

# San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District

## *Regular Board Meeting*

Balmat Residence  
8755 S. Inland Drive  
Stockton, CA 95206

**Thursday, May 20, 2021 - 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/507874829>

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### **Minutes**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, Bill Koster, Diego Olagary, John Thoming, and Molly Watkins. Brandon Bates (NRCS-Stockton), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), Mike Wackman (SCJDWQC), Tim Pelican (SJC Ag Commissioner) and Krista McCoon (RCD Administrator) were also in attendance.

#### **MEETING AGENDA**

A motion to accept the agenda for the May 20, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Olagary; Mr. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to accept the corrected regular meeting minutes from April 15, 2021, was made by Mr. Koster; Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **TREASURERS REPORT**

All bills for the month were presented. A motion to pay all invoices presented in the meeting packet and the supplemental packet was made by Mr. Olagary; Mr. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Paradise Cut Update – Mr. Balmat reported that Patrea from Consero Solutions is leading outreach and will be first communicating with reclamation districts and engineers via meetings in June and July. The planning committee is compiling a list of potential project leads. Discussions are taking place with DWR to determine support for a combined Paradise Cut and dredging project.  
Ms. Wakins made a motion to allow the RCD Administrator and Board president to serve as signers to grant reporting documents. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. DWR Grant Update – Ms. Noble with Noble Common Ground Solutions previously presented a contract. It was reviewed by Ms. Spaletta. An email with her comments was presented. Ms. Noble and Ms. McCoon will work with DWR to bring resolution to the concerns highlighted. The goal is to have a contract for review next month.
- C. Ceres Imaging Grant – Ms. McCoon brought the group up to speed regarding the Ceres Imaging grant from 2017. She noted that DWR is willing to create a new grant for the remaining balance of the original \$300K,

approximately \$126K. Ceres Imaging needs to provide some additional documentation to DWR to move forward. Hopefully, a new grant will be ready for review next month.

- D. Pombo Scholarship – There were three applicants for the 2021 Pombo Scholarship. Ms. McCoon reviewed the scores and notes compiled from reviewers. After discussion, it was determined to award all three a scholarship in varying amounts. After confirming with Ms. Pombo, Ms. McCoon will send the applicants a letter detailing their respective award.

## **RESOURCES**

- A. Ag Commissioner’s Report – Mr. Pelican reported there have been over 2,400 Nutra in the state since 2017 and 109 in San Joaquin County. DPR is expected to release new proposed regulations for decontamination stations. Delta Jr. College students have been hired to complete weed surveys and will start in the Delta. The commissioner’s office is looking into declaring a natural disaster for tree crops. Covid vaccines are available at the Ag Center without an appointment. The Ag Center is expected to be open for booking beginning in August.
- B. CRAE Report – Ms. Watkins stated the group submitted the letter, *CRAE Comments on the 30 x 30 Executive Order, and the Water Resiliency Portfolio* and would be meeting the following day.
- C. RCD Administrator – Ms. McCoon discussed that she will be working on combing through the boxes in the RDC office as well as updating the website over the coming months. Additionally, she and the group discussed her involvement with the LMRWS group and it was concluded she would act as a liaison between the groups on a quarterly basis. She presented the need for a transfer of funds between the Coalition and RCD accounts as the result of a check being withdrawn from the wrong account.  
Mr. Koster made a motion to prepare a letter requesting a transfer of funds from the Coalition account to the RCD General account in the amount of \$11,342.33. Mr. Olagary seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **NRCS**

- A. EQIP Update – Mr. Bates reported that NRCS has finished batch three, with 79 contracts valued at \$4.2 million in 2021. He plans to proceed with a survey to satisfy the local work group meeting requirement as no formal guidelines have been proposed. Applications will be accepted in July for new five-year contracts. The USDA is expected to be up and running in October/November.

## **IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM**

- A. Financial Report – Monthly financial statements were reviewed. A motion to approve the financial report and pay all of the invoices including the additional bills presented in the supplemental packet was made by Ms. Watkins; Mr. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Steering Committee Report – The Program Managers Report was included in the supplemental packet.
- C. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney noted that 77% of members submitted their nitrogen plan and 72% of farm evaluations have been submitted. Reminders and invoices will go out in the beginning of the month.
- D. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – The Delta Regional Monitoring Program, non-profit, should be up and running by July 1.
- E. Program Director Report – Mr. Wackman reviewed some of the recent testing results. He noted that issues regarding access for monitoring at East Orwood Tract were resolved. Terry Pritchard is working with growers and chemical houses to invite growers to discuss surface and grounds water issues.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

## **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn the board meeting of May 20, 2021 was made by Mr. Thoming; Mr. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m., Thursday, June 17, 2021, location TBD.