

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

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

Thursday, October 17, 2024 • 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, Jack Hamm, Ryan Hansen, John Herrick, Diego Olagary, and Molly Watkins. Jatinder Gill (SJC Ag Commissioner's Office), Krista McCoon (RCD), Sonya Miller (NRCS- Stockton), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC) were also in attendance.

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the October 17, 2024, meeting was made by Mr. Balmat. Mr. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from September 19, 2024, was made by Mr. Balmat. Mr. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

The board went into closed session at 12:02 to conference with District Counsel regarding potential litigation, pursuant to government code §54956.9(d)(4). Upon returning to open session at 12:51, there was no action to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

NRCS UPDATE

EQIP and Personnel Update – Ms. Miller informed the group that the Stockton office is fully staffed. She noted that 13 applications for orchard removal were funded, representing about 1,600 acres. The FY25 Equip deadline is November 15.

RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Jatinder Gill noted there is a new bill that requires a revaluation of paraquat by January 1, 2029. As of January 1, 2025, pesticide use reports now require start/stop time and date. There is also an app that anyone can see what's applied and where. The walnut crop is low, but the Ag Commissioner's Office is getting mixed messaged as to the cause.
- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report – Ms. Watkins and Ms. McCoon updated the group that a decision regarding the CARCD dues reduction request had not been received. Mr. Herrick moved to send a \$300 check for dues and a letter to CARCD explaining it's being sent due

to the lack of response and to ensure SJCRCD is considered in good standing for the annual meeting. Mr. Hann seconded the motion. Motion passed, with Mr. Balmat opposed.

- C. CRAE (California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment) Report – The group is disbanding, and the final gathering is December 4, in Sacramento. Ms. McCoon will confirm the \$750 already sent in will constitute sponsorship, which should include tickets.
- 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. Hamm 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. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Program Report – The program manager’s report was included in the packet.
- C. Steering Committee – No report.
- D. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney noted 479 growers received notices from the water board for missing 2023 nitrogen summary reports. This list is down to 58 who will get letters via certified mail.
- E. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman noting things were progressing. Algae toxicities are being addressed.
- F. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman noted things were moving forward and meetings continue. The early action plan is out for review and input. The prioritization and Optimization study will be next, then implementation.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract – Ms. McCoon discussed progress made and that contracts were completed. Work is currently being conducted at Medford Island and a site visit was conducted at the end of September. A tour of Terminous is set for later in October.
- B. CDFA – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant – No update.
- C. Conflict of Interest Code – Ms. Herrick moved to approve the SJCRCD conflict of interest code as presented. Mr. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. UCCE Grazing Display Partnership – Ms. Watkins and Ms. McCoon reviewed the potential for a grazing display to be featured at AgVenture and similar events. Mr. Hamm moved to sponsor \$2,000 for the development/production of an educational grazing display to be housed with UCCE. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Associate Directors – Mr. Rodriguez discussed potential new associate directors.
- C. Croce, Sanguinetti, and Vander Veen Engagement Letter – Ms. McCoon discussed the annual audit, completed with Croce, Sanguinetti, and Vander Veen. Mr. Olagaray moved to authorize President Richard Rodriguez to send the engagement letter for the annual audit. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on October 17, 2024, was made by Mr. Olagaray. Mr. Hansen 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, November 21, 2024, at the SJC Farm Bureau.