

SLOUGHHOUSE

Resource Conservation District

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Regular Meeting of the Board Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District Agenda

When: Wednesday, November 15, 2023
Where: Rancho Murieta Community Services
15160 Jackson Rd.
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

or

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84336279641>
Meeting ID: 843 3627 9641

Time: ****PLEASE NOTE ADJUSTED TIME**** 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT – Any member of the public may address the Board concerning any matter on the agenda before or during its consideration of the matter. Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person and no more than fifteen (15) minutes per topic. For good cause, the Board Chairman may waive these limitations.

AGENDA ITEM TIME FRAME – All time allotments are suggested by staff and are an estimate only and subject to change.

ACCESSIBILITY - If you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact SRCD Staff before the day of the meeting via email [info@SloughhouseRCD.org] or telephone [916-526-5447] to discuss your accessibility needs.

OPENING / CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE FLOOR (Non-Agenda Items)

TREASURY REPORT: (10 minutes)

CONSENT CALENDAR: (5 minutes)

Any Board member may request and remove any item from the consent agenda and place that item on the regular portion of the agenda as specified.

- a. Agenda – November 15, 2023
- b. Minutes – October 11, 2023
- c. Financial Report – November 2023

REPORTS: (15 minutes)

- a. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- b. Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report
- c. SRCD Board Member Reports

GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS: (30 minutes)

1. Staffing Changes
 - a. Interim Position of Administrative Coordinator
 - b. District Manager Hiring Process
 - c. Water Efficiency Technical Assistant Hiring Process

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS: (60 minutes)

2. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
 - a. Funding Study Development – presentation from Scott Morris
 - b. Member Contribution Agreement
3. South American Subbasin GSP Implementation
 - a. Member Contribution Agreement
4. Center for Land-based Learning SLEWS Academy

INFORMATIONAL / DISCUSSION ITEMS (10 minutes)

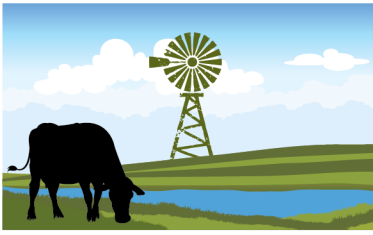
5. SRCD Staff Report

IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Board Members may request items to be placed on future agendas.

- Document Retention Policy
- Social Media Policy

ADJOURNMENT



SLOUGHHOUSE

Resource Conservation District

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Meeting of the Board - MINUTES Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

When: Wednesday, October 11, 2023
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, Jay Schneider
Associate Directors: Teresa Flewellyn
Staff: Austin Miller, Brittany Friedman

OPENING

Chairman Garms called the meeting to order at 12:44pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Agenda – October 11, 2023
- b. Minutes – September 13, 2023
- c. Financial Report – October 2023
- d. Extension of Financial Services Contract with CA Special District Association

*Director Washburn moved to approve the consent calendar items a, b and c.
Director Liebig seconded the motion.
The motion passed with all in favor.*

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

Drafted on:
10/11/2023

REPORTS

a. Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report

None.

b. SRCD Board Member Reports

Director Silva Jr. voiced his disappointment over paying EKI Environment and Water(via Cosumnes Groundwater Authority - CGA) in regards to the way they are invoicing as well as how Downey Brand invoiced us for the amount of hours they work. Director Schneider agreed with these comments and mentioned that he attended the SSCAWA meeting yesterday (October 10) and wondered about Zone 13 funding for the basin. The Board further discussed the charges/invoices for CGA as being inaccurate and noted that spending should be monitored more closely where inaccuracies like these do not occur.

Director Garms recently attended a CPAC meeting and passed around a packet of information regarding that meeting to the Board of Supervisors including new protocols on farming operations. In February of 2024, these protocols will go before the Board to be voted on, with FEMA in mind due to their funding and Director Garms voiced his concern over this. Staff and the Board agreed to add this item to the agenda for November to discuss further.

