

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

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

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

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:19 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, Jack Hamm, Molly Watkins, and Marden Wilber. Brandon Bates (NRCS – Stockton), Stephen Julian (Wackman Consulting), Krista McCoon (RCD Administrator), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), Tim Pelican (Ag Commissioner's Office), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC) were also in attendance.

MEETING AGENDA

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

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from February 17, 2022, was made by Ms. Watkins. Mr. Hamm 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 and supplemental packets was made by Mr. Balmat. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Balmat made a motion to transfer \$500 from the general RCD fund to the coalition fund to correct an accounting error regarding the NACD payment in that amount. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report - Monthly financial statements were reviewed. Mr. Hamm move to accept and file the financial report and pay all the invoices, including those in the supplemental packet. Mr. Wilber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Draft Budget – Mr. Wackman presented the draft 22/23 coalition budget. He reviewed budget assumptions and it will be voted on next month.
- C. Steering Committee - The program manager's report was included in the supplemental packet.
- D. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney explained various pop-up functions she's implementing to the grower portal to highlight missing items. She also reviewed the percent of growers using digital communications. She mentioned the new printer/computer are in route.
- E. Program Report – Mr. Wackman reviewed exceedances and explained that a grower outreach meeting was completed for those with Pyrethroid exceedances. A meeting will be held on March 31, for those deemed nitrogen outliers. Melissa from MJL Environmental will come next month to discuss pesticide use in the Delta.
- F. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman explained that a draft contract between DRMP and SJCRCD for monitoring/sampling by USGS was prepared and revisions are being made. He will have it ready for signature at the next meeting. He also explained the progress of staggering sampling and monitoring for five programs to spread out the workload. CV Salts will not be required until an official

letter to comply has been received, likely the end of this year or next.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Paradise Cut – No report.
- B. DWR Contract – Ms. McCoon explained that Ms. Noble is working on getting Pace Reserve mowed and sprayed. The board confirmed the DWR contract committee – Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Watkins – are authorized to hire subcontractors based on appropriate qualifications and recommendations so long as they are under the contract falls under organizations procurement limit, which would then require a full bid process.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Potential Dry Creek Groundwater Recharge Project and Creek Improvement – Mr. Wackman discussed a grant application being submitted by CARCD to the Department of Conservation. He presented a draft of a proposed project along Dry Creek, a collaboration between SJCRCD and Sacramento RCD. The proposed flood and ground water recharge projects would potentially be a \$6M project. Mr. Hamm moved to authorize President Richard Rodriguez to sign a letter of support for the proposed project. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

RESOURCES

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Mr. Pelican explained he, along with neighboring RCDs, was awarded a grant for a pesticide return program. DPR called for a meeting with ag commissioners to discuss Telone and he anticipates regulation changes in '23. He has N95 masks available, if needed.
- B. CRAE Report – Ms. Watkins explained they met and discussed repurposing and the 30X30 plan, including land currently used for livestock.
- C. RCD Administrator – Ms. McCoon talked about the Paradise Cut virtual farm trip. Additionally, she got the Board's blessing to begin renovating the website. Ms. McCoon, alongside Ms. Watkins, discussed concerns regarding AB 1902, a bill CARCD is advocating for that would make changes to Division 9. Ms. Moreno from Guadalupe-Coyote RCD chatted with the group about her perspective regarding the legislation. After discussion, Mr. Hamm moved to write a letter of opposition to AB 1902. Mr. Wilber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Additionally, the board directed staff to gather information and details to write a letter the CARCD board expressing concern regarding the handling of this legislative process.

NRCS UPDATE

- A. EQIP Update – Mr. Bates noted all 11 applicants for the cover crop funding were awarded. Preliminary selections, 49, were made for Batch 3 EQIP funding. There will be two more rounds of funding before September 30 for a total of 110/120 contracts. The office is now open to the public.
- B. Personnel – No report.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the March RCD board meeting on March 17, 2022, was made by Mr. Balmat. Mr. Wilber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, April 21, 2022, at the Roberts Union Farm Center.