



SLOUGHHOUSE

Resource Conservation District

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Meeting of the Board - MINUTES Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

When: Wednesday, November 13, 2024
Where: Rancho Murieta Community Services
15160 Jackson Rd.
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

or

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85766858945>
Meeting ID: 857 6685 8945

Time: 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

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

***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 12:38pm.

CLOSED SESSION (STAFF EVALUATION, GOVT CODE 5497, WETA PROGRAM COORDINATOR)

Chairman Garms adjourned the Closed Session at 1:07pm and provided a report that the Board and District Manager have evaluated staff Chris Timmer and agreed to a \$1/hr wage increase.

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

Treasurer Gary Silva provided an update on SRCD's financials including the current invoices for the month. There were several upfront grant costs as well as reimbursements pending from CDFA and it was suggested that staff put together a grant sheet on prospective costs and reimbursements in the future. It was also suggested that staff provide the Board with a printed bank statement the day of the Board meeting.

Approved on:
12/18/2024

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Agenda – November 13, 2024
- b. Minutes – October 9, 2024
- c. Financial Report – November 2024

Director Schneider moved to approve the consent calendar.

Director Silva seconded the motion.

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

REPORTS

- a. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
NRCS Representative Toney Tillman provided a report on the Classic EQIP deadline which is November 15, 2024, the IRA deadline which is January 31, 2025 and the CSP deadline which is April 15, 2025. This excludes the NAQI (National Air Quality Initiative) . NRCS is currently processing the funding of applications at higher rates as part of the Act Now Process. The NRCS office can assist those interested in applying for these programs by helping them fill out and submit their application.
- b. Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report
None,
- c. SRCD Board Member Reports
 - Asst. Director Flewellyn reported on the Wildeye Telemetry water levels seen on the Denier Ranch which currently show a technical issue with exponential spikes in water levels either via the Wildeye website or the equipment. To be sure, a crew will be sent out to check the equipment next week and ensure it is working properly.
 - Director Schneider commented on the possibility of working with Rancho Murieta to conduct groundwater water quality testing. SRCD staff is having discussions on water in the area as well as possible projects for the future with the Rancho Murieta staff. Director Schneider also provided a history of work done in the past in the Rancho Murieta area.

GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

1. CSDA Membership Renewal 2025

Sloughhouse RCD is currently under a financial agreement with Rick Wood as part of us being a CSDA regular member. This agreement continues on until June 2025. The CSDA Membership is through December 2024. To continue with our agreement and remain a regular member, SRCD must renew the CSDA membership and decide upon a contribution amount. The Board discussed a payment amount for the CSDA membership, including pondering what the average special district pays. In past years, SRCD has paid \$500 - \$550 in dues. Staff recommended paying \$550 for the Membership dues as well as the \$25 for the State and Federal Labor Poster totaling \$575.

Director Silva moved to approve and pay \$575 for the membership and poster.

Director Schneider seconded the motion.

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

2. SRCD Board Appointments

Staff provided an update on the status of the Board appointments as was submitted to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. The County will be reviewing the submission in early December and SRCD should have confirmed appointees by the December 18 board meeting.

Due to recent Board Appointments, there is an opening for the Vice Chair position. The role of Vice Chair is mainly to assist or take responsibility in the event that the Chair cannot fulfill their duties or is absent. It was suggested that Director Silva be nominated and confirmed for the Vice Chair position.

Director Silva moved to accept and confirm the Vice Chair position.

Director Washburn seconded the motion.

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

SRCD recently received an Associate Director application from current Director Washburn whose term will end on December 31, 2024. If approved, she will begin her Associate Director appointment on January 1, 2025. Associate Directors can attend meetings and provide the district with expertise. They are not voting members on Board matters nor are they permitted to take part in closed session meetings.

Director Silva moved to approve/appointment Director Washburn to the Associate Director position beginning January 1, 2025.

Director Schneider seconded the motion.

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

3. Fall Groundwater Monitoring

Staff provided an update regarding the Fall Groundwater Monitoring process for SRCD who also conducted Clay WD and Galt ID's monitoring. The monitoring took place on Thursday, October 10 and Friday October, 11, 2024. This included Clay WD and Galt ID's wells with 13 water levels to be measured and 4 water quality samples to be taken in total. Due to one well owner not returning our calls/messages and one being out of town, two wells were not able to be monitored. One additional well was able to be monitored in the Galt area.

There was a suggestion to include previous Spring and Fall monitoring data to the Board so they can compare the results. Staff will send this information to the Board. EKI will provide a full report at the CGA meeting on December 4th.

