High Schools today.

IRRIGATED LANDS

Mr. Wackman began by addressing the Coalition’s pending office move. A draft commercial lease between the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation and San Joaquin and Delta Water Quality Coalition was presented for the Board’s consideration. There was discussion about the lease terms and moving process. It was noted that the official lease stated the term would begin June 1; it was clarified that the Coalition could start moving in before then and would just not be charged for that time. Motion to approve the lease as drafted. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously; Mr. Hamm, current SJFB President, abstained.

There was discussion as to details of the phone system and other necessary office items. Motion to approve \$10,000 for move-in and set-up expenses of the new Coalition office; leaving details to be worked out by staff. Motion Mr. Hamm, second Mr. Herrick, approved unanimously. It was noted that this expense was already included in the Coalition's 2015-2016 budget.

Mike W. presented the Coalition financial reports to the Board, noting the Fund Summary Report had been reformatted as requested. He noted the Budget to Actual report, and that the 2015-2016 Budget had not yet been officially approved; this will be addressed at the next meeting. There was discussion of the debit card account; it was noted that funds will need to be transferred soon in anticipation of mailing expenses. Transfer \$10,000 from the Drain Monitoring Fund (45744) held at the County, to the BAC account to fund the debit card (via check made to SJCRCD and deposited into BAC account). Motion Mr. Hamm, second Mr. Herrick, approved unanimously.

Ms. Mulrooney provided an update on membership activity. She noted that they are trying to wrap up Farm Evaluation Plans and clean up before issuing invoices next month. There was discussion of implications of not turning in farm evaluations timely, since only 60% have been received. It was noted that although the Coalition had used the due date of April 1st for farm evaluations, the actual date was June 15th.

Mr. Wackman reported that the Coalition newsletter was still in process, and that he would be sending it to the Board for review upon completion, before printing and mailing.

There was extensive discussion about the revised draft Groundwater Assessment Report as the Board reviewed the draft map with high and low vulnerability delineations. Mr. Wackman explained the elements being required by the Regional Board and the methodology utilized by Mr. Deverel of HydroFocus to meet these requirements. There was concern about: having to identify Disadvantaged Communities and the potential future regulations/requirements that may result; the area west of I-580 and I-5; and the delineation of wells. Mr. Wackman reiterated the report is due next week (April 25th), an extension was not possible, and that this report had already been presented to the Regional Board three or so times. Options of how to proceed were discussed. It was determined that questions and items of concern should be emailed to Mike W. so that clarification could be obtained from Mr. Deverel. Motion to accept and approve the Groundwater Assessment Report and Map outlining high and low vulnerable areas, pending sufficient explanation from HydroFocus/Mr. Deverel. Motion Mr. Herrick, second Mr. Hamm, approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Executive session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 21st, 2015 at the USDA Stockton Service Center at 12:00 noon. Adjourn meeting at 2:15 p.m. Motion Mr. Olagaray, second Mr. Balmat, approved unanimously.