



# SLOUGHHOUSE

## Resource Conservation District

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

When: Tuesday, January 16, 2024  
Where: Rancho Murieta Community Services  
15160 Jackson Rd.  
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

Time: 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Board Members: Barbara Washburn, Herb Garms, Gary Silva Jr., Lindsay Liebig (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 12:37pm.*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Any member of the public may address the Board concerning any matter not on the Agenda within the Board/District's jurisdiction.

A Public comment was made regarding the Board meeting date changes of recent and it was suggested that notices of any changes be made to the public as early as possible.

#### **TREASURY REPORT**

Director and Treasurer Silva provided an update on SRCD's financials including the current invoices for the month and the possibility of lowering some of the invoices in the future such as Google or Quickbooks Subscriptions.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a. Agenda – January 16, 2024
- b. Minutes – December 11, 2023
- c. Financial Report – January 2024

*Director Schneider moved to approve the consent calendar.*

*Director Silva seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed with four in favor (Garms, Silva, Schenider, Washburn) and one absent (Liebig).*

Finalized on:  
2/14/2024

## REPORTS

- a. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Representative Toney Tillman reported that the EQUIP application timeline has expired but there is a second EQUIP program deadline for Spring 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/>. He also provided information on quotes for Tractor Trade-in which will pay a certain amount per horsepower to the owner. Finally, he presented a flier with information on Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities that can be found [here](#).
- b. Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report  
None.
- c. SRCD Board Member Reports
  - Director Schenider spoke about the fees/taxes for the basin (research based on the SCI Fee Study for CGA) falling under an Administrative Fee Assessment. He discussed the difference between a Prop 218 and Prop 26 approach. There was a request to have Sloughhouse Legal Representative Scott Morris at the next meeting to further discuss the Fee Study, policy decision, and what it means for SRCD.
  - Director Silva commented on how he would like to see CGA data/maps of crops on irrigated lands and have this be an annually updated document/interactive map. He will reach out to EKI to discuss this possibility.
  - Associate Director Flewellyn spoke about the CGA Outreach and Engagement Committee hosting a BBQ luncheon for irrigators at the end of February. She confirmed that there will be FFA students available to assist with the distribution and collection of the Farmers Survey. Invitations for the event will be mailed out at the end of month. She also provided an update regarding the Wildeye Installation and presented a possible cost estimate of \$2,934.10. There will be an approximate 2-week timeline for the installation and subsequent training for Board members and staff on the digital database.
  - Director Washburn provided a report on the Domestic Well Advisory Group run by the South American Subbasin. This Group will be meeting on January 30th and she will be in attendance as a Sloughhouse RCD Representative.

## GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

### 1. Grant Updates

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

The Board discussed updates regarding the CAPGP Grant. Staff provided information on the Planners that are contacted with SRCD to write the plans as well information regarding two early applicants. The Board decided that the Interest Form used to ascertain interested applicants for the CAPGP Conservation

Plans should be advertised through March 7, 2024. At that time the Board will reconvene and select the farmers who will receive their selected plan.

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

The Board discussed the update of the Hiring Committee for the WETA position. The first round of applications was not successful. The job will be reposted and a new round of interviews will be held. Prior to being reposted, staff will edit the position description to ensure the exact qualifications and criteria of the Program Coordinator are listed. Staff is also going to reach out to Connor Higgins at Yolo RCD as there is an option of hiring a consultant in the meantime to fill in some of the gaps. Connor had previously expressed that he may be able to assist us in beginning this grant process.

**2. Operational Policies and Board Roles**

**a. Social Media Policy**

The Board looked at the Draft Social Media Policy and discussed the possibility of what having a social media presence would look like for the District. There was specific discussion around the option of having comments disabled on a Facebook page, which staff recommends. The Board would like to look at the Policy more in depth before any decision is made. Staff had previously sent the Draft Policy to the legal representative for review and was given the OK. The Board will further review this Policy at the February Meeting.

**3. CSDA Policy and Services**

The Board reviewed the California Special Districts Association's (CSDA) Financial Agreement with Sloughhouse RCD. This agreement ensures that Rick Wood, our Financial Advisor with CSDA, would continue to provide one-on-one support to Staff and the Board. The current Agreement expired in June 2023 and the updated Agreement would extend the contract through June 2024. The Board unanimously agreed to extend the contract and continue our working relationship with CSDA and Rick Wood.

**4. Central Sierra Healthy Soils MOU**

Staff presented information on the Central Sierra Healthy Soils MOU and the Central Sierra RCDs as a whole. Placer RCD has been awarded the Healthy Soils Program Block Grant from CDFG in the amount of \$4,000,000. (known as the Central Sierra Region RCD's have met via Zoom to discuss how best to promote this grant across all of the county regions. It was decided a MOU would be best to ensure that every participating agency may be reimbursed from the grant for their staff time attending meetings, promoting materials on their district website and any other assistance given to Placer RCD. The Board agreed that the involvement in this grant promotion may be beneficial for all parties involved. However, they directed staff to double check and reiterate with Placer RCD that compensation is in fact a part of the MOU as well as the exact tasks SRCD would be responsible for.

*Director Schneider moved to authorize and sign the Central Sierra Healthy Soils MOU.*

*Director Silva seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed with four in favor (Garms, Silva, Schenider, Washburn) and one absent (Liebig).*

## **GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS**

### **5. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority**

#### **a. RCD Board Discussion**

The Board discussed the CGA Fee Study and how it may impact SRCD as a GSA. The Board will discuss this matter further at the SRCD February meeting as SCI will be presenting an updated Fee Study Methodology at the CGA February Meeting.

#### **b. Parcel Appeal Process**

Staff was recently made aware that a landowner has been charged for irrigating his lands for three years in a row when, as he claims, he has not been. An official Appeal Form will be mailed in soon and Staff will bring it before the Board to discuss and review. If a reimbursement is warranted, then one shall be made to said landowner. The Board recommended that Staff consult with Austin Miller (previous SRCD staff) to go over the Parcel Appeal Process in depth.

**At this point in the meeting, there was no longer a Quorum of the Board and no further motions made.**

### **6. South American Subbasin (SASb) GSP Implementation**

#### **a. RCD Board Discussion**

Board Chair Garms and Staff discussed the upcoming meeting with SASb Representatives John Woodley and Lisa Buetler. The discussion will center around future plans between the South American Subbasin and SRCD, what that may look like for them and us, etc. There will also be follow-up regarding the Member Contribution that SRCD agreed to pay in December 2023.

## **INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7. SRCD Staff Report**

Staff provided a brief report highlighting the California Irrigation Institute Annual Conference which will be held in Sacramento from February 26-27, 2024.. The theme is: Fluid Futures – Adapting to Extremes and focuses on Agriculture, Irrigation, Healthy Soils and more. SRCD Staff member Brittany Friedman will be in attendance all two days.

Staff also provided an update regarding the Sloughhouse phone plan. CARCD will no longer be covering the charge up front for our phone plan. Staff will look into a phone plan with Verizon rather than T-Mobile and cover these costs ourselves going forward. Rancho Murieta CSD is in the process of updating their Integrated Water Management Plan. A draft of the plan is anticipated in the coming months. View the story map here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f1891e0bda0e48f3b7e8281645fd2af2>

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

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:

- Future SRCD office space
- Social Media Policy
- CGA Fee Study Discussion
- District Manager Role
- Wildeye Updates and Invoice

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Director Garms adjourned the meeting at 4:03pm.*