4. Grant Updates

a. Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program (CAPGP)

Staff provided a report/update on the CAPGP grant. There are currently 6 landowners working with Technical Service Providers (TSP's) with 6 plans completed. The first invoice has been submitted to CDFA for reimbursement. Staff is still continuing outreach

efforts for this grant as there are 10 spots remaining. The Board discussed outreach strategies to fill the Carbon Farm Plan spots. It was suggested to release a report as an example if the contact information and specifics can be removed. Staff will check with CDFA to see if this is permissible.

b. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant (WETA)

Program Coordinator Chris Timmer provided a written report on the WETA program. Staff attended the CDFA OEFI CSA Technical Assistance Conference that was hosted for TSA providers throughout the state. This was a 2-day conference that focused on the CDFA WETA, SWEEP, HSP, AMMP. Six Well Pump Efficiency tests were performed on Monday November 4th, 2024 with collaboration from Herb Grams, Davis Ranch and Strutz Farms. One irrigation evaluation was conducted on an irrigated pasture with a buried solid set sprinkler system. The water source is from a surface water reservoir and not groundwater.

c. DWR - CalSIP stream gage grant

DWR is currently seeking to fund public entities to improve stream gage infrastructure and bridge data gaps as part of the Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP). Through CalSIP, public agencies can receive technical assistance to upgrade, reactivate, or install new surface water monitoring stations, at no additional cost to them, that will share important streamflow data that can help inform water management decisions.

Staff submitted an application on October 31, 2024 to reactive 3 stream gages (2 in the Cosumnes Subbasin and 1 in the South American Subbasin). The application requested a total of \$190,000 per stream gage to cover engineering, telemetry and staff time costs. If awarded, SRCD will need to fund maintenance expenses for the gages out-of-pocket beginning in 2027. CalSIP serves to execute funding agreements as soon as reasonably possible with a deadline to award by March 1, 2025, and to fully execute agreements by June 30, 2025. Gages should be fully operational by October 1, 2026.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS

5. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

1. General Board Discussion

The Board discussed topics that will be presented at the upcoming December 4 Board meeting including member contributions, groundwater monitoring, audit report for the 22-23 FY and the GSP 5-year update. There was also discussion regarding gathering proper data for our knowledge as well as to meet SGMA requirements. It was suggested to look into getting an accurate estimate regarding aquaculture acre ft/pumped and the net consumptive use/metering programs. SRCD is currently on track to meet the recommended corrective actions set out by DWR but it is worth looking into further PMA's we can take part in.

6. South American Subbasin GSP Implementation

Sloughhouse RCD attended the SASb Executive Committee Meeting on October 22nd. They are currently trying to refine the scope and budget of the GSP update for SGMA and will meet again on November 21. A 24-25 FY budget was approved with a decision that any budget savings will be carried over to mitigate the costs of the GSP update. SASb is estimating the GSP evaluation and update will cost approximately \$900,000. Staff presented the draft Scope and GSP Budget to the Board.

SRCD is currently represented by one representative and has an assignable GSP Administration and Implementation cost of 3.7%. Member contribution agreements will be sent out in early Spring to the GSA's. It was suggested to have it legal at the December Board meeting to discuss fees on the SASb side of SRCD. There may be 7 or fewer growers in our district area that we would need either an MOU or Prop 26 to collect fees from.

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. SRCD Staff Report

Staff has been working with Blomberg and Griffin Accounting to complete the FY 22-23 and FY 23-24 Audits. This will likely take several months before a written report will be presented to the Board. Consultant Rick Wood has offered to advise/assist staff if needed.

- SRCD will no longer need to approve well permits due to the updated Executive Order N-3-24 issued on September 5, 2024.
- Staff will be attending the CARCD Conference from December 10 – 12, 2024. This Conference will be held at the Double Tree Hilton in Sacramento where a large amount of California RCD staff will be in attendance to present on current grant projects, exchange ideas and potentially build partnerships.
- Due to scheduling conflicts, the scheduled meetings in December 2024 and January 2025 have changed and are reflected on the Sloughhouse Calendar. We are working to have these meetings at the new office location off Jackson Rd. and will confirm this soon.
 - December Meeting: Wednesday, December 18 from 12:30 – 3:30pm
 - January Meeting: Wednesday, January 15 from 12:30 – 3:30pm

IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:

Board Election Updates
Closed Session for District Manager Staff Evaluation
DWR CalSIP application status

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Garms adjourned the meeting at 3:23pm.