

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

San Joaquin County Farm Bureau
3290 Ad Art Rd
Stockton, CA 95215

Thursday, October 20, 2022 • 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Minutes

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, Phil Balmat, John Herrick, Jim Thoming, Diego Olagaray, Molly Watkins, and Marden Wilber. Brandon Bates (NRCS), Krista McCoon (RCD Administrator), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), Elisa Noble (Noble Common Ground Solutions), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC), were also in attendance.

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the October 20, 2022, meeting was made by Mr. Herrick. Mr. Wilber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from September 15, 2022, was made by Mr. Herrick. Mr. Wilber 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 Ms. Watkins. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – The pesticide takeback event is set for November 2-4. Permits will be issued starting November 14; renewal appointments can be made starting November 1. Private Applicator Certification will expire 12/31/22 for last names beginning with I-Q. Beginning October 2022, a New Private Applicator Initial Certification Exam that meets federal competency requirements will be used for new PAC applicants. Continuing education classes will be in-person and online.
- B. CRAE Report – Ms. Watkins discussed some of the overarching topics at the previous meeting. She noted there is approximately \$50M allocated for conservation projects for repurposing land. The concept of repurposing land will be the biggest change to land in generations and it was mentioned that while “ag will look different, it won't go away.” She expressed concern regarding the direction of the group and the desire to take 30% of land out of production by 2030.
- C. RCD Administrator – Ms. McCoon updated the group that AB 1902 did in fact pass. She discussed with the upcoming CARCD conference and noted she'd send registration details.

NRCS UPDATE

- A. EQIP Update – Mr. Bates noted they are in year three of farm bill funding with \$95-98M for the state. Inflation Reduction Act funds are set to be available in January and will be staggered and increasing.

There is expected to be an increase in funds available with the Regional Conservation Partnership Program for projects focusing on groundwater recharge, drought, air quality, climate change, etc. Mr. Bates stated that the next 4-5 years stand to be the biggest funding years yet.

B. Personnel – No report.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report – Monthly financial statements were reviewed. Mr. Herrick moved to accept and file the financial report and pay all invoices, including those in the supplemental packet. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Mr. Olagaray moved to authorize a one-time transfer of \$54,422, from the Coalition account to the General RCD account for the 22/23 RCD overhead fee. Mr. Wilber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Steering Committee – The report was included as an attachment.
- C. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney stated the Regional Board sent 350 letters for those who haven't submitted nitrogen management plans.
- D. Program Report – Ms. Wackman noted that algae toxicity hits on the islands are causing issue and the water board wants studies completed. The source has yet to be determined. Therefore, it's been proposed that studies be completed to find the source, up to \$50K. A response if this is acceptable has not been received from the Regional Water Board.
- E. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Paradise Cut – Mr. Herrick explained the Army Corps. of Engineers was being taken on a tour of Paradise Cut. SJAFCA will get \$3M, hopefully in December, to start phase 3 of the project. State and Federal representatives will be lobbied for future dredging fund allocations.
- B. DWR Contract – Elisa Noble, of Noble Common Grounds Solutions, discussed potentially expanding the program to include additional work. Mr. Herrick moved to approve the addition of \$474,000 to the DWR contract to do additional work on the tracts. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. CDFA – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant – Ms. McCoon noted that the technical team is working on developing the app. The group will convene after the first draft is done.
- D. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – No report.
- E. MOU with East Stanislaus RCD – No report.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2021 Audit Review – The board reviewed the executed audit as presented. They directed staff to inquire about what items roll up into the “education” line under disbursement as well as ask about the extended timeline to completion. Mr. Olagaray moved to approve the audit as presented. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the October RCD board meeting on October 20, 2022, was made by Ms. Watkins. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 1: p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, November 17, 2022, at the San Joaquin County Farm Bureau Office.