



# SLOUGHHOUSE

## Resource Conservation District

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### Meeting of the Board - MINUTES Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

When: Wednesday, March 13, 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 12:35pm.*

#### **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. It was recommended to staff they provide paper statements of Five Star transactions to the Board for future meetings.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a. Agenda – March 13, 2024
- b. Minutes – February 14, 2024
- c. Financial Report – March 2024

Approved 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 12 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.sloughhousercd.org/#/meetings>
- c. **SRCD Board Member Reports**  
Director Silva thanked Asst. Director Flewellyn on the CGA BBQ Luncheon efforts and the great turnout that was had. The other directors seconded this appreciation. He also let the Board know that staff has developed a Monitoring Binder for the Spring groundwater monitoring efforts and that we will be working with O’Sullivan Pump Co. and provide an update on this at the April Board Meeting.  
Director Washburn reported on an upcoming meeting she will have with Tom Ellison of the Florin RCD and announced that Florin has plans to disband as an RCD and focus their efforts as a Water District, instead. She also presented information on a recent Sacramento County RCD meeting and the possibility of a future Sacramento RCD formation. More information will be shared on this effort as it develops.  
Director Schneider discussed the origin and history of RCDs and expressed concern that Sloughhouse’s focus should be agriculture and groundwater. The Board discussed Ad Valorem taxes that Director Schneider’s father helped to establish for the RCD.

## **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. At this time there is no cost estimate for the rent or set-up needed to establish a working office. Staff asked the board to provide direction on moving forward with pursuing this office space and bringing back hard costs at a future meeting.

*Director Schneider moved to pursue a potential contract and research steps needed to acquire this space.*

*Director Silva seconded the motion.*

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

## **2. Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CRPG) Carbon Farming Partnership**

Staff presented an opportunity SRCD was approached with by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) to be a potential partner on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant. A letter of commitment is needed so that the applying party can include our letter of intent by March 28, 2024. The Board discussed what this would entail for us and made several amendments to the Letter of Commitment presented. They also suggested to staff that information on the Sacramento County Climate Task Force and Climate Action Plan be presented at a later meeting to the Board as it was mentioned several times in the Letter (but later removed).

*Director Silva moved to authorize and send the Letter of Commitment with the amendments agreed upon by the Board.*

*Director Washburn seconded the motion.*

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

## **3. Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program (CAPGP) Update**

Staff provided a general update regarding the CAPGP Grant. The Interest Form used to ascertain interested applicants for the CAPGP Conservation Plans was open through March 7, 2024. Seven applicants applied for the conservation plans. The Board reviewed and selected the farmers who will receive their selected plan. Staff will now coordinate these efforts with the Technical Service Providers to have the plans written. A second round of applications will now be opened to close out the CAPGP plans available.

*Director Washburn moved to approve the seven applicants and begin the conservation plan writing process.*

*Director Schneider seconded the motion.*

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

## **4. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) Grant Update**

The Board discussed the update of the Hiring Committee for the WETA position. The hiring committee selected three applicants who will have interviews with staff in March. They are hopeful an offer will be made for someone to start in early April.

Staff presented an agreement to bring on Connor Higgins at Yolo RCD as a Consultant to fill in some of the gaps and provide mentoring/training to the Program Coordinator.

Connor had previously expressed that he may be able to assist us in beginning this grant process. The Board reviewed the Agreement and with the amendments Legal made, they agreed to sign it and move forward with bringing on a consultant for this grant.

*Director Silva moved to authorize and sign the SRCD-Yolo RCD WETA Agreement.*

*Director Schneider seconded the motion.*

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

## GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS

### 5. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

#### a. CGA Fee Study

The Board discussed the CGA Draft Fee Study that was presented at the last CGA Meeting and how it may impact SRCD as a GSA. SCI will be presenting a Final Fee Study at the April CGA Meeting. 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. Member contributions may need to be looked at again for the next year as it relates to these projects and reserve funds. Finally, the Board discussed data used for the Fee Study, data gaps and new housing being developed in the basin and how that will affect fees collected or omitted.

### 7. SRCD Mapping Updates

Board member Gary Silva and public member Tish Espinosa have been working to develop more detailed maps of Sloughhouse RCD in terms of specialty crops, parcels, irrigated lands and general boundaries. These maps have several layers and can be made to be interactive once completed. The draft maps were presented to the Board and they discussed the possibility of using them for future needs and printing them out for the office. Several technical assistants from GeoAssist created these and have invoiced the RCD for their work.

*Director Silva moved to approve the invoice to GeoAssist.*

*Director Schneider seconded the motion.*

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

## INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 8. SRCD Staff Report

Staff provided a brief report highlighting upcoming events including a SLEWS Field Day on March 20 and the 2024 Spring Central Sierra Regional Meeting on March 15.

Staff reminded the Board that Form 700's are due by April 1.

Asst. Director Flewellyn discussed the installation of the bubbler/telemetry from Wildeye at Denier Ranch. The next step will be training interested members on the dashboard to access the monitoring information.

## 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
- WETA hiring updates

## ADJOURNMENT

*Chair Garms adjourned the meeting at 4:06pm.*