



SLOUGHHOUSE

Resource Conservation District

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Meeting of the Board - MINUTES Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

When: Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Where: Operating Engineers Training Center
Building 3 - Learning Center
14738 Cantova Way
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

or

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84032627877>
Meeting ID: 840 3262 7877

Time: 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Board Members: Barbara Washburn, Herb Garms, Gary Silva Jr., Lindsay Carter, Jay Schneider
Associate Directors: Teresa Flewellyn
Staff: Brittany Friedman

***A recording of this meeting can be found on the Sloughhouse RCD website at:
<https://srcd.specialdistrict.org/meetings> ***

OPENING

Chairman Garms called the meeting to order at 12:39pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Any member of the public may address the Board concerning any matter not on the Agenda within the Board/District's jurisdiction.

TREASURY REPORT

Director and Treasurer Silva provided an update on SRCD's financials including the current invoices for the month. Five Star Representative Reagan Ballo also gave a brief introduction to the Board and answered some general questions.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Agenda – February 14, 2024
- b. Minutes – January 16, 2023
- c. Financial Report – February 2024

Approved on:
3/13/2024

*Director Schneider moved to approve the consent calendar.
Director Carter seconded the motion.
The motion passed with all in favor.*

REPORTS

- a. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Representative Toney Tillman reported that the EQUIP application deadline is March 6, 2024. There are also some other opportunities/practices available such as the CSP IRA and ACT NOW which addresses climate and energy conservation that are listed on the NRCS website. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>. The deadline to apply for these programs is May 24, 2024.
- b. Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report
None.
- c. SRCD Board Member Reports
None.

GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

1. Central Sierra Healthy Soils MOU

Staff presented an agreement between SRCD and the Central Sierra Healthy Soils Program. Placer RCD has been awarded the Healthy Soils Program Block Grant from CDFA in the amount of \$4,000,000. The MOU was signed at the last SRCD Board meeting in January 2024. This agreement provides a scope of work and spells out compensation in the amount of \$5,520 to be awarded to SRCD over the next 6 months. The Board agreed that the involvement in this grant promotion may be beneficial for all parties involved. Staff will work with the board to further develop an Outreach Plan for this and future outreach efforts.

*Director Carter moved to authorize and sign the Central Sierra Healthy Soils Agreement.
Director Washburn seconded the motion.
The motion passed with all in favor.*

2. Operational Policies and Board Roles

a. Social Media Policy

The Board looked at the Draft Social Media Policy and discussed the possibility of what having a social media presence would look like for the District. There was specific discussion around the option of having comments disabled on a Facebook page, which staff recommends. Staff had previously sent the Draft Policy to the legal representative for review and was given the OK. It was decided that a Facebook page can be established with comments turned off, at this time.

*Director Carter moved to approve and adopt the Social Media Policy.
Director Washburn seconded the motion.*

The motion passed with four in favor (Garms, Silva, Washburn and Carter) and one opposed (Schneider)

3. Wildeye Monitoring Updates

Assistant Director Flewellyn provided an overall update on the development of installing a remote monitoring device for collection on Steve Denier’s Farm. A meeting on January 23rd was held to take a water level baseline measurement. Future steps will include the ordering of equipment (including a bubbler), installation of equipment, training on the dashboard to any interested parties and approving/sending payment for work provided. A current quote totals \$2,934.10 but may be increased at a later date.

4. Grant Updates

a. Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program (CAPGP)

Staff provided a general update regarding the CAPGP Grant. The Interest Form used to ascertain interested applicants for the CAPGP Conservation Plans will be open through March 7, 2024. At that time the Board will reconvene and select the farmers who will receive their selected plan. At this time there are seven applicants.

b. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) Grant

The Board discussed the update of the Hiring Committee for the WETA position. The job has been reposted and a new round of interviews will be held in March.. Staff is also working on an agreement to bring on Connor Higgins at Yolo RCD as a Consultant to fill in some of the gaps. Connor had previously expressed that he may be able to assist us in beginning this grant process. Staff asked that the Board review the draft agreement presented at this meeting and bring it back for further discussion and/or approval at the March 2024 meeting.

5. Spring Monitoring Processes for SRCD

The Board discussed the possibility of Sloughhouse RCD conducting its own monitoring starting in the Spring of 2024 (or possibly Fall). It was discussed that this process would reduce costs for and to CGA and could potentially be conducted by a WETA Program Coordinator. Alternatively, there is a possibility that SRCD can work with Clay Water District and Galt ID each monitoring season. There was further comment that a monitoring protocol with subsequent agreements and a standard operating procedure should be created. There was a consensus of support on this topic which will be further discussed at the March 2024 Board Meeting.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS

6. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

a. Parcel Appeal Process

An official Appeal Form from a resident being charged the groundwater fee was mailed in and Staff presented it to the Board. This landowner has been charged for the last 3 years but has not been irrigating any land. The Board discussed the protocol for approving a reimbursement since this particular landowner had

extenuating circumstances. The Board recommended that moving forward a yearly notice should be sent out to all paying landowners so that they can file an appeal within 30 days of the notice being sent out.

Director Carter moved to reimburse the landowner for the full 3 years of groundwater fees.

Director Schneider seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

b. RCD Board Discussion

The Board discussed the CGA Fee Study Methodology that was presented at the last CGA Meeting and how it may impact SRCD as a GSA. SCI will be presenting a draft Fee Study at the March CGA Meeting. There was discussion as to how it may be a good idea to have grant writing as a budget line item as well as to look at land use changes for the entire basin. There is a current effort to create updated maps of irrigated land and crops in the basin that would be updated on a yearly basis.

c. Outreach & Engagement Committee Update

O & E Chair Teresa Flewellyn provided updates on the upcoming CGA BBQ Luncheon on February 28 that is being held as an appreciation event for paying landowners in the basin. There was discussion on exactly who is being charged and a suggestion to staff was made to work with the County to create an updated and accurate list of paying parcel owners.

7. South American Subbasin (SASb) GSP Implementation

a. Presentation from John Woodling

SASb consultant John Woodling presented the Water Year 23 Annual Report to the Board. Comments on the report may be received until February 23, 2024. John discussed with the board well water levels for the last water year, projects in the basin, future plans and answered the Board's general questions.

b. Domestic Well Advisory Group (DWAG) Report Out

Director Washburn provided a brief report on the recent DWAG meeting on January 30, 2024. There are approximately 7-8 people on the committee who want to establish a protocol for monitoring on a voluntary basis.

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. SRCD Staff Report

Staff provided a brief report highlighting the California Irrigation Institute Annual Conference which will be held in Sacramento from February 26-27, 2024.. The theme is: Fluid Futures – Adapting to Extremes and focuses on Agriculture, Irrigation, Healthy Soils and more. SRCD Staff member Brittany Friedman will be in attendance all two days.

Staff also provided an update regarding the recent 3 day training with the SLEWS Academy. Two of the days were spent at the Center for Land-based Learning in Woodland hearing from guest speakers and doing hands-on activities to better learn how to establish and run a SLEWS Youth program for Sloughhouse RCD. One of the days was spent with high school students in the Franklin Channel planting trees and providing mentor, one-on-one support.

IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:

- Future SRCD office space
- Water monitoring processes
- Outreach plan
- WETA hiring updates

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Washburn adjourned the meeting at 4:08pm.