

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

Robert J Cabral Agricultural Center
2101 E Earhart Ave • Stockton, CA 95206

Thursday, May 16, 2024 • 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, Ryan Hansen, John Herrick, Diego Olagaray, and Jim Thoming. Angela Lowrey (Ironhouse Sanitary District), Krista McCoon (RCD), Sonya Miller (NRCS - Stockton), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), Jennifer Spaletta (Legal Counsel - Stoel), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC), were also in attendance.

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the May 16, 2024, meeting was made by Mr. Balmat. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from April 18, 2024, was made by Mr. Balmat. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

NRCS UPDATE

- A. EQIP and Personnel Update – Ms. Sonya Miller discussed her leadership program trip to DC, highlighting a congressional hearing she watched. She noted the text of the farm bill is being confirmed prior to negotiations. There are new hires coming in from out-of-state. She also noted that Campbells is seeking to put forth a RCPP application, if SJC tomato growers are interested.

RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Kamal Bagri sent a message noting she is working on an emergency proclamation for beet leaf virus in tomatoes. She is planning to bring it to the Board of Supervisors on June 4.

- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report – Ms. McCoon discussed the progress the working group is making. She discussed the option of becoming clients of Water and Power Law Group PC for the purpose of protecting SJCRCD as an RCD under Division 9 against interference by CARCD and seeking to ensure the CARCD’s compliance with relevant legal requirements. Mr. Thoming moved to authorize SJCRCD present, to sign an engagement letter with Water and Power Law Group PC for this stated purposed and authorize one-time \$500 fee. Mr. Olagary seconded the motion. Motion pass unanimously.
- C. CRAE (California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment) Report – No report.
- D. RCD Administrator Update – Ms. McCoon discussed the RCPP Campbells is seeking to determine the level of interest from the group. She also discussed a rangeland grant opportunity with neighboring RCDs. The board decided to move forward in seeing if there is an opportunity to be involved.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report – All bills for the month were presented. Mr. Herrick moved to pay coalition invoices as presented and accept and file the financial report. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. ‘24 Coalition Fee/Policy Resolution – The board members reviewed/clarified the updated resolution. Mr. Herrick moved to approve resolution 24-1, setting 2024/2025 San Joaquin and Delta Water Quality Coalition Assessments. Mr. Olagaray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. FY24 Coalition Budget – Mr. Balmat made a motion to approve the 24/25 Coalition budget as presented. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Program Report – Mr. Wackman reviewed water column toxicity hits.
- E. Steering Committee – The program manager’s report was included in the packet. Discussion took place about having 1-2 in-person meetings per year and shifting coalition meetings to every other month. Mr. Wackman will confirm the plan at the next Coalition meeting.
- F. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney reviewed the annual membership billing and discussed an issue with unintentionally billing certain members the subbasin fee. MLJ worked quickly to resolve the issue once discovered. Mr. Thoming made a motion that checks be ordered for the F&M Bank account and refunds be issued to those who paid the \$.40/acre subbasin fee they were inadvertently charged. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. A letter of request was reviewed by the board to refund a member’s overpayment from 2023. The board unanimously decided to decline the request and directed staff to inform the member.
- G. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman noting that things were progressing.
- H. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman discussed this is an on-going process.

- I. Ironhouse Sanitary District Membership Matter Ironhouse – Ms. Angela Lowrey discussed her role with Ironhouse and explained their perspective of the late/back dues and delayed participation with the water coalition. She reviewed the letter sent to board asking for consideration in reducing/forgiving the dues. Ms. Jennifer Spaletta reviewed the options available to both groups. The RCD will respond in writing to Ironhouse reviewing the discussion and any action taken at the board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract – Ms. McCoon discussed that a meeting was held with DWR to move the project forward, provided the board approved.
Mr. Herrick moved to proceed with the DWR contract, with Ms. McCoon serving as project lead. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed with Mr. Balmat abstaining.
- B. CDFA – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant – Ms. McCoon noted 11 evaluations were completed in 2023. No internship applications have been received, but additional outreach was being done.
- C. Land Development within SJC – No Report.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

CLOSED SESSION

The board went into closed session at 12:21. Mr. Olagaray moved to resume open session at 12:38. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Olagaray moved the SJCRCD Board president respond to Ironhouse’s letter noting that while their request for late/back due fee forgiveness is denied, the board recognizes the situation and invites them to propose a reasonable settlement offer to be considered at the June 2024 board meeting. A settlement offer, should Ironhouse choose to propose one, should be received no later than June 13. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on May 16, 2024, was made by Ms. Balmat. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, June 20, 2024, at the SJC Farm Bureau.