Assistant Director Flewellyn also attended the SSCAWA meeting and discussed the missing levee fees in regards to Galt Irrigation District and the general concern over this. She wondered if Wakeman Consulting possibly missed something in regards to this. She also mentioned that she was unable to attend the monitoring events due to language in the access agreements and she wanted to note that CGA Staff should have notified herself and public member Tish sooner to let them know.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

a. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Toney Tillman presented to the Board information on the many different programs NRCS and USDA has to offer. Conservation technical assistance and planning is one of their main practices they offer. After the plan, which is non-financial, a funding-related program can be offered such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to help producers apply conservation practices on their land. NRCS accepts applications year-round and the deadline for FY24 is November 3, 2023. There is also a Conservation Stewardship Program to help producers to take their conservation activities to the next level (above the minimum requirements of their base-line programs) which also accepts applications year-round.

Toney discussed the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program which aids landowners and eligible entities with conserving, resorting, protecting wetlands, productive agricultural lands and grasslands which has a footprint of more than 5 million acres (applications also accepted year-round). The two types of easements are for Wetland Reserve Easements and Agricultural Land Easements. Additionally, there is a Conservation Reserve Program offered by FSA that provides yearly rental payments for farmers who maintain conservation for 10 to 15 years. The Conservation Innovation Grants are competitive grant programs that support the development of new conservation

tools, approaches, practices and technologies. They help build resilience in producers; operations and improve their bottom lines. All non-federal entities and individuals are eligible to apply.

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program is a partner-driven approach to voluntary conservation that funds solutions to natural resources challenges which leverages \$1 for every \$1 invested by USDA. The steps for assistance from NRCS are listed as: planning, application, eligibility, ranking and implementing (in that order).

In terms of conservation practices, there are about 170+ practices available through NRCS programs (ex: prescribed grazing) and each practice has a conservation practice standard which details how producers should implement them to maximize benefits. Some of the main issues that NRCS offer practices and programs on include: Soil Health, Water Quality, Water Quantity, Wildlife, Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry.

Toney also discussed the local working groups which covers locally led conservation to serve the local community and build local program capacity and participation. These groups provide recommendations to NRCS and are convened by the local RCD where all stakeholders are invited to participate. Benefits of local work groups include building trust, maintaining diverse local partners, receiving direct feedback, prioritizing resource concerns and analyzing how to improve conservation efforts and celebrate accomplishments. The closest NRCS field office to the Sloughhouse District is the Elk Grove Service Center.

GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

1. Conservation Ag Planning Grant Implementation

Sloughhouse RCD was awarded \$199,800 from CDFA and the Board has approved the grant contract agreement. To begin the grant work, agreements with the certified conservation planners who will write the plans must be approved by the Board. Three planners and their agreements were presented to the Board for approval: Matthew Wacker (Grazing Management Plan), Michael Kersten (Carbon Farming Plan), Harol Gallardo (Soil Health and Carbon Farming). It was noted that Matthew and Michael are local to the area but Harol is further south of the district area. However, there have been no additional applicants for that planner role. There are also plans that were awarded to Tuolumne County and Sloughhouse RCD recommend entering into an agreement with Tuolumne RCD so they may be able to work with landowners for those plans.

Director Washburn viewed all of the planners' resumes and noted that they all seem qualified and capable for these positions. Director Garms commented that the Board would ideally like to see updates on these planners and the costs incurred on a monthly basis (may be quarterly if Grant Agreement stipulates that timeline). The Board suggested that they may be able to provide possible interested landowners for the planners to work with and staff agreed. Director Schneider suggested that staff reevaluate the number of each type of plan at a later date if there is more interest for one plan over another. Staff agreed to look at this in January of 2024.

Staff has developed an interest survey intended for landowners whose property will receive the conservation plans:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SRCDconservationplanning> . Staff intends to promote the interest survey to landowners that want to work with Sloughhouse RCD to develop the farm conservation plans.

Staff also suggests requesting additional funding for Carbon Farm Plan development from CARCD.

Director Silva Jr. made a motion to authorize the agreements with planners Matthew Wacker, Michael Kersten and Harol Gallardo.

