

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Board of Director's Meeting
July 16, 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, Diego Olagaray, Phil Balmat, Molly Watkins, John Thoming, Bill Koster, Marden Wilber and John Herrick. Members absent excused included Jack Hamm. Staff members and contractors present included Ora VanSteyn (NRCS), Mike Wackman and Jonna Spaletta. Guests present included Tim Pelican (Ag Commissioner).
- PUBLIC COMMENTS There were none.
- MEETING AGENDA The meeting agenda was amended to include a contracting policy discussion in closed session. Accept meeting agenda as amended. Motion Mr. Olagaray, second Mr. Herrick, approved unanimously. Approve June 11, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Motion Mr. Koster, 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. The revised 2015-2016 RCD Budget was presented and discussed. Accept the Treasurer's report, pay all the bills and accept the revised 2015-2016 RCD budget. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously.
- NRCS UPDATE It was reported that 60 contracts were received during the last batching period, including water conservation practices; the last batching period will be next week. The Wetland Reserve Easement is nearing an end for the Ospitals. An update on Stockton NRCS personnel was given, noting that both a soil conservationist and civil engineer will be leaving. It was noted that NRCS as a whole, is also trying to get "leaner & meaner" through retirements and a hiring freeze. It was noted that no design or building has been started for the anticipated October move.
- RESOURCES It was reported that the Ag Commissioner's office will be compiling a drought disaster assessment letter by the end of the month, primarily assessing native grass losses. Because of back-to-back years of drought, reduced carrying capacities and supplemental feeding being the new normal, and the approach used by the UC Cooperative Extension to conduct grass clippings, they are having difficulty coming to an accurate loss percentage. It was noted that no funding is available for field crop losses due to drought. A light brown apple moth quarantine update was provided; an exemption for wine grapes for crush has been requested. Asian citricell (citrus greening) was discussed. It was also noted they are working to have their annual crop report completed by August.
- No SJFB report was given.
- It was reported that the next CRAE meeting will be Tues, Sept 29th from 10am-4pm in Davis or Sacramento; it was recommended that an RCD representative attend, as high level management from each organization will be present. No report from the last meeting was provided, as the last meeting was not attended; however, the op-ed regarding drought was briefly mentioned.
- The RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator reported on recent activities. It was noted that the Pombo Scholarship dinner is Friday, July 24th, with donations still being accepted. A recent meeting with CSV proved beneficial, as they were pleased with the RCD moving their financials to QuickBooks, and the meeting allowed one of the CARCD tier requirements to be addressed. The MokeWISE resolution was addressed last, with the recommendation by the RCD's legal counsel being that they wait to adopt the resolution until others in the County have acted.

GRANT UPDATES It was confirmed that NRCS will provide the RCD with a planning assistance grant, to contract a part-time position. Accept NRCS pass-through planning assistance grant. Motion Ms. Watkins, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously.

 An update on the potential availability of Mr. Brodie (to assist with grant opportunities), having obtained a full-time position with UNLV, was discussed. Attention was also drawn to an article written by Sonoma-Marín RCD’s regarding potential “Healthy Soils Initiative” opportunities.

NEW BUSINESS As mentioned above, it was reported slow progress is being made on the CARCD tier requirements.

 It was reported that the RCD’s legal counsel had drafted a contracting policy and contract; it will be discussed with the Board during closed session.

COMMUNICATIONS The Directors’ attention was called to communication items in the meeting packet. It was confirmed that no NACD fees should be paid for the 2015 year.

IRRIGATED LANDS It was reported that the Coalition’s new office located within the SJFB building continues to work out well.

 Coalition financials were reviewed, with explanations of large 2014-2015 budget-to-actual variances explained; the year-end reserve being \$512K. It was discussed that \$500,000 should be transferred from the Drain Monitoring Fund (45744) to the Contingency Fund (45741), to rebuild this account balance (used for legal fees, etc). Motion to pay all the Coalition bills and transfer \$500,000 from Drain Monitoring Fund to Contingency Fund. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Thoming, approved unanimously. It was noted that the RCD administration fee due from the Coalition, covering the previous fiscal year, will be calculated for Board consideration at the next meeting.

 Two requests from Coalition members were reviewed by the Board. The first request was from a member who was requesting a refund for 11 years of coalition membership dues totaling \$212. The Board instructed that a letter be written to the member stating that the program had ended. The second request dealt with a member who owned 19.47 acres but wanted to only pay membership dues on the 15 acres they farmed. The Board confirmed dues should be charged and paid on the gross acreage.

 It was noted that no steering committee meeting had been held during July. The RMP (Regional Monitoring Program) was discussed, noting that the site exchange previously proposed by the SJCDWQC to accommodate the RMP was not accepted by the Regional Board, as the change in site location was not compliant with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory program requirements. A meeting with the Assistant Director of the RMP will be scheduled.

CLOSED SESSION The Board members retired into closed session to discuss litigation pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 54956.9 (1) SWRCB Petition Proceedings, and contracting considerations.

 There was discussion regarding the RCD Administrator and Watershed Coordinator positions.

ADJOURNMENT The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled for Thursday, August 20th, 2015 at the USDA Stockton Service Center at 12:00 noon. Adjourn meeting at 2:30 p.m. Motion Mr. Olagaray, second Mr. Wilber, approved unanimously.