

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

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

Thursday, September 19, 2024 • 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, Ryan Hansen, John Herrick, Bill Koster, Diego Olagary, and Molly Watkins. Jatinder Gill (SJC Ag Commissioner's Office), Krista McCoon (RCD), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC) were also in attendance.

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the September 19, 2024, meeting was made by Ms. Watkins. Mr. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from August 15, 2024, was made by Ms. Watkins. Mr. Koster 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. Koster. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NRCS UPDATE

EQIP and Personnel Update – Ms. Miller couldn't attend but provided a written update. This memo noted the Stockton NRCS office has grown to 11 employees. A new Farm Bill remains in limbo with no update currently. The 2018 Farm Bill was extended through Sept. 30, 2024. She encouraged folks to submit by November 1, for projects to be implemented in Summer 2025 and beyond. Additionally, Ms. Miller provided a quote for watershed models to be used at various outreach events during the year.

Mr. Hamm moved to sponsor the purchase of option three, which included two models, carrying cases, and accompanying accessories. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Jatinder Gill noted the 2023 crop report was submitted and approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 27, noting a slight decrease in production. Applications are being accepted for the Ag Pass program. Avian influenza has been detected in three diaries in the area.
- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report – Ms. Watkins and Ms. McCoon provided an update from the August 30, CARCD meeting. Ms. McCoon also discussed the limited progress of the SJCRCD membership application that was submitted requesting modified dues.
- C. CRAE (California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment) Report – The group is disbanding, and the final gathering is December 4, in Sacramento.
- 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. Koster moved to pay coalition invoices as amended (there was a correction noted on the mileage invoice for the Coalition employee) and accept and file the financial report. Mr. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Herrick moved to transfer \$56,991.60 from the Coalition fund the RCD fund for the 24/25 Administrative overhead expense. Mr. Olagaray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Program Report – The program manager’s report was included in the packet. Mr. Wackman noted there were no pesticide hits in July and few toxicity hits.
- C. Steering Committee – No report.
- D. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney noted 425 growers received notices from the water board for missing 2023 nitrogen summary reports. Approximately 175 of those have since been collected.
- E. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman noting things were progressing.
- F. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman noted things were moving forward and meetings continue, though there is still a budget shortfall as the cities of Stockton and Lathrop backed out. The remaining contributors will have to cover. Ms. Watkins moved to appoint Mr. Chester Murphy as the irrigated lands management zone advisory committee representative with Mr. John Herrick serving as a backup. Mr. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract – Ms. McCoon discussed progress made and that contracts were completed. Work is currently being conducted at Medford Island and work at Pace should start in October.
- B. CDFA – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant – No update.
- C. Land Development within SJC – Ms. Watkins discussed amendments being made to allow mobile home parks in ag land. This could be detrimental for a variety of reasons. Mr. Koster moved to write a letter in opposition of the amendments regarding mobile parks on ag land. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Staff will write and submit the letter.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Conflict of Interest Code – Ms. McCoon explained that a Conflict of Interest Code is needed. Legal counsel was drafting one and was near completion. Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Olagary and Mr. Herrick volunteered to review and approve the draft document. Mr. Koster moved to authorize Mr. Rodriguez to sign the Conflict of Interest Code, as drafted by legal counsel and approved by the selected representatives. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on September 19, 2024, was made by Mr. Thoming. Mr. Koster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, October 17, 2024, at the SJC Farm Bureau.