



SLOUGHHOUSE

Resource Conservation District

HERALD | SLOUGHHOUSE | WILTON

Meeting of the Board - MINUTES Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

When: Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Where: Rancho Murieta Community Services
15160 Jackson Rd.
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 (absent), 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. Sacramento County sent the first part of the check over for the Groundwater Fees and Property taxes and a second check will arrive in the next month. A Verizon phone charge will now be added to the monthly expenses and a refund was issued from Meeting Owl.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Agenda – April 10, 2024
- b. Minutes – March 13, 2024
- c. Financial Report – April 2024

Drafted on:
4/10/2024

*Director Schneider moved to approve the consent calendar.
Director Washburn seconded the motion.
The motion passed with four in favor and one absent (Carter).*

REPORTS

- a. **USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)**
Representative Toney Tillman reported that there have been 17 applications approved for funding for the IRA program at this time. The EQUIP Organic Transition Initiative application deadline is May 24, 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 also May 24, 2024.
- b. **Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report**
Ag Commissioner, Chris Flores, sent a written update on the Sac County Department of Ag. including upcoming events, personnel changes and Ag program updates. A copy of this material can be found on the Meetings page of the Sloughhouse website: <https://www.sloughousercd.org/#/meetings>
- c. **SRCD Board Member Reports**
Director Silva reported on the recent SSCAWA meeting and the information about the surface water updates and the Hanford gravel pit potential program that may be developed with DWR. Gary would like the CGA to be able to have access to this information and share these kinds of updates at the meetings as well as at the Sloughhouse meetings. Associate Director Flewellyn expanded upon this that the county and OHWD met with Hanford and the Rancheria and there may be some flooding relief on that property to assist with managing flood waters which may also provide access back to the local tribe. The activities are expected to benefit our basin. The project started with an initiative as DWR had funds to contract an EcoFip (hydrologics, infiltration and habitat restoration possibilities) evaluation of the Cosumnes River. It was suggested to invite CBAC or OHWD representatives to present on the findings.
Director Washburn provided an update on the Florin RCD and the possibility of them disbanding to focus on the Elk Grove Water District and leave the RCD behind. They are interested in Sloughhouse RCD possibly absorbing their RCD land. Alternatively, they are also thinking of remaining an RCD and doing a water conservation project to turn the Triangle Rock area into a groundwater recharge site that would provide benefits to their water district. More updates will be provided as Florin RCD moves forward.
Director Schneider commented on the cone on depression and how the CGA should focus on this to improve water conservation. He gave a brief history on the area and the Cosumnes Watershed in general.
Director Garms provided an update regarding legal counsel, Scott Morriss who may be taking a step back and retiring. Kronick representative Lauren Bernadett may be stepping

in to replace his position with the Sloughhouse RCD. Lauren was online via Zoom and introduced herself to the Board.

GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

1. Office Space

The Board viewed a potential office space for Sloughhouse RCD located on Jackson Rd. They discussed the space itself, its history and what it could be in terms of an office space with potential space for projects or other employees, storing files, etc. Chair Garns spoke further with the landowner and has received an estimate of \$1,500 rent per month for a several year lease agreement ranging from 3 - 5 years. This includes the caveat that the fire suppression system would be tended to by them initially but if maintenance or upkeep is needed, Sloughhouse will step in. This agreement would not include electricity which is an extra charge. This would come to about \$25,000 per year.

Director Schneider moved to pursue a potential contract/lease with an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Director Garms, Schenider and Flewellyn.

Director Washburn seconded the motion.

The motion passed with four in favor and one absent (Carter).

2. UCANR Range Camp

Staff presented an opportunity to provide scholarships for local high school students to attend the 40th Annual Range and Natural Resources Camp. SRCD sponsored one student last year to cover the \$750 registration fee. Director Washburn made mention that the funds for this sponsorship might have done more good if under a grant such as SWEEP. Directors added a caveat to the proposal that we will sponsor 2 students for \$1,500 but it can go up to 4 students if more apply for the scholarship.

Director Schneider moved to authorize the sponsorship for two students with the possibility of up to four, upon Director Garms approval.

Director Silva seconded the motion.

The motion passed with three in favor, one absent (Carter) and one abstention (Washburn).

3. Wildeye Monitoring Update

Staff provided a general update regarding the installation of the monitoring device on Denier Ranch. All parties interested in being trained on the dashboard can book a training with Wildeye which Assistant Director Flewellyn agreed to coordinate.

The previously approved quote amount did increase to \$4,671.58 and staff looked to the Board to approve this payment to Wildeye.

Director Schneider moved to approve the payment to Wildeye for \$4,671.58.

Director Washburn seconded the motion.

The motion passed with four in favor and one absent (Carter).

4. Grant Updates

This item was tabled.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS

5. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

a. Member Contributions

In December 2023, Sloughhouse RCD adopted and signed the Agency Contribution Agreement for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. At this time, Amador, City of Galt, OHWD and Sacramento County have paid their Member Contributions to CGA. Staff asked for approval from the Sloughhouse Board to pay either the full amount or half of the agreed-upon member contribution to CGA.

Director Washburn moved to approve the half of the invoice paid in April and the second half to be paid in June 2024.

Director Silva seconded the motion.

The motion passed with four in favor and one absent (Carter).

b. CGA Fee Study

The Board discussed the CGA Final Fee Study that was presented at the last CGA Meeting and how it may impact SRCD as a GSA. There was discussion on the budget and how it may change as well as reserves being held by CGA and the GSA's. The Board also discussed projects for CGA and how they are required for the 5-year GSP Update. The Board discussed the possibility of raising the base fee which legal counsel Scott Morris does not recommend. There was also discussion on the proportionality of the fees for Ag Res users vs commercial, Ag, et al. Director Washburn would like to pursue an avenue to address the deficit via a Prop 218 approach rather than a Prop 26 approach. There was final discussion on the steps needed to move forward with the study as is to have it approved at a hearing.

Director Schneider moved to go forward with the fee study as is with a Prop 26 approach in mind and staff working with legal counsel to create the appropriate resolutions needed with intent to regulate de minimis users.

Director Silva seconded the motion.

The motion passed with three in favor and two absent (Carter and Washburn).

7. South American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

Staff gave a quick update on the recent activities of SASb including a recent meeting on March 26, 2024 to discuss the Domestic Well Advisory Task Force, the Annual Report and DWR required 5-year evaluation preparation in which the South American Subbasin is already mapping out. A schedule of meetings for the new Fiscal Year will be decided, scheduled shortly and disseminated. Sloughhouse RCD has not yet made a contribution to the South American Subbasin for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 as we are waiting to be invoiced (potentially arriving in May).

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. SRCD Staff Report

Staff provided a brief report highlighting the upcoming Spring 2024 Groundwater Monitoring on April 16 and 17 with O'Sullivan Pump Co. There are 14 wells total to be monitored and 13 separate locations. Updates on this event/data will be presented at the May 2024 Board Meeting.

IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:

- Future SRCD office space
- Spring Groundwater Monitoring Update
- Draft SRCD Budget and Work Plan
- Draft CGA Budget
- Fee Study hearing date and resolutions

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Garms adjourned the meeting at 4:15pm.