Director Liebig seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

2. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant

Sloughhouse RCD was awarded \$432,153 from CDFA to provide water efficiency technical assistance and hired an Assistance Provider. The grant application requested funds to cover personnel costs (roughly 4% FTE of the District Manager position, 8% FTE of the Administrative Coordinator position and a Water Efficiency Program Coordinator at 75% FTE), supplies, travel, employee training, outreach supplies, and pump efficiency test. The position for the Program Coordinator has been posted to the SRCD Website as well as LinkedIn. Additional postings can take place as \$300 has been set aside to promote this, but it may not be needed as there are some quality candidates that have already applied. The Grant Agreement needs to be approved so staff may begin to execute the grant.

Staff is also requesting a Board Member to meet with staff to assist in the hiring process for the Program Coordinator. Director Silva Jr. volunteered to assist staff with this and suggested that we should keep the tools related to pump efficiency and other water efficiency practices as an RCD so we may be able to assist constituents in the future. Director Schneider suggested hiring someone who does not work with any existing GSA in the basin so they can be a truly independent employee who does not have any conflicting loyalties.

Director Washburn moved to authorize staff to execute the CDFA WETA grant agreement with Counsel's approval.

Director Schneider seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS

3. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

SRCD Staff member Brittany gave an overview of the Well Monitoring conducted with Confluence and EKI for CGA last week. 25 wells were monitored in total with 8 being water quality sampled and the rest had water levels taken. There are 15 access agreements in total for Sloughhouse RCD of which 3 have data that is publicly available. Staff is working with EKI to gather the data and present it at the next CGA board meeting in November. The Board discussed issues that arose, how we can reduce costs by limiting

viewing wells that are monitored virtually, and that access agreements need to be looked at and possibly revised or created for GSA's that do not have them.

In regards to letting members of the public accompany staff at the monitoring sites, it was suggested that there needs to be more transparency and updated access agreements allowing this or that every GSA needs to do their own monitoring separately. Director Schneider wants a public member to be there at the monitoring events while Director Washburn opposes this. The Board agrees that the access agreement language should be looked at for Sloughhouse RCD and CGA to ensure that proper protocols are being followed.

CGA staff then discussed the Member Contribution Agreement (FY '23-'24) with the Board in which the GSA's need to adopt the agreement and invoices will then be developed. The initial Member Agency Contribution Agreement was adopted by CGA in June 2023. The contribution agreement for Sloughhouse RCD came out to \$148,402 in total to go to CGA. The Board discussed the logistics in paying this contribution and Director Washburn wondered what the County of Sacramento does to levy a fee and what those options would be going forward. There was news that there is a missing levy fee associated with Galt ID. Director Garms is concerned about the 5 year proposal that would commit Sloughhouse RCD to contributing funds to CGA. Staff ensured that this particular agreement is only for the '23 - '24 fiscal year. Associate Director Flewellyn voiced concern over transparency and trust that CGA is trying to obtain and how the missing levy fee will affect this for CGA as a whole and for the Outreach and Engagement Committee. Director Schneider wants to take a step back and reevaluate the agreement between Sloughhouse RCD and CGA. The Board agreed to table this discussion until the November Board meeting as more information needs to be obtained to move forward.

Director Washburn shared an alternative Fee Structure in regards to the Fee Study Development that CGA is exploring. Under current estimates, Sloughhouse RCD would be responsible for \$256,263 annually for CGA operations. Additionally, the current fee study is looking at a parcel base fee, a public supply fee, and an irrigated acreage fee. Director Washburn's modified version of the fee structure adjusts the costs per parcel and revenue type. Director Silva Jr. disputed the figures represented in the modified fee structure and argued that aquaculture costs are much larger and more complicated than what was displayed. Director Liebig also disputed these figures and suggested that this alternate version is not a good idea in that it is not equitable for all involved. No action was taken on this matter.

4. South American Subbasin GSP Implementation

Staff shared information regarding the contribution to the South American Subbasin for Fiscal Year '22 - '23 in which Sloughhouse RCD has still not made a payment as we are waiting for a final breakdown of expenses. The anticipated budget for the joint GSA efforts in the South American Subbasin for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is the same as the previous year and the Sloughhouse RCD contribution would be the same (\$8,325). Starting in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 work on the 5-year Update to the South

American Subbasin will begin and a separate funding agreement will need to be developed.

