

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

San Joaquin Farm Bureau
3290 N Ad Art Rd • Stockton, CA 95206

Thursday, June 20, 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, Jack Hamm, Ryan Hansen, John Herrick, Diego Olagaray, and Molly Watkins. Kamal Bagri (SJC Ag Commissioner/Sealer), Krista McCoon (RCD), Sonya Miller (NRCS - Stockton), Sara Medina (Restore the Delta), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), Allison Roberson (NRCS - Stockton), Jennifer Spaletta (Legal Counsel - Stoel), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC), were also in attendance.

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the June 20, 2024, meeting was made by Mr. Olagaray. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from May 16, 2024, was made by Mr. Olagaray. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

The board went into closed session at 12:07 p.m.

Upon returning to open session at 12:15 p.m., it was reported that Mr. Olagaray moved to accept the offer proposed by Ironhouse Sanitary District to pay \$49,172.12, subject to a settlement agreement approved by legal counsel. 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 Ms. Watkins. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The proposed 24/25 RCD Budget was reviewed.

Mr. Herrick moved to accept the 24/25 RCD Budget as proposed. Mr. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NRCS UPDATE

EQIP and Personnel Update – Ms. Sonya Miller discussed they are currently in contracting season, with 25% obligation rate. The office has seen an increase in requests. The Conservation Stewardship Planning applications submitted represent approximately 15,000 acres. Half are funded and the other half of the applications are for next year.

Ms. Roberson, the office intern, introduced herself and is interested in any learning opportunities the group can provide.

RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Kamal Bagri reported that cherry season is basically complete and over 4,500 export certificates were prepared. A meeting will take place to determine concerns of SJC tomato growers regarding pest pressure. A fire on the west side of the county burned approximately 14,000 acres, demonstrating the need for Ag Pass, which will allow farmers/ranchers to tend to their livestock during disasters. A meeting has been set for July to work out logistics. Reports are coming in of grasshoppers. For 30 days, PPE is being made to dairy/poultry facilities as there are 12 cases of bird flu in 9 states. The crop report is set to be done at the end of August. Additionally, she noted BOS support for her and the ag industry with the addition of five new positions. She discussed working with Public Works to update the app to report ag related weed issues.
- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report – Ms. McCoon and Ms. Watkins discussed the progress the working group is making. A special meeting has been set for July 30 from 2 - 4 p.m.
- C. CRAE (California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment) Report – No report.
- D. RCD Administrator Update – Ms. McCoon provided reports as the items came up in the agenda.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report – All bills for the month were presented. Mr. Balmat moved to pay coalition invoices as presented and accept and file the financial report. Mr. Olagaray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Program Report – The program manager's report was included in the packet. Mr. Wackman reviewed the toxicities. The state wants to set up an expert panel to do an evaluation of the assumptions for the groundwater targets, which isn't ideal. The Regional Board will do a peer-review of the SWAT modeling process. This peer review process will come at an expense.
- C. Steering Committee – Steering committee minutes were provided.
- D. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney reviewed the annual membership billing and reviewed the issue with unintentionally billing certain members the subbasin fee. MLJ provided a list of those members needing a refund.
Ms. Watkins moved to provide refund checks to members on the list provided who were inadvertently charged a subbasin fee. Mr. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Mr. Balmat moved Ms. Mulrooney keep track of her time and related expenses as it pertains to correcting the annual billing in hopes of recouping those costs. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. Motion failed by a 3-4 vote.
- E. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman noting things were progressing, but an

update is needed to the contract, as there will be additional expense due to sample handling error.

- F. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman discussed a temporary agreement was met regarding the financial responsibility of each group with irrigated lands agreeing to pay 65%, dairy contributing 6%, and poultry paying .75%. Another meeting will be held with the remaining groups to confirm everyone’s contribution, as it must equal 100%. He noted plans need to be sent in for approval by December and an early action plan ready in January.
- G. Ironhouse Sanitary District Membership Matter Ironhouse – See closed session above.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract – Ms. McCoon discussed progress made to get the Pace Preserve representative the supplies he needed. A site visit will be set up.
- B. CDFG – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant – Ms. McCoon noted there are two interns who are set to complete the internship. The board gave direction to see what avenues are available to cover them under the SJCRCD insurance policy, understanding auto insurance would be their responsibility.
- C. Land Development within SJC – No Report.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Officer Elections – The existing slate of officers, President: Richard Rodriguez, Vice President: Diego Olagaray, and Treasurer: Phil Balmat was elected by acclamation.
- B. USGS Agreement Amendment – Delta RMP – Mr. Wackman explained that poor handling with sample product resulted in the need to do additional sampling at additional cost. This cost will be absorbed by Delta RMP via the pass thru.
Mr. Herrick moved to authorize SJCRCD President, Richard Rodriguez to sign the updated agreement with USGS to reflect the additional cost. Mr. Olagaray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

CLOSED SESSION

The board went into closed session at 2:12 p.m.

Upon returning to closed session at 2:52 p.m., it was announced that Mr. Hamm made a motion to accept the draft contractor agreements, with rate increases for McCoon, Mulrooney, and Wackman. Mr. Olagaray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on June 20, 2024, was made by Mr. Balmat. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, July 18, 2024, at the SJC Ag Center.