

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

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

Thursday, March 21, 2024 • 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
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Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll call/introductions of guests
- B. Acceptance of agenda – last minute additions/deletions
- C. Public comments – limited to 3 minutes per speaker

2. CONSENT CALENDER

- A. Minutes for meeting on February 22, 2024

3. TREASURER'S REPORT: presentation of bills, income received

4. NRCS UPDATE

- A. Program and Personnel Update
- B. Lockeford PMC

5. RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report
- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report
- C. CRAE (California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment) Report
- C. RCD Administrator Update

6. IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report
- B. Proposed 2024 Coalition Budget and Fee Schedule
- C. Steering Committee
- D. Membership Report

- E. Program Report
- F. Delta Regional Monitoring Program
- G. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative
- H. Back Dues - Coalition Member #10904, Iron House

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract
- B. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant
- C. Land Development within SJC

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. COMMUNICATIONS

10. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Personnel/Board Matters

All actions taken in closed session will be reported in open session.

11. ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. on April 18, 2024, at the SJC Ag Center.

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Thursday, March 21, 2024 • 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, John Herrick, Bill Koster, Jim Thoming, and Molly Watkins. Ryan Hansen (Assoc. Director), Krista McCoon (RCD), Sonya Miller (NRCS - Stockton), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), Elisa Noble (Contractor), Lily Selke (Counsel at Herum/Crabtree/Suntag), Margaret Smither-Kopperl (Lockeford PMC), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC), were also in attendance.

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the March 21, 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 February 15, 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. EQUIP and Personnel Update – Ms. Sonya Miller reported that rankings for the latest round are complete, and they are waiting on awards. The deadline for CSP applications is March 22.
Ms. Watkins moved to draft a letter to NRCS, the Air Board, and CDFA regarding the need for agriculture burning. Mr. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Lockeford PMC – Ms. Smither-Kopperl discussed some of the work being conducted as well as some of the staffing challenges at the PMC. She noted that the seed building is being renovated to a conference room, which should hold 90 people. Additionally, she discussed the Spring Field Day on April 3, and invited the board members to attend.

Ms. Watkins move to approve \$100 to support coffee and donuts for the field day. Mr. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – No report.
- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report – Ms. Watkins discussed the two meetings she attended as a CARCD board member: the board and by-laws meeting. She mentioned the goal is for the draft by-laws be ready for review by July 1. Additionally, the Bay-Delta Region Spring Meeting is set for April 30. Mr. Hamm moved to approve \$100 sponsorship for refreshments for the Bay-Delta Spring Meeting. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. CRAE (California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment) Report – Ms. Watkins discussed a recent interaction she had with the CRAE chair regarding "land repurposing", specifically, indigenous land.
- D. RCD Administrator Update – Ms. McCoon updated the group Ryan Hansen's board application, which hopefully will be approved on March 26.

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. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Proposed 2024 Coalition Budget and Fee Schedule – After over 45 minutes of discussion, Mr. Herrick moved to approve resolution 24-01 detailing 2024 Coalition fees, rates and policies. Mr. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
The resolution details are as follows:
 - 1. Rate per acre - \$6.00
 - 2. CV Salts Assessment (for those in the management zone) - \$.40
 - 3. Late Fee - \$1.00 per acre after June 30
 - 4. Base acreage fee - \$70 (10 acres or less)
 - 5. Late fee for base acreage - \$80 after June 30
 - 6. Full fees aren't received for 2 years, membership is dropped
- C. Program Report – Mr. Wackman reviewed water column toxicity hits.
- D. Steering Committee – The program manager's report was included in the packet.
- E. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney noted that Ironhouse requested a W-9 and a payment, in some amount, is expected. Nitrogen summary reports are due by April 1.
- F. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – No report.
- G. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman discussed an initial meeting with others impacted by the CV Salts to determine each group's potential contribution. There was a great deal of variation in the proposed responsibility for dairy and agriculture. The board gave staff direction to get Mr. Olagary and Mr. Koster in a room with Mr. Hamm (representing dairy), to see what could be worked out.
- H. Back Dues - Coalition Member #10904, Iron House – See above.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract – Ms. Elisa Noble, contractor and DWR project lead, gave the board an update on the slow-moving project. She discussed there are 5 other RCDs in the program and a land management workshop was completed.
- B. CDFA – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant – Ms. McCoon noted 11 evaluations were completed in 2023. Interns will be solicited earlier in the year for 2024 and board members were asked to brainstorm and recruit applicants.
- 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 2:34 and returned to open session at 2:46.

Mr. Herrick moved to terminate our contract with contractor Elisa Noble and inquire about moving forward in another direction with DWR. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Herrick moved to complete verbal and written reprimand of the RCD employee regarding absenteeism. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on March 21, 2024, was made by Ms. Watkins. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

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