



SLOUGHHOUSE

Resource Conservation District

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Meeting of the Board - MINUTES Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

When: Wednesday, October 9, 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., Lindsey Carter, 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 12:39pm.

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. There were several upfront grant costs and it was suggested that staff put together a grant sheet on prospective costs in the future. It was also suggested that staff look into purchasing a projector and microphone/speaker set with bluetooth capabilities. There was a majority approval by the Board on this suggestion.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Agenda – October 9, 2024
- b. Minutes – September 11, 2024
- c. Financial Report – October 2024

Finalized on:
11/13/2024

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

REPORTS

- a. **USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)**
NRCS Representative Toney Tillman provided a report on the NRCS fiscal year ending as of September 30, 2024. The Elk Grove office has obligated 50 contracts of several million dollars to EQIP applications, the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Mobile Engineering Placement Program. The next EQIP deadline is November 15, 2024.
- b. **Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report**
Ag Commissioner Chris Flores presented the 2023 Crop Report for Sacramento County. The packet and powerpoint presentation were both given to members of the Board and posted online. The report shows that grape numbers are just under \$600,000 in income for the year as the top crop. There has been an increase in fruit flies that should be monitored with 59 total pests discovered last year. Dairies are continuing to decrease with about 6 dairies in operation in our district currently.
- c. **SRCD Board Member Reports**
 - Asst. Director Flewellyn reported on the Wildeye Telemetry water levels seen on the Denier Ranch which currently show that water levels are 11ft higher with a total of 150 ft depth to water. This shows less irrigation usage this month compared to last.

GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

1. Foley Property Replacement Well Permit Application

SRCD received an application for a well alteration permit (Request #206) on an agricultural-residential property in the district. This well is to be an exact replacement of a current well located nearby on the property which will have the exact same construction measurements and depth as the current well. The Senior VP of Foley Family Farms, Lise, was online to answer questions regarding this well, the construction, the reason for the original well's failure and the impact on the basin which was deemed to be negligible. SRCD staff provided to the Board the Environmental Impact Report and various maps on the property.

Director Schneider moved to approve and sign the well consistency verification letter to be sent to the county for this replacement well.

Director Washburn seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

2. SRCD Board Elections

There are currently three open Board positions that will need to be elected or re-elected. The directors with open vacancies are: Barbara Washburn, Lindsey Carter and Jay

Schneider. Any member of the public was able apply if interested in these positions or an Assistant Director position through October 3, 2024.

Director Washburn announced that she will not be re-applying for the new term. She will still be a voting and active Board member through December 2024. Staff received four applications for the open seats: Lindsey Carter, Jay Schneider, Teresa Flewellyn and Stephen Greene. Each applicant provided an oral presentation on who they are, why they are qualified to serve on the SRCD Board and why they wish to serve. The Board then discussed these qualifications and voted to submit certain applicants to the County for appointments.

Director Silva moved to approve incumbents Director Carter and Schneider be reelected to the SRCD Board for a 4-year term beginning in January 2025.

Director Washburn seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

Director Washburn moved to approve current Associate Director Teresa Flewellyn be elected to the SRCD Board for a 4-year term beginning in January 2025.

Director Silva seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

3. SRCD Audit

Blomberg & Griffin (John Blomberg, CPA) have completed the last several years of audits for Sloughhouse RCD. According to [Government Code Section 12410.6 \(b\)](#), RCDs are required to change audit reviewers at least every six years. SRCD will need to complete the 22-23 and 23-24 audit this year. In order to comply with this order, another partner at the firm, Syed Bukhari, CPA, will conduct our audit for the past two fiscal years. Staff presented the Independent Audit Proposal to the Board from Blomberg and Griffin.

Director Schneider moved to sign and enter into agreement for auditing services with Blomberg and Griffin for FY 22-23 and FY 23-24.

Director Carter seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

4. Fall Monitoring Processes for SRCD

Staff provided an update regarding the Fall Groundwater Monitoring process for SRCD who will also be conducting Clay WD and Galt ID's monitoring. SRCD will once again be working with O'Sullivan Pump Co. to take water levels and test for water quality. It was noted that staff should make sure to read the meters on the wells when in the field and include this information in the report. The monitoring will take place on October 10 and 11, 2024 and include 13 water levels measured and 4 water quality samples taken. Director Silva volunteered a well on his property to be measured if needed.

5. 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 suggested reaching out to the Small Farm Sisterhood via facebook to advertise this program.

b. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant (WETA)

Program Coordinator Chris Timmer provided a written report on the WETA program. Staff recently hosted a Water Efficiency Workshop at the Wilton Community Center on October 5th for about 25-30 residents. Staff presented about the District, CGA and the Mobile Irrigation Program. Other presentations were also provided by UCANR, NRCS and Sacramento Valley Conservancy.

Irrigation Evaluations are slowing down due to the seasons changing but are still continuing with one recently completed in Clay and one coming up next week.

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.

Applications are currently open on a monthly basis until the end of December 2024. SRCD Staff is currently working with Tish Espinosa, Wildeye Telemetry and (possibly) Sacramento County to research Dry Creek (2) and Deer Creek stream gage activation. Staff is also looking into data gap areas where the basin may benefit from a new stream gage. It is important to note that once DWR funding expires, the district is responsible for costs associated with maintaining the stream gages going forward. Staff is hopeful that we will be ready to submit an application by October 31, 2024 to reactivate at least 3 gages in the Cosumnes Subbasin.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS

6. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

a. Upcoming Events

SRCD/CGA staff will be in attendance at the following events:

1. Wilton Chili Cook Off on Saturday, October 12 from 10am - 4pm
2. Galt Cemetery Dia de los Muertos on Saturday, October 26 all day

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. SRCD Staff Report

Staff attended the SASb Managers Meeting on October 4th. They are currently finalizing their FY 24-25 budget including member contributions. 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. There was discussion on the GSP 5-year update including the scope of work involved with meeting the requirements including possible amendments needed for GSP review. To fill data gaps, SASb will also be applying for the DWR CalSIP grant to implement two new stream gages in the South American Subbasin.

The Fall DWAG Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15 in-person at the Elk Grove Water District and on-line at 3:30pm. This meeting will go over the SB 552 overview including the County's Drought Resilience Plan and Task Force, the GSP Implementation, and funding.

IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:

Groundwater Update

DWR CalSIP application status

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Garms adjourned the meeting at 3:55pm.