

**San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District**  
***Regular Board Meeting***

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

**Thursday, April 20, 2023 • 12:00 p.m.**

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**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, Jack Hamm, John Herrick, Diego Olagary, Jim Thoming, Molly Watkins, and Marden Wilber. Kamal Bagri (SJC Ag Commissioner), Brandon Bates (NRCS - Stockton), Krista McCoon (RCD Administrator), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), Jennifer Spaletta (Spaletta Law), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC) were also in attendance.

**MEETING AGENDA**

A motion to accept the agenda for the April 20, 2023, 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 March 16, 2023, 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 and supplemental packets was made by Mr. Hamm. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Herrick moved to transfer \$4,198.81, from the Coalition account to the RCD account to correct an accounting error. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)**

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Bagri noted the cherry industry is approximately 3 weeks behind and will likely run until the end of June. She also mentioned that grape growers have been calling the office regarding using fungicides in vineyards with standing water. She noted there may be options with special labels, but it'd prevent the water from being moved. She directed folks to FSA for disaster relief.

- B. CRAE Report – Ms. Watkins explained that while the CRAE group is in limbo, trying to decide if they will continue, they will, for at least this year.
- C. RCD Administrator – Ms. McCoon discussed the work she’s been completing with Paradise Cut. She also brought the group up to speed with the “Working Group”. She discussed recent meetings with Cam, the new Executive director at CARCD, and the Bay-Delta Region. Ms. Watkins was selected as the chair for the Bay-Delta Region.

### **ESJ LITIGATION UPDATE**

- A. Ms. Spaletta updated the group on the recent court of appeals decision, which was in the RCD’s favor. She noted the appellate court decision walks through all challenges and determines merit. In all challenges, it was determined that the existing orders are acceptable.

### **NRCS UPDATE**

- A. EQIP Update – Mr. Bates noted that applications are being evaluated, though not at the 100% rate that he would prefer. He noted the office is open and available for in-person visits.
- B. Personnel – Gayle Berry will move from state NRCS to federal. The Stockton office is currently down two planners but will see if they can assist FSA with doing initial site visits for disaster relief/declarations.

### **IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM**

- A. Financial Report – Mr. Wackman reviewed the financials. Mr. Thoming moved to pay invoices as presented and accept and file the financial report. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.  
Mr. Hamm moved to transfer \$200,000 from the coalition reserve account to the general coalition account. Mr. Olagaray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Steering Committee – The program managers report was included in the packet.
- C. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney noted the water board has been sending notices faster to those who don’t submit paperwork on time. The group discussed creating bilingual video tutorials for INMPs. She also noted that packets are going out, but larger growers are being pushed to the portal.
- D. Program Report – Mr. Wackman reviewed exceedances, noting pyrethroid hits during high rain times.
- E. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Things are moving forward.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Paradise Cut – Mr. Herrick reviewed the public outreach meeting, noting it was well attended and positive. He also discussed steps being taken to close out the grant, stating the River Islands JPA was willing to provide funds to offset costs.  
Mr. Balmat moved to make line-item budget shifts, as noted in the supplemental packet, which would transfer \$4,093.47 to Consero Solutions and close out the grant as of March

31, 2023.

Mr. Herrick moved to accept \$12,000 from the River Islands JPA to be redistributed to contractors as follows: \$2,000 to Consero Solutions, \$2,000 to American Rivers, and \$8,000 to ESA for the purpose of final payments for work on the Paradise Cut and South Delta Restoration Project grant. Mr. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. DWR Contract – No update.

C. CDFA – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant – Ms. McCoon explained there was only one intern applicant and discussed extending the deadline. Further recruitment will be conducted.

D. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman noted that the impacted parties are meeting at the end of May to discuss options.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The board went into closed session at 1:52 p.m. Upon reconvening to general session at 1:56 p.m., Mr. Balmat moved to adjust the following contractor hourly rates: Ruth Mulrooney - \$70, Krista McCoon - \$60, and Wendy Grupe - \$40. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn the April RCD board meeting on April 20, 2023, was made by Mr. Watkins. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, May 18, 2023, at the San Joaquin Farm Bureau.