

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Board of Director's Meeting
September 17, 2015

- CALL TO ORDER President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Diego Olagaray, Molly Watkins, John Thoming and Marden Wilber. Members absent excused included Phil Balmat, Bill Koster, Jack Hamm and John Herrick. Staff members and contractors present included Ora VanSteyn (NRCS), Mike Wackman, Ruth Mulrooney and Jonna Spaletta. Guests present included Kamal Bagri (Ag Commissioner's Office) and Julianne Phillips (SJFB).
- PUBLIC COMMENTS There were none.
- MEETING AGENDA The meeting agenda was amended to include the CARCD convention under resources. Corrections needed (to include posting of the RCD positions in closed session and word choice in resources section) of the August meeting minutes were discussed. Accept meeting agenda as amended and approve August 20, 2015 meeting minutes as corrected. Motion Ms. Watkins, 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. Accept the Treasurer's report and pay all the bills. Motion Mr. Thoming, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously.
- NRCS UPDATE It was reported that the office has \$6.3mln in EQIP applications, with the majority being irrigation systems and tractors. An update on NRCS personnel was provided, noting that the 5 vacant positions discussed during the last meeting, remain unfilled. Concerns with NRCS' current hiring process were discussed. Write letter to NRCS State Office regarding concerns with Stockton field office vacancies and hiring process. Motion Ms. Watkins, second Mr. Thoming, approved unanimously.
- RESOURCES The Ag Commissioner's office reported that the Ag center fee for the meeting and assembly rooms passed. Details as to the maintenance (5 yr cycle being \$79K/yr) and changes were discussed. The largest change is that any County agency and non-Ag commercial groups can use the building, but Ag has priority and can make reservations up to 1 yr in advance. It was noted that different fees are charged based on group assignment. It was reported that the annual crop report will be presented to the Board of Supervisor's October 20th. An update on light brown apple moth (LBAM) was provided, noting there have been several new finds. There was discussion of controlled areas being Linden, Manteca, Tracy, and Stockton north into Lodi. The difference between regulated versus quarantined, and the impact on associated resources and funding were discussed. Grapes for crush are excluded from restrictions State-wide because the pest risk has been determined to be low. The Governor signing a Bill for medical marijuana was discussed last, with CDFA requesting the Ag Commissioner's office to estimate the number of legal growers in the County.
- SJFB reported that the legislative session ended; a Bill passed with a budget that will make information pertaining to all well locations, depths, etc now available to the public. It was reported that Waters of the US was enforceable as of August 28th in CA; it was/is not enforceable in 13 other States with pending litigation. Details as to the implications to Ag were discussed. The Williamson Act was discussed in regard to property owners making requests for

lot line adjustments to avoid taking property out of Williamson Act; concerns of these actions jeopardizing the future and continuity of the Williamson Act were noted.

It was reiterated that the next CRAE meeting is Tues, Sept 29th; in lieu of sponsorship, the RCD will be donating almonds, walnuts and apples.

The CARCD convention in Yosemite Nov 18th-21st was discussed. Two hotels rooms have been booked for Thursday and Friday night, but conference fees have not yet been paid.

The RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator reported that the annual RCD audit could now be conducted, but would also serve as a good way to familiarize a new hire with RCD files. A Hydrogel contract the RCD holds with DWR is also being researched. It was noted that the remainder of items pertinent to this report will be discussed throughout the remainder of the meeting topics.

GRANT UPDATES

It was reported that the Paradise Cut planning grant application discussed during the last meeting had been submitted by American Rivers on behalf of the RCD.

NEW BUSINESS

It was discussed that information/feedback is still pending for both the tunnel acquisition letter and MokeWISE letter of support.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Directors' attention was called to communication items in the meeting packet. It was noted that the EBMUD Annual Pardee BBQ is likely cancelled due to the fires. Attention was also called to the Estuary News, which featured articles on the Delta Fix and Tracking Tiny Toxins.

IRRIGATED LANDS

Coalition financials were reviewed. Approve financials. Motion Mr. Thoming, second Mr. Wilber, approved unanimously. The 1% of membership dues fee for service payable to the RCD for administration was discussed (\$28,483.45 covering membership dues paid 5/2/2014-6/30/2015 totaling \$2,848,344.74). Transfer \$28,483.45 from Drain Monitoring Fund (45744) to RCD General Fund (45701) to cover 7/1/2014-6/30/2015 RCD Fee for Service. Motion Mr. Wilber, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously.

A brief steering committee report was provided, with details relating to MPEP and RMP. The hope is that participation in MPEP will benefit growers in the long run by finding effective nitrogen practices and reducing leaching to groundwater. It was discussed that MPEP participation is ongoing from year to year, and SJCDWQC coordinates with other neighboring coalitions so studies are not conducted on the same crops. It was further noted that grants are applied for (FREP through CDFA, & EPA) and leveraging fertilizer companies is being explored. \$60K has been budgeted for MPEP participation this year; steering committee members commented that the expense will be significantly greater than expected; \$200K will likely need to be budgeted for next year.

A membership report was provided noting that 500 postcards had been mailed the beginning of September; \$87K of the outstanding \$250K had been collected to date. \$2.4mln of the expected \$2.6mln in membership dues has been deposited; \$158K remains outstanding, with one member owing \$42K. It is anticipated that membership dues will remain \$116K short of the \$2.6mln budgeted, as it is a voluntary program with many previously irrigated parcels not currently being irrigated, and some acreage being developed. It was also reiterated that 14,000 acres will be added to the SJCDWQC as of January 1, 2016 through the transfer of members from East San Joaquin's Coalition, at \$2.50/acre (for half year membership).

It was noted that a program report was contained in the meeting packet.

The RMP (Regional Monitoring Program) was discussed with regard to the meeting previously held with the Assistant Director. It was noted that although participation is voluntary, the General Order can be revised to make it mandatory. Approve to accept \$37,665 in monitoring site exchange costs for this year, with Board to revisit future participation in RMP and associated costs next year. Motion Mr. Thoming, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board members retired into closed session to discuss the RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator positions, contracting considerations and financial matters.

Upon adjourning from closed session, the Board approved offering the RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator contracted positions to Jenna Rodriguez at \$50/hr.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 15th, 2015 at the USDA Stockton Service Center at 12:00 noon. Adjourn meeting at 2:05 p.m. Motion Mr. Thoming, second Mr. Wilber, approved unanimously.