Currently Sloughhouse RCD makes their GSA contribution payments from our general fund. To generate funding to sustain this work, we will need to either explore voluntary contributions from landowners or develop and implement a groundwater sustainability fee.

No action was taken on this matter - item tabled.

5. Center for Land-based Learning SLEWS Academy

Item tabled.

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. SRCD Staff Report

Staff provided a brief report highlighting the National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) 78th Annual Meeting which will take place in San Diego on February 10 - 14, 2024. <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting/>

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>

There will be a Residential Organics Workshops for residents of Rancho Murieta on October 24th, 2023 to help residents comply with California Senate Bill 1383. Food waste and food soiled paper, such as napkins and paper towels, must now be thrown away in the Gray Cart along with yard waste. The Gray Yard Waste Cart is now considered the Gray Organics Recycling Cart.

Learn more here: <https://www.ranchomurieta.csd.com/cal-waste-organics-workshop>

IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:

- Contribution Agreement between SRCD and CGA
- Center for Land-based Learning SLEWS Academy
- South American Subbasin Contribution Agreement

ADJOURNMENT

Director Garms adjourned the meeting at 4:27pm.

Sloughouse Resource Conservation District

Balance Sheet

As of November 10, 2023

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts (Sac County + Five Star Bank)	\$545,092.07
Accounts Receivable	\$19,550.00
Total Current Assets	\$564,642.07
TOTAL ASSETS	\$564,642.07
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities (Accounts Payable)	\$37,347.67
Equity	\$527,294.40
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$564,642.07

Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

Expenses Needing Board Approval

All Dates

DATE	AMOUNT	MEMO/DESCRIPTION
Austin Miller		
11/09/2023	215.11	Austin Miller - Office Supplies - October 2023
Total for Austin Miller	\$215.11	
Brittany Friedman		
11/10/2023	260.68	CSDA Clerk Conference 2023 Mileage
Total for Brittany Friedman	\$260.68	
CARCD		
11/09/2023	8,616.86	Friedman Wages - October 2023
11/09/2023	3,490.42	CARCD Wages -June and July 2023 - Balances Owed
11/09/2023	18,679.91	Miller Wages - October 2023 - Last Paycheck
Total for CARCD	\$30,787.19	
CSDA		
10/05/2023	220.00	CSDA Financial Services - Time Worked - September 2023
Total for CSDA	\$220.00	
Five Star Bank		
11/09/2023	664.69	Five Star Credit Card - November 2023
Total for Five Star Bank	\$664.69	
Kronick		
11/09/2023	2,372.50	General Legal through September 2023
11/09/2023	2,827.50	Groundwater Legal through September 2023
Total for Kronick	\$5,200.00	
TOTAL	\$37,347.67	

