



# SLOUGHHOUSE

## Resource Conservation District

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

When: Wednesday, January 15, 2025  
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: Herb Garms, Gary Silva Jr., Jay Schneider, Lindsey Carter, Teresa Flewellyn  
Associate Directors: Barbara Washburn  
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 12:39pm.*

#### **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**

Treasurer Gary Silva provided an update on SRCD's financials including the current invoices for the month. The Treasurer and staff met with a potential bookkeeper recently who would be able to work part-time for SRCD on overall financial organization, upkeep and Quickbooks maintenance. Staff also reported that the Sacramento County collected fees should be wired to the Five Star Bank account in the coming months with a summary of details to be emailed along with it.

*Director Schneider moved to authorize the bookkeeper to assist staff on a part-time basis.  
Director Flewellyn seconded the motion.  
The motion passed with all in favor.*

Drafted on:  
1/15/2025

## **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a. Agenda – January 15, 2025
- b. Minutes – December 18, 2024
- c. Financial Report – January 2025

*Director Schneider moved to approve the consent calendar.*

*Director Silva seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed with all in favor.*

## **REPORTS**

- a. Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report  
Ag Commissioner Chris Flores shared with staff several documents relating to the Avian Flu outbreak currently affecting livestock and dairies in California. Staff passed along this information to the Board, including information on an upcoming webinar/workshop to take place via Zoom on January 29, 2025. Staff also provided the phone number for residents to report sick or deceased birds.
- b. SRCD Board Member Reports
  - Director Flewellyn provided an update on the Denier Well which is being monitored through Wildeye Telemetry. There has been an issue with the monitoring including abnormal spikes in the data. A representative from Wildeye will be visiting the well to attempt to fix the problem and correct the data skew.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. SRCD Office Hours**

Sloughhouse RCD Board and staff discussed the office hours that staff will maintain as the brick and mortar office is up and running. After back and forth regarding staff contracts, hiring practices, workplace policies, and general schedule conflicts, it was decided that staff will continue to come into the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays with the expectation that another day may be added on if the demand is there from the public or staff feels it is necessary/beneficial. Staff often does come into the office more than these two days a week. However, these will be the official public business hours listed on the website.

It was also discussed that the Board would like to change the Board meeting dates moving forward to Tuesdays at 12:30pm. Staff moved the time of the February meeting to Tuesday, February 18 and will change the meeting dates going forward if this proves to work for everyone after the next meeting.

*Director Schneider moved to approve the Board date change to the third Tuesday of the month.*

*Director Flewellyn seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed with all in favor.*

## **2. SRCD 5-Year Long Range Plan**

Staff brought forward the 5-Year Long Range Plan that was developed in 2022 as a means to discuss a potential work plan or annual plan that keeps us in line with the Long Range Plan. Staff's main objective is to ensure that SRCD is making progress on these goals, and if not, to revise our course of action and create a work plan that can address these goals. It was suggested that staff look into creating a timeline for the 2025 year along with any potential policies that could guide the RCD moving forward. The Board was also interested in seeing some grant obligation documentation and planning processes with corresponding action items. Staff will bring this back before the Board at a later date.

## **3. Delta Tunnel Letter from SRCD**

The Board had a discussion about the RCD submitting a letter as either an RCD or GSA to the California Governor/Delta Tunnel Project voicing our concerns. There was speculation that submitting an opposition letter might give us negative exposure as an entity. Overall, it was decided that staff would work with Director Carter to develop a draft letter that would be brought back before the Board in February.

## **4. Sacramento Valley Conservancy/SRCD Partnership**

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) approached SRCD with a partnership/collaboration opportunity to implement Beaver Dam Analogs in the Deer Creek Hills Nature Preserve as part of their Crevis Creek Restoration Project. SVC is requesting \$7,000 in funding from Sloughhouse RCD to support the Crevis Creek restoration and habitat creation project. The funding will be used to cover project design, permitting, materials, on-site installation, and for post-install monitoring and public education and marketing of beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures. The Board had many questions in regards to this project including timing, permits, funding exact usage, mapping, etc. The Board suggested that this item be tabled until the next meeting along with staff submitting a list of questions to SVC on behalf of the discussion that took place.

*Director Flewellyn moved to direct staff to work with SVC on clarification and bring back more information at the February meeting*

*Director Silva seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed with three in favor, one absent (Carter) and one abstaining (Schneider).*

## **5. Grant Updates**

### **a. Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program (CAPGP)**

Staff provided a report/update on the CAPGP grant. There have been 17 plans completed overall with 1 grazing management plan in the process, 1 soil health management plan available, 1 irrigation plan and 3 carbon farms. The second invoice will be submitted this month to CDFA in the amount of \$42,400.

Staff will send the Board a copy of a completed Carbon Farm Plan (with personal details redacted) so they can get an idea of what this report consists of/addresses.

**b. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant (WETA)**

Program Coordinator Chris Timmer provided a written report on the WETA program.

- In 2024, eleven irrigation evaluations and six well pump efficiency tests were performed during the summer and fall.
  - o In 2025, the goal is to perform more than 80 irrigation evaluations from April – October. This equates to between 11-12 irrigation evaluations a month.
  - o In 2025, the goal is to perform 50 well pump efficiency tests throughout the year.
- The 2025 Mobile Irrigation Lab advertising campaign will begin in January and will go through Feb/March.

Chris T will be presenting the Mobile Irrigation Lab program at the Sacramento County Farm Bureau’s Farm Safety Seminar, Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 in Walnut Grove.

- There will also be a Mobile Irrigation Lab presentation during the annual Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Farmer BBQ event on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**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). Staff also submitted an application on December 31, 2024 for the Amador County GSA. CALSIP is still reviewing applications and will reach out soon with the decision (awards to be given out through March - May 2025).

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS**

**6. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority**

**a. General Board Discussion**

The Board had a quick discussion regarding the CGA BBQ to take place on February 20, 2025 at the Herald Fire Hall. More information will be disseminated about this at the CGA meeting although staff already sent an email out to the CGA Board to update them regarding this. The next CGA meeting will be on February 5, 2025 at the Galt Police Department Community Room.

**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.

- Staff, along with Treasurer, Gary Silva, is looking into hiring a part-time bookkeeper to assist with overall financial structures as we continue to take on more grants and bring in more funds.

- The meeting for the February Board meeting has been changed to Tuesday, February 18 at 12:30pm. An update will be sent out to the Board and partners.

### **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:

CGA MOU

Bookkeeper Contract

Office Hour Policy

Delta Tunnel Letter

SVC Project

Chris Hunley Presentation

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Garms adjourned the meeting at 4:02pm.*