

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

San Joaquin Farm Bureau
3290 Ad Art Way, Stockton, CA 95215

Thursday, January 18, 2024 • 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, John Herrick (via phone), Jim Thoming, and Molly Watkins. Kamal Bagri (SJC Ag Commissioner/Sealer), Ryan Hansen (Assoc. Director), Krista McCoon (RCD), Sonya Miller (NRCS - Stockton), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC) and Tom Wehri (speaker), were also in attendance.

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the January 18, 2024, meeting was made by Mr. Balmat. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from December 21, 2023, was made by Mr. Balmat. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKER

Tom Wheri, current Placer RCD Director and former CARCD President, discussed the conservation history in California, including the history of RCDs, NRCS, and the purpose/formation of CARCD.

TREASURER'S REPORT

All bills for the month were presented. A motion to pay all invoices presented in the packets was made by Mr. Thoming. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Balmat move to reimburse mileage at \$1.00/ mile for Grupe, Mulrooney, and Wackman. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NRCS UPDATE

- A. EQIP and Personnel Update – Ms. Sonya Miller noted applications can be submitted for tractors and climate smart, they are due mid-February. She also noted various open positions and encouraged directors to solicit applicants.

RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Kamal Bagri informed the group the abandoned orchard case had not been filed, but she's working to get the issue resolved. She mentioned that after December 31, of this year, there would no more ag burning. The SJ Air Pollution Control District is looking for funding options. Flory is working on a machine for bio char. Weed booklets have been produced for SJC, so she's evaluating how she can expend the funding. Various weed abatement options were discussed. It's now a Civil penalty if beekeepers don't register bee locations. She also discussed a new beetle that could be a threat to the almond industry. The situation is being monitored.
- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report – Ms. McCoon and Ms. Watkins discussed some of the current transparency concerns regarding CARCD.
Mr. Balmat moved to sign on to a letter requesting a special meeting of the CARCD board. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Ms. Watkins made a motion to support leaving the associate director requirements as currently written. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Ms. Watkins will write a letter asking for support by the Board of Supervisors regarding the landowner requirement for directors.
- C. CRAE (California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment) Report – No report.
- D. RCD Administrator Update – Ms. McCoon informed the group that the workers comp audit had been completed successfully. The regular audit was also underway. She also noted that the director vacancy would be announced at the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report – All bills for the month were presented. Mr. Thoming moved to pay coalition invoices as presented and accept and file the financial report. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Program Report – Mr. Wackman explained he has been attending CV Salts meetings. The official compliance letter was received in late December. He noted the annual grower meeting is set for February 14.
- C. Steering Committee – The program manager's report was included in the packet.
- D. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney noted late membership dues at coming in and membership is at 100 percent of budget. She noted that Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plans are available on the portal. If a member has completed it on the portal for 3 years, a hard copy will not be mailed.
- E. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman explained there are on-going

discussions regarding the USGS lab and the regional board staff to try and resolve concerns.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract – No Update
- B. CDFA – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant – Ms. McCoon noted 11 evaluations were completed in 2023. Interns will be solicited earlier in the year for 2024 and board members were asked to brainstorm and recruit applicants.
- C. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – See above.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on January 18, 2024, was made by Mr. Thoming. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, February 15, 2024, at San Joaquin Farm Bureau.