

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District  
Board of Director's Meeting  
May 21, 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, Bill Koster, Molly Watkins, Marden Wilber and John Thoming. Members absent excused included Jack Hamm and John Herrick. Staff members and contractors present included Jennifer Figueroa-Golder (NRCS), Mike Wackman, Ruth Mulrooney, and Jonna Spaletta. Guests present included Kamal Bagri (Ag Commissioner's Office) and Phillip Abba (Abba Vineyards).
- PUBLIC COMMENTS It was noted that the three-month trial of emailing the meeting agenda and packet will be continued indefinitely; hard copies will: continue to be mailed to Director Marden Wilber, remain supplied at the meeting, and available to the public upon request. The agenda will continue to be posted the week before the meeting, to maintain compliance with Brown Act.
- MEETING AGENDA The review of Pombo Scholarship Applications was moved to the end of the meeting; agenda content remained unchanged. Accept meeting agenda. Motion Mr. Olagaray, second Ms. Watkins, approved unanimously.
- Approval of April 16, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Motion Mr. Olagaray, second Mr. Koster, approved unanimously. It was noted that future meeting minutes should only reference persons as it relates to motions.
- TREASURER'S REPORT The list of RCD income and bills to be paid was presented, along with current financial reports. It was noted that accounts receivable entries presented during the last meeting, were now being shown as income (since the funds had been received), and that new accounts receivable entries had been created to correlate with quarterly billing submitted to NRCS for agreement reimbursement. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay all the bills. Motion Mr. Thoming, second Mr. Koster, approved unanimously.
- There was discussion that the debit card account established for the Coalition has been used for General RCD expenses, as a means to avoid having contractors use their personal credit card, and then having to wait for reimbursement. It was also noted that because of the recent Coalition office move, the debit card would not be as accessible to both Coalition and RCD staff. There was also discussion of large expenses (such as PMC Open House lunch) being charged on staff's personal credit card. Motion to open a second debit card account with BAC, with opening deposit of \$2,500; to be used for general RCD expenses. Motion Mr. Balmat, second Mr. Koster, approved unanimously. It was noted that all debit card receipts for this account will be included in monthly RCD meeting packet materials, and balance and transaction details will also be recorded as a separate account in QuickBooks (just like the Coalition). It was further noted that the Coalition should bill the RCD for any previous general RCD expenses (such as RCD Board meeting lunches, etc) paid for out of the Coalition debit card account.
- NRCS UPDATE It was reported that two batching periods are left; June 19<sup>th</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup>. \$10mln has been granted for drought funding, covering 8 states. California requested \$3.5mln; the amount actually being granted is still to be determined. The funds will likely be for practices NRCS is already doing. There was no update to report on the status of the office move, other than that a "pre-move" meeting had been scheduled. New SWEEP opportunities available through CDFA were mentioned.

## RESOURCES

The Ag Commissioner's office staff provided a light-brown apple moth quarantine update, noting that compliance agreements are being revised and the Clements area quarantine has been lifted. It was noted they are trying to compile crops reports; drought impacts remain unknown. The new regulations associated with pesticides and schools buffer zones were discussed. It was noted that 3 separate workshops will be held in Sacramento, for the purpose of serving 3 different audiences. It was clarified that the buffer zone is only for notification requirements, and does not mean that the area cannot be sprayed. There was discussion of DPR releasing clean results for Ripon and chlorpyrifos (Lorsban) becoming a restricted material. Specifics as to the restrictions being imposed were discussed.

No SJFB report was given.

It was reported that the most recent CRAE meeting primarily focused on Ag myths, water issues and drought. There was discussion of information presented by representatives in attendance (EBMUD, Public Policy Institute, Nature Conservancy, farming community, etc). The primary purpose of these meetings is to develop a white paper that communicates how environmentalists and farmers can work together, that can be provided to the State legislature. The importance of attending these types of meetings, to represent the farming community, was reiterated. The next CRAE meeting will be held June 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm.

A brief report regarding the Bay-Delta Regional RCD meeting was provided. It was noted that Ms. Watkins is now serving as the interim Chair, as the Regional President had to resign from his local position, to accept a State-level RCD position. One item of concern resulting from the meeting included Department of Conservation requiring RCD's to meet "tier 1" status (equivalent of legal requirements) to be eligible to receive funding. The three different tier levels were discussed. It was noted that the RCD Administrator would gather information regarding the SJCRCD's status of meeting tier 1 requirements, and re-present to the Board.

The RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator reported that April was a busy month, which included: a meeting with Sustainable Conservation, coordinating the RCD sponsored lunch for the Lockeford PMC Open House, attending the Bay-Delta Regional RCD meeting, and reaching agreement on the remaining MokeWISE Regional Ag Water Conservation project. It was discussed that the MokeWISE project ended up being a "list 2" project, meaning that it remains as part of the whole, endorsed portfolio but "outstanding project concerns" (primarily expressing environmental interests) are included in the full project description, as an addendum (although the full project description is already an addendum to the final report). The invasive species App (a product of the LMRWSSC) discussed during a previous RCD meeting was revisited. It was confirmed that the Board's concerns regarding access to the data collected had been shared with the LMRWSSC. It was reported that the reason the App had not previously become available to the public, was that a server available to house the data collected had not been identified; progress of the App has thus been halted.