Sloughouse Resource Conservation District

Budget vs. Actuals: SRCD FY 23-24 Budget - FY24 P&L

July 2023 - June 2024

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Income				
4600 Services (Staff Support)	52,300.00	161,000.00	-108,700.00	32.48 %
Contributed income				
4500 Grant Income		194,051.00	-194,051.00	
Total Contributed income		194,051.00	-194,051.00	
Investment income				
4900 Interest Income (94941000)		20,000.00	-20,000.00	
Total Investment income		20,000.00	-20,000.00	
Other Income				
4100 Tax Revenue (91-)	15,667.05	146,500.00	-130,832.95	10.69 %
4200 Groundwater Sustainability Fee		149,413.00	-149,413.00	
4700 Misc. Other Revenue (97979000)		15,000.00	-15,000.00	
Total Other Income	15,667.05	310,913.00	-295,245.95	5.04 %
Total Income	\$67,967.05	\$685,964.00	\$ -617,996.95	9.91 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$67,967.05	\$685,964.00	\$ -617,996.95	9.91 %
Expenses				
5370 Office Supplies (Consumable) (20207600)	1,984.18	10,000.00	-8,015.82	19.84 %
Bank fees & service charges				
5200 Assessment/Collections Services (20250700)		1,750.00	-1,750.00	
Total Bank fees & service charges		1,750.00	-1,750.00	
Memberships & subscriptions				
5260 Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions, Publications, etc. (20206100)		4,000.00	-4,000.00	
Total Memberships & subscriptions		4,000.00	-4,000.00	
Office supplies	144.00	10,000.00	-9,856.00	1.44 %
Printing & photocopying				
5240 Printing and Copying	141.67		141.67	
Total Printing & photocopying	141.67		141.67	
Shipping & postage				
5340 Postage/Shipping (20292200)		5,000.00	-5,000.00	
Total Shipping & postage		5,000.00	-5,000.00	
Total 5370 Office Supplies (Consumable) (20207600)	2,269.85	30,750.00	-28,480.15	7.38 %
5510 CDFA Conservation Ag Planning Grant (CAPGP)		40,000.00	-40,000.00	
5520 CDFA Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant (WETA)		109,338.00	-109,338.00	
Contract & professional fees				
5330 Other Professional Services (20259100)	220.00	15,000.00	-14,780.00	1.47 %
5380 Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Contribution (20281204)		149,413.00	-149,413.00	
5390 South American Subbasin SGMA Contributions (20289900)		9,000.00	-9,000.00	
Accounting fees	3,450.00	8,000.00	-4,550.00	43.13 %
Legal fees				
5350 Legal - General (20253100)	6,370.00	15,000.00	-8,630.00	42.47 %
5355 Legal - Groundwater (20253100)	1,665.07	15,000.00	-13,334.93	11.10 %

Sloughouse Resource Conservation District

Budget vs. Actuals: SRCD FY 23-24 Budget - FY24 P&L

July 2023 - June 2024

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Total Legal fees	8,035.07	30,000.00	-21,964.93	26.78 %
Total Contract & professional fees	11,705.07	211,413.00	-199,707.93	5.54 %
Insurance	2,396.00		2,396.00	
5300 Insurance (20205100)		2,500.00	-2,500.00	
Total Insurance	2,396.00	2,500.00	-104.00	95.84 %
Payroll expenses				
Salaries & wages				
5000 Staff Expenses (20254100)				
Staff Costs (Friedman)	63,936.56	96,056.00	-32,119.44	66.56 %
Staff Costs (Miller)	18,877.56	116,900.00	-98,022.44	16.15 %
Staff Costs (WETA)		26,102.00	-26,102.00	
Total 5000 Staff Expenses (20254100)	82,814.12	239,058.00	-156,243.88	34.64 %
Total Salaries & wages	82,814.12	239,058.00	-156,243.88	34.64 %
Total Payroll expenses	82,814.12	239,058.00	-156,243.88	34.64 %
Travel				
5400 Transportation (Travel, Mileage)	260.68		260.68	
Hotels	480.90		480.90	
Total Travel	741.58		741.58	
Uncategorized Expense				
5270 Education, Training, & Staff Development (20203600)		8,000.00	-8,000.00	
5320 Misc. Expenses (20227504)	39.79	4,000.00	-3,960.21	0.99 %
Total Uncategorized Expense	39.79	12,000.00	-11,960.21	0.33 %
Total Expenses	\$99,966.41	\$645,059.00	\$ -545,092.59	15.50 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -31,999.36	\$40,905.00	\$ -72,904.36	-78.23 %
NET INCOME	\$ -31,999.36	\$40,905.00	\$ -72,904.36	-78.23 %

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: November 15, 2023

Agenda Item #: #1
Agenda Item Subject: SRCD Staffing Changes

To: SRCD Board of Directors
From: SRCD Staff

Interim Position of Administrative Coordinator

Sloughhouse RCD's recent District Manager Austin Miller has started a new position with the County of Sacramento as of October 30, 2023. He has made himself available to assist with the transition if needed via meeting the new WETA program coordinator and District Manager once hired.

In the interim, Administrative and Program Coordinator Brittany Friedman is willing to take over the District Manager job role and duties. With the expansion of duties, a temporary increase in compensation and title change would be executed. Staff is asking for approval of either of the following options:

- a) a temporary increase in compensation to account for the increase in duties as Interim District Manager
- b) approval to work up to 10 hours of overtime per week with only the Admin Coordinator position role and duties utilized

District Manager Role

Staff is looking for direction on posting the District Manager job role and the general hiring process for this role. Austin Miller prepared a District Manager role description and job listing to be posted upon the approval of the Board in preparation of hiring a new DM. The role can be posted on: LinkedIn, Indeed, Sloughhouse Website, CGA Website and CARCD Website for free.

Attachment: [District Manager Job Description](#)

Water Efficiency Technical Assistant Hiring Process

On July 28th, the CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announced that Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District has been selected to receive a Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WEAT) award in the amount of \$ 432,153.00. Over the coming weeks, CDFA staff will work staff to finalize grant agreement documents including the Scope of Work and Budget. The grant contract start date is expected to be November 1, 2023.

The Water Efficiency Program Coordinator position has been posted to the [SRCD website](#) and [LinkedIn](#). 18 applications have come in for this position that may fit the criteria we advertised

for. Staff is looking for direction on the hiring process for this role and recommends that a hiring committee be put together and interviews be held in December 2023.

Attachment: [WETA Job Posting](#)

Staff Recommendation

- Approve the Administrative Coordinator to take on the Interim District Manager role OR approve up to 10 hours of overtime per week with only the Admin Coordinator position role and duties.
- Direction on hiring process of District Manager role
- Direction on hiring process of WETA role



SLOUGHHOUSE

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Position Description: **District Manager**

Do you want to be part of an enthusiastic team working with the agricultural community in Sacramento County to help growers and help reach sustainability goals? Come work with us!

About Us

Located in Sacramento County, the Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD) is a special district of the State of California and a local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The RCD works closely with a variety of local and regional partners to become better stewards of our natural resources through education, outreach, and implementing conservation projects to advance the long-term sustainability of working landscapes, rural life, and our unique environment. Learn more about us on our website at SloughhouseRCD.org.

Pursuant to the SRCD Board of Directors policy and direction, the District Manager will:

20%* - General District Management:

1. Manage Board operations, including pre- and post- meeting logistics:
 - a. Develop agendas and supporting documentation in cooperation with the Board.
 - b. Prepare formal minutes for each meeting.
 - c. Prepare and post meeting announcements in accordance with Board policy and Brown Act regulations.
 - d. Maintain and update an online archive of pre- and post-meeting documents.

2. Ensure efficient and effective District operations:
 - a. Safeguard District integrity by carrying out functions that adhere to all statutes, governmental rules, regulations, and compliance requirements pertaining to or affecting Special Districts, Resource Conservation Districts, and Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.
 - b. Set a high standard for District communications, including timely response to phone calls, emails, and other correspondence.

At the direction of the Board:

 - c. Prepare and manage contracts with consultants and/or partner agencies.
 - d. Provide oversight and leadership for any additional staff brought on by the Board
 - e. Draft and edit Board policy.

3. Lead efforts to create new opportunities for the District to meet its Mission and Vision of broad service to multiple constituencies:

*Time estimates are suggestions/guidelines.

- a. Create/update as needed a long-term strategic plan and complementary annual work plans for Board consideration; implement Board directives and priorities.
 - b. Administer and supervise the District's participation in watershed and community groups, including fostering relationships with potential funders.
 - c. Work with the Board, external partners, and constituents to develop projects and programs in accordance with our mission to protect natural resources within the district.
 - d. Actively seek out and write grant proposals in collaboration with Board members that continue and maintain the work of the RCD at the level of operations directed by the Board.
4. Supervise other staff members:
- a. Assist with the recruitment and hiring of new staff.
 - b. Provide oversight of staff as directed by the Board.

10%* - Financial Management:

- 1. Working with the Board Finance Committee, draft and edit the District's annual budget.
- 2. Provide ongoing management of the District's finances. These tasks include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Preparing and submitting financial documents on a monthly basis.
 - b. Working with the County of Sacramento's Department of Finance to ensure the District's financial accounts are accurate.
- 3. Oversee the annual audit, including supplying the auditor with requested financial paperwork.

10%* - Outreach:

- 1. Represent and promote the District at local, state, regional, and federal levels.
- 2. Serve as a liaison to the Elk Grove office of the NRCS by helping disseminate information about loans, new programs, and new information about soil and water conservation practices.
- 3. Working with consultants, maintain a website for the District. Prepare content, reply to inquiries, and help maintain the security of the site.
- 4. Promote the District and successful projects implemented by the District within the community and with the media.

60%* - Groundwater Sustainability:

- 1. Work with the Board to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. This includes:
 - a. Support the Board in the implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin and South American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).
 - b. Assist with intra- and inter-basin coordination.
- 2. Explore other opportunities aimed at improving the groundwater conditions within the District.
- 3. Serve as the Administrator to the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority, a joint powers authority formed by the 7 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Cosumnes Subbasin to jointly implement the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP. This includes functions similar to the other District Manager responsibilities listed above as well as:

*Time estimates are suggestions/guidelines.

- a. Work with local landowners and other stakeholders to facilitate the collection of groundwater data.
- b. Support the Board in evaluating and summarizing reports from consultants.

Qualifications:

Any combination of experience and education which provides the required knowledge and skills is acceptable:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Public Administration, Natural Resources Planning, Plant or Soil Sciences, Ecology, Agriculture, Biology, Environmental Science or a related field of study or five (5) years field and management experience in public administration, agriculture, groundwater management, agricultural or natural resource technical assistance, or crop and soil sciences.
- Community-oriented individual that conducts themselves in a professional manner and is passionate about working cooperatively with people with different perspectives, priorities, and temperaments.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience working in the Sacramento region.
- Fluent in Spanish, Hmong, or another language widely spoken in Sacramento County.
- Possession of a Technical Service Provider certification through the Natural Resources Conservation Service or a willingness to obtain one.

Physical Requirements:

- Ability to work in the field in a variety of outdoor and sometimes inclement weather conditions and walk on uneven terrain including disked fields and ditch hopping. Considerable physical activity is involved including walking up to two miles, bending, stooping, squatting, twisting, reaching and working on irregular surfaces, lifting of up to 25 pounds and occasional lifting of up to 50 pounds.
- Ability to sit for long periods of time; to climb stairs; work inside buildings and in confined spaces; to either work alone or closely with others.

License:

- Required to possess and maintain a valid California driver's license, Class C or higher, to carry out job related duties.

Compensation:

- Salary Range: \$80,000-90,000
- Benefits include full coverage of health insurance and a deferred compensation plan with employer match.

Anticipated Start Date:

- December 2023

To Apply:

*Time estimates are suggestions/guidelines.

- Please email a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to Brittany Friedman at info@SloughhouseRCD.org. The position will remain open until filled with initial application deadline being Friday, November 17, 2023. If you would like additional information, please contact the email address above.
- The Resource Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer. Candidates reflecting the social diversity of California are strongly encouraged to apply.

*Time estimates are suggestions/guidelines.



SLOUGHHOUSE

Resource Conservation District

HERALD | SLOUGHHOUSE | WILTON

Position Description:

Water Efficiency Program Coordinator

Do you want to be part of an enthusiastic team working with the agricultural community in Sacramento County to help growers and help reach sustainability goals? Come work with us! We are looking for a natural resource or agricultural professional to develop and run a 3-year, Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) and Water Efficiency program that will provide technical assistance on irrigation efficiency and other on-farm conservation issues. Training and mentorship will be provided as part of this program.

About Us

Located in Sacramento County, the Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD) is a special district of the State of California and a local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The RCD works closely with a variety of local and regional partners to become better stewards of our natural resources through education, outreach, and implementing conservation projects to advance the long-term sustainability of working landscapes, rural life, and our unique environment. Learn more about us on our website at SloughhouseRCD.org.

About the Position

Pursuant to the SRCD Board of Directors policy and at the direction of the District Manager, the Water Efficiency Program Coordinator will oversee and implement all activities of the Mobile Irrigation Lab, including managing and performing all aspects of field activities both directly and in coordination with other RCD staff, coordinating activities with growers, communicating with grant managers and managing the project budget and