

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

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

Thursday, July 21, 2023 • 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, Jack Hamm, John Herrick, Bill Koster, Molly Watkins, and Marden Wilber. Kamal Bagri (SJC Ag Commissioner), Sonya Miller NRCS - Stockton), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), Elisa Noble (Noble Common Ground Solutions), Joe Takai (NRCS - Stockton), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC), were also in attendance.

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the July 21, 2023, meeting was made by Mr. Hamm. Ms. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from June 15, 2023, was made by Mr. Hamm. Ms. Koster 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. Koster. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Bagri explained that private applicators will be required to take the new test as of January 2024 to receive a brown card. Fumigants will also require a special category. New Telone regulations will be required as of January 1, which will also initiate a new CE. As of 2025, the Air Resources Board will prohibit ag burning, but exemptions will still exist. Financial incentives, based on operation size, are being offered for chipping. Tulare County is asking for walnut industry support, above and beyond the July 12, tariff relief. A meeting will take place in early September. Ms. Bagri explained there are roughly 10 vacancies in her office and discussion took place regarding these hardships.
Mr. Hamm made a motion that on behalf of the RCD, Krista McCoon write a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting the Ag Commissioner's Office receive more additional support and independence regarding HR decisions. Mr. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. CRAE Report – Ms. Watkins explained the next meeting is set for August 3.
- C. RCD Administrator – Ms. McCoon explained the final Paradise Cut documents were submitted and the final payment received. She also noted there was a \$36 balance left on the Ceres Imaging grant from years ago. An invoice was submitted to receive the funds.

NRCS UPDATE

- A. EQIP Update – Ms. Miller explained that applications being received will be considered for next Spring and Summer. Out of the funds available for air quality, none from SJC were accepted. IRA funding awards went mostly to climate smart practices. She is working to get additional practices, such as orchard removal, considered.
- B. Personnel – Ms. Sonya Miller was selected as the District Conservationist for the Stockton Office. The office has three vacancies.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report – Mr. Koster moved to pay invoices as presented and accept and file the financial report. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Steering Committee – The program manager’s report was included in the packet.
- C. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney explained there are approximately 371 folks who haven’t submitted a nitrogen plan and 400 who haven’t submitted dues. Reminders have gone out.
- D. Program Report – Mr. Wackman noted there continue to be pyrethroid exceedances. Outreach is ongoing for farmers who are outliers. He noted there are many acres being pulled out of production. He explained that a plan was submitted regarding ground water protection targets and it appears only 1-2 townships will need nitrogen outreach.
- E. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman explained the Delta RMP is still moving forward.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract – Ms. Noble explained that while progress is slower than preferred, it is moving forward. She provided the group an overview of the progress at all three locations. A tour of the project at Medford Tract is set for August 17, at 9:30 a.m. She mentioned the possibility of contracting with staff already onsite to do some of the mowing and other conservation work. DWR has been putting on a series of workshops regarding stewardship practices and would like RCDs to be technical advisors.
- B. CDFA – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant – Ms. McCoon reviewed the work the interns are doing and the evaluations that have taken place.
- C. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman explained meetings have been taking place with the dischargers in the area and will continue to meet with them. He’s also been attending meetings for those in Zone 1 to see what they have been doing, which may impact Zone 2.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on July 21, 2023, was made by Mr. Hamm. Mr. Wilber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, August 17, 2023, at the San Joaquin Farm Bureau.