## GRANT UPDATES

It was reported that the RCD's agreement with NRCS to contract with staff to work at the Lockeford PMC will be extended to September 30 (from current expiration of June 30) and additional funds (\$21k) will be added to the agreement (current amount \$40k). The RCD is able to add 15% to the amount billed for reimbursement under this agreement, as an administrative charge.

A list of grants previously secured by Mr. Brodie was presented to the Board. It was discussed that Ms. Spaletta would like to work with Mr. Brodie to identify future grant opportunities and projects, in order to be both most efficient and successful. It was noted that she would keep the Board apprised of both potential grant projects and billed hours.

## NEW BUSINESS

Directors reviewed twelve 2015 Pombo Scholarship Applications that had been timely submitted. It was discussed that at least one \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded; hopefully a second will also be awarded, but this will not be known until donations are collected. Based on tallied votes, recipients for scholarship funds were selected in the following order: first, Alejandro Orozco; second, Vincente Arburua; third, Cole Lauchland.

There was discussion of the RCD website and current service provider. The website is difficult to navigate, dated in appearance, and is currently formatted so that updates can only be made by the service provider. Motion to spend up to \$2,000 to rebuild the RCD website, for the purpose of easing navigation and allowing for the majority of updates to be made by RCD staff. Motion Mr. Balmat, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously.

It was reported that Spaletta Law has been busy with drought demands, and therefore the contracting policy being drafted for the RCD should be ready for the June meeting (instead of this meeting).

The SWEEP evaluation being conducted by ESRCD in San Joaquin County was revisited. It was noted that there may be potentially 3 evaluations total in San Joaquin County (instead of one) and that one of these has been assigned to Placer County. There was brief discussion of the situation as a whole with CARCD, CDFA and local RCD's. It was discussed that ESRCD would like to find a way of making a donation to SJCRCD, since the CDFA contract rate for SWEEP evaluations is \$2,000 and the allowable subcontract payment is \$500. It was noted that the deadline for growers who participated in this program to have their systems evaluated to obtain their cost-share money, is June, so this is the priority. Motion to accept the proposed agreement for ESRCD to conduct up to three SWEEP evaluations in San Joaquin County by June 2015. Motion Mr. Thoming, second Mr. Koster, approved unanimously.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Directors' attention was called to communication items in the meeting packet.

## IRRIGATED LANDS

It was reported that the relocated Coalition office was up and running. There was discussion of an office alarm and fireproof safe being procured; funds remain available within the initial \$10k budgeted for the move; staff was therefore instructed to proceed with the procurement. Coalition income and bills to be paid were presented, along with current financial reports. Motion to pay Coalition bills. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously. The 2015-2016 Coalition Budget (at the established \$5/ac and with very minimal changes from previous versions) was re-presented to the Board for official action. Accept the 2015-2016 Coalition Budget. Motion Mr. Koster, second Ms. Watkins, approved unanimously.

Coalition contractors presented the Board with additional personnel that could be contracted for summer work. Anthony Fusso had been identified to hire for nitrogen management plan workshops, for a total of 30 to 50 hours at \$15/hr. Contract with Anthony Fusso. Motion Mr. Olagaray, second Mr. Koster, approved unanimously. Lexi (Alexandra) Blough had been identified to help the Coalition for approximately 25hrs/wk for 6 weeks in June and July; she has previously worked for the Coalition and is therefore familiar with their database systems. The rate of pay is expected to be \$17-18/hr but will be confirmed. Contract with Lexi Blough. Motion Mr. Olagaray, second Mr. Thoming, approved unanimously. It was noted that the expense associated with these contracts has already been included in the Coalition budget.

It was discussed that the GAR (Groundwater Assessment Report) was accepted by the Regional Board for this year. Nitrogen Management Plans and invoices have been sent out to members.

The change in TMDL provisions for Pyrethroid was discussed. Allowable amounts have been decreased to amounts that are immeasurable by current laboratory equipment. It was agreed

that letters from the SJCRCD and its partners, communicating objection to the new levels, should be submitted during the comment period.

The Program Manager's Report was provided and it was noted that toxicity issues occurred on Upper Roberts Island.

EXECUTIVE SESSION      Executive session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT            The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled for Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the USDA Stockton Service Center at 12:00 noon. Note this meeting is scheduled for the second Thursday of the month, instead of the usual third Thursday. Adjourn meeting at 1:45 p.m. Motion Mr. Balmat, second Mr. Thoming, approved unanimously.