

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Board of Director's Meeting
June 11, 2015

- CALL TO ORDER President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, Molly Watkins, John Thoming and John Herrick. Members absent excused included Diego Olagaray, Jack Hamm, Bill Koster and Marden Wilber. Staff members and contractors present included Ora VanSteyn (NRCS), Mike Wackman, Ruth Mulrooney, and Jonna Spaletta. Guests present included Tim Pelican (Ag Commissioner) and Julianne Phillips (SJFB).
- PUBLIC COMMENTS There were none.
- MEETING AGENDA The meeting agenda was amended to include the addition of Croce, Sanguinetti & Vander Veen June 30, 2015 year end audit engagement letter to Communications. Accept meeting agenda as amended and approve May 21, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Motion Mr. Thoming, second Mr. Herrick, 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 draft 2015-2016 RCD Budget was presented; because it was primarily based off previous budgets, the Board asked that it be revised to more accurately reflect expected expenses. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay all the bills. Motion Mr. Thoming, second Mr. Balmat, approved unanimously.
- There was discussion of online banking access being granted for the BAC debit card accounts recently established for the Coalition and RCD (to streamline QuickBooks recordkeeping). Grant BAC online banking access to Mike Wackman for Coalition debit card account and Jonna Spaletta for RCD debit card account. Motion Mr. Herrick, second Ms. Watkins, approved unanimously.
- NRCS UPDATE It was reported that batching periods are going as well as can be expected, with the last one being next Friday; there are approximately 60 tractor applications. It was reported that \$2mln in additional water conservation funds have been requested by the State. The soil conservation technician position was discussed, with the DC noting that all 3 applicants that were offered the position, turned it down, and therefore the position remains vacant. It was discussed that there may be potential for a planning assistance grant between the RCD and NRCS, to contract a part-time position to help fill this gap. Send letter to State Conservationist (with cc to Kay Joy-Barge) in support of the position, if deemed necessary by DC. Motion Ms. Watkins, second Mr. Thoming, approved unanimously. It was noted that moving is still anticipated for Oct 1st, although the expected weekly construction meetings never started.
- RESOURCES Details of chlorpyrifos (Lorsban) becoming a restricted material as of July 1 were discussed. It was reported that the Ag Commissioner's office will not have to be the party tasked with addressing misuse of water complaints. AB-350 regarding additional classifications of pest control advisor licensing was mentioned, and details regarding DPR versus EPA authorities were discussed. It was noted that: new safety requirements come into effect July 1st; there are new requirements for closed systems (such as fumigants) with regard to school notifications; and 2 new inspectors were hired that will start at the end of the month.
- SJFB reiterated pesticide restrictions related to chlorpyrifos. New water curtailments were discussed, with regard to their applicability to pre 1914 and riparian rights. The Budget trailer bill was mentioned, and a brief summary of recent Ag in the Classroom activities was provided.

No CRAE report was given as the next meeting is scheduled for next week.

The RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator noted that activity to report was limited due to it being only 3 weeks since the last RCD meeting. She noted the LMRWSSC meeting that was last Friday and the final MokeWISE meeting scheduled for tomorrow. She also reported that she had been working her way through CARCD tier requirements and the contracting policy, as detailed in sections below.

GRANT UPDATES

It was confirmed that the RCD's agreement with NRCS to contract with staff to work at the Lockeford PMC is being extended, as noted in last month's meeting minutes, with the official contract amendment being signed today.

NEW BUSINESS

It was reported that to the RCD Administrator's knowledge, all information needed by Spaletta Law (including Dept of Conservation contact, example contracts and copies of current agreements between the RCD and NRCS) to draft a contracting policy had been provided by early this week. The draft policy has yet to be received.

There was discussion of minimum CARCD tier requirements that the Department of Conservation and CARCD are requiring RCD's to meet, to be eligible for future funding.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

There was discussion of the amount of 2015 CARCD membership dues to pay. Pay \$750 in 2015 CARCD membership dues. Motion Ms. Watkins, second Mr. Herrick, approved unanimously.

There was discussion of the June 30, 2015 audit engagement letter supplied by Croce, Sanguinetti & Vander Veen. It was noted that the District had previously been presented with a 3 year proposal (covering year ends 6/30/14, 6/30/15 & 6/30/16). There was also discussion of allocating some of this expense (quoted \$4,625 for 6/30/15) to the Coalition. Accept June 30, 2015 proposal by Croce, Sanguinetti & Vander Veen by signing engagement letter. Motion Mr. Thoming, second Mr. Balmat, approved unanimously.

IRRIGATED LANDS

The Coalition's new office located within the SJFB building was discussed. Proceed with installing alarm system for Coalition office space, independent of the SJFB. Motion Mr. Thoming, second Mr. Balmat, approved unanimously.

Boundary changes made by DWR's Regional Board affecting growers primarily in the Ripon area were discussed. The change would result in members of both SJCDWQC and East San Joaquin being jostled and billing discrepancies due to each Coalition operating on a different fiscal year and billing cycle. Approaches to transferring members and properties between the Coalitions were discussed. It was noted that this had been discussed with the Steering committee during their meeting Monday; the recommendation reached was that it should be handled between the Coalitions (limiting member involvement) and that additional affected member information (number of members, affected acres and estimated dollar amount) should be provided to the RCD Board to allow for a more informed decision to be made. Motion to transfer members (primarily from East San Joaquin to SJCDWQC) effective January 1, 2016, charge for 6 month period with supplemental bill, and then bill regularly beginning May 2016; if member transfer occurs earlier than January 1, East San Joaquin shall pay prorated portion of membership dues already paid by affected members to SJCDWQC. Motion Mr. Balmat, second Mr. Herrick, approved unanimously.

It was further noted that: Nitrogen Management Plan workshops have been going well, with the help of Anthony Fuso; membership renewal checks have been coming in, getting processed and deposited with the County via the courier (late fee will be \$0.50/ac if not received by 6/15); and no comments have been received back from the Regional Board regarding the GAR. It was lastly reported that Coalition staff had been contacted by the State Regional Board regarding 48 parcels, represented by 15 people, that had received notice of violation letters, but had not responded; all but 6 parcels had successfully been enrolled in SJCDWQC within the last 2 weeks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board members retired into executive session to discuss RCD income limitations as it relates to paying for RCD Administrator duties. Upon returning from executive session, the meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled for Thursday, July 16th, 2015 at the USDA Stockton Service Center at 12:00 noon. Adjourn meeting at 2:20 p.m. Motion Ms. Watkins, second Mr. Balmat, approved unanimously.