

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

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

Thursday, November 21, 2024 • 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, Bill Koster, Ryan Hansen, Diego Olagary, Jim Thoming, and Molly Watkins. Kamal Bagri (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 November 21, 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 October 17, 2024, was made by Mr. Balmat. Mr. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NRCS UPDATE

EQIP and Personnel Update – Ms. Miller provided a demonstration of the water models sponsored by the RCD to be used at AgVenture and other outreach events. She is currently the acting state conservation planning lead trainer but will be back on January 11. Ramon is leaving for another branch. EQIP applications are open, there have been 70 new submissions and 200 rolled from the previous cycle. Act now projects, such as cover cropping and compost are open until January 31. The PMC is doing a study to evaluate nitrogen uptake in future plantings. She will work with the RCD to plan a training about considerations when removing and replanting an orchard.

RESOURCES

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Kamal Bagri noted pesticide permitting began November 15 and those with last name A-I are required to renew private applicator licenses this year. A new the burrowing rodent control subcategory has been added and trainings are set to help producers be ready for the test. Paraquat will be reevaluated by DPR. As of January 1, 2025, pesticide use reports require start/stop time and date. Also as of January 1, there is no open ag burning, unless for disease. There is still conflict over the economics of burning versus chipping, especially in vineyards.

CLOSED SESSION

The board went into closed session at 12:44 to conference with District Counsel regarding potential litigation, pursuant to government code §54956.9(d)(4). Upon returning to open session at 1:03, President Rodriguez announced that direction to initiate an action was given to counsel and the action, defendants, and other particulars shall be disclosed to any person upon inquiry once the action is formally commenced.

RESOURCES (con't.)

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Kamal Bagri noted continued education classes are set in December. Notice of intent to spray must be submitted electronically unless hardship can be proved. Ag Pass was rolled

out and part two will be to include all growers/producers. The first case of High Path. Avian Influenza was detected in San Joaquin County. Additionally, a Golden Mussel, the first in the US, was found at the Port of Stockton. Nutria sighting occurred in Tracy and there's a push to secure \$10M in nutria eradication funding.

- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report –Ms. McCoon updated the group regarding progress made in establishing a reduced dues amount. The CARCD board approved the budget, as submitted, which required dues of \$624.70. Phil moved to approve paying \$624.70 for 24/25 CARCD dues. Mr. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. CRAE (California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment) Report – The group is disbanding, and the final gathering is on January 30, in Sacramento. Ms. McCoon confirmed the \$750 already sent in will constitute sponsorship, which includes 4 tickets.
- D. RCD Administrator Update – Ms. McCoon updated the group that the December board meeting at Dave Wong's on December 19, would take place at 11:30 a.m. She is also still working with the UC Davis grad student to complete interviews with vegetable farmers.

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.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report – All bills for the month were presented. Mr. Koster moved to pay coalition invoices as amended 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. Mr. Wackman reviewed exceedances and noted they are working on getting nitrogen summary plans.
- C. Steering Committee – No report.
- D. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney noted that most of the growers who were late on nitrogen summary reports had submitted them. This list is down to 58 who will get letters via certified mail.
- E. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman noting things were progressing. Pesticide monitoring is complete, and reports are forthcoming.
- F. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman noted the program will be more expensive next year. Testing will begin as early as February as reports are due in December, they are ahead of schedule.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract – Ms. McCoon noted a tour was taken of Pace Preserve, the site manager is happy.
- B. CDFA – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant – No update.
- C. Land Development within SJC – No update.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on November 21, 2024, was made by Mr. Balmat. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Thursday, December 19, 2024, at the Dave Wong's Restaurant.