

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

Robert's Union Farm Center
4925 W Howard Rd • Stockton, CA 95206

Thursday, February 17, 2022 • 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Minutes

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, Phil Balmat, John Herrick, Bill Koster, Diego Olagaray, Jim Thoming, Molly Watkins, and Marden Wilber. Brandon Bates (NRCS – Stockton), Krista McCoon (RCD Administrator), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), Elisa Noble (Noble Common Ground Solutions), Tim Pelican (Ag Commissioner's Office), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC) were also in attendance.

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the February 17, 2022, meeting was made by Ms. Watkins. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from January 20, 2022, was made by Ms. Watkins. Mr. Herrick 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 supplemental packet was made by Mr. Herrick. Mr. Wilber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Olagaray moved to transfer the remaining balance in the scholarship fund to the RCD general fund and close the scholarship fund. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report - Monthly financial statements were reviewed. Mr. Koster move to accept and file the financial report and pay all the invoices, including those in the supplemental packet. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Steering Committee - The program manager's report was included in the supplemental packet.
- C. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney explained the 2020 crop year farm surveys and nitrogen management reports were due last April 1. There were 375-400 who didn't respond. She explained there is a group of roughly 30 repeat offenders and asked for the board's input on how to handle this chronic situation. Mr. Herrick will assist in drafting a letter explaining potential consequences of continually not submitting necessary documents in a timely manner. Ms. Mulrooney also explained the need for additional office supplies.
Ms. Watkins moved to authorize Ms. Mulrooney to lease or purchase a copy machine and laptop, up to \$7K. Mr. Wilber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Mr. Wackman reviewed a grant application being submitted by CARCD with the Department of Conservation. He discussed the option of proposing a project at Dry Creek, in conjunction with the Sacramento RCD. The board directed him to do further research the options of a project at Dry Creek.
- D. Program Report – Mr. Wackman review exceedances and explained that a grower outreach meeting will be completed for those with nitrogen and Pyrethroid exceedances. Mr. Wackman will try to get Melissa

to do a presentation of the results of last year's water year (Sept - Oct).

- E. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman explained that a draft contract between DRMP and SJCRCD for monitoring/sampling by USGS was sent to Jennifer Spaletta. He will have it ready for signature at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Paradise Cut – Mr. Herrick discussed the positive progress made regarding a larger Paradise Cut/South Delta restoration project; stating that San Joaquin Area Flood Control Area (SJAFCA) will be the project lead with an advisory committee. He noted the RCD is close to no longer being in charge.
- B. DWR Contract – Ms. Noble explained the progress on the project. She is looking into the possibility of adding Medford Island, 130 acres, to the project and will ask DWR about additional overhead to cover expenses related to the addition.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. CURES Grant – Ms. McCoon explained that the RCD worked with CURES and East Stanislaus to apply for a CDFA grant for an irrigation conservation project proposed for 2023 and 2024. Award announcements should be announced in March.
- B. Virtual Bay-Delta RCD Meeting – Ms. McCoon and Ms. Watkins explained the SJCRCD is hosting the virtual meeting and will also be conducting a virtual tour of the Paradise Cut project. Mr. Herrick will be serving as the tour guide and answering questions from attendees. Directors were encouraged attend.

RESOURCES

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Mr. Pelican explained that DWR came out with their rule making calendar and noted that at decontamination sites equipment must be OSHA compliant. He's working on putting together a pesticide return program in the coming years. He's putting together a letter of support to burn grape vines and the ag commissioner's office is hiring.
- B. CRAE Report – The group will be meeting next week.
- C. RCD Administrator – Ms. McCoon talked about the production of a virtual trip for the Paradise Cut project, which will serve both as public outreach and the tour for the Bay-Delta meeting.

NRCS UPDATE

- A. EQIP Update – Mr. Bates discussed that ranking will take place next week for 2022 EQIP funding. There will be another funding round of funding for cover crops, as only portion of the available funds was expended.
- B. Personnel – Mr. Bates will serve dual duty for Stanislaus County for a period.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the February RCD board meeting on February 17, 2022, was made by Mr. Balmat. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, March 17, 2022, at the Roberts Union Farm Center.