

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

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

Thursday, May 18, 2023 • 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the May 18, 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 April 20, 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.

RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Bagri noted a disaster declaration is in place for all crops until December 2023. She also discussed some of the employment challenges within the office, having three recent resignations. The new regulatory package for Telone is being rolled out. She also discussed potential incentives for chipping smaller acreage.
- B. CRAE Report – Ms. Watkins explained that at the last meeting, they were broken into two groups: round table and repurposing with the goal of drafting a letter to state outlining what the need/want.
Ms. Watkins, Bay-Delta Chair, also discussed there will likely be a social event in July in

Livermore. She also noted at the CARCD Legislative Committee, a conservation bond was discussed. She'll report back as that unfolds.

C. RCD Administrator – Ms. McCoon noted that she would discuss agenda items below.

NRCS UPDATE

A. EQIP Update – Mr. Bates noted 9 more selections were made, with 46 awarded so far. He noted selections will likely be made until August.

B. Personnel – Mr. Bates noted the meeting would be his last as he accepted a new position at the state level. He told the group Ms. Sonya Miller applied to fill his role.

Mr. Balmat made a motion to write a letter in support of selecting Ms. Miller as Stockton District Conservationist. Mr. Wilber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

A. Financial Report – Mr. Wackman reviewed the financials. Mr. Herrick moved to pay invoices as presented and accept and file the financial report. Mr. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Updated '23 Coalition Budget – Mr. Herrick moved to approve the revised 2023 budget as presented. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Steering Committee – The program managers report was included in the packet.

D. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney noted the water board sent late notice cards for those delinquent in submitting INMPs.

E. Program Report – Mr. Wackman reviewed exceedances: algae, which is normal and pyrethroids, which is less common. He also noted there is currently discussion at the management practice meeting to see how it'll integrate with ground water protection targets.

F. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Things are moving forward.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Paradise Cut – Mr. Balmat discussed the progress that went into submitting the final grant report, which was submitted on May 5. The project will now be led by SJAFCA.

B. DWR Contract – No update.

C. CDFA – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant – Ms. McCoon explained one intern was interviewed and accepted the position. The other will be interviewed Monday, May 22. She also presented an updated contract and SOW, which documented the shift to two interns, opposed to one intern and one irrigation specialist.

Mr. Hamm moved to authorize board president Richard Rodriguez to sign the updated CURES/SJCRCDC contract for work performed for under the WETA grant. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

D. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman noted the CV Salinity Coalition hired lobbying firms who believe the large conservation bond will pass and be on the ballot. There is a chance some of the program funds could be covered by the bond.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2023 Range Camp – Ms. McCoon explained Theresa Becchetti reached out indicating there was a high schooler interested in Range Camp. Mr. Hamm moved to approve sponsorship of one Range Camper. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. 2022 Audit Findings – Ms. McCoon distributed the 2022 audit findings. Ms. Watkins moved to accept and file the audit findings as presented. Mr. Wilber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. 2023 RCD Budget – Ms. McCoon presented the 2023 RCD draft budget. Mr. Herrick moved to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

The board of directors went into closed session at 1:42. There was no action to report on when they resumed open session at 1:51.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the May RCD board meeting on May 18, 2023, was made by Mr. Hamm. Mr. Wilber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, June 15, 2023, at the San Joaquin Farm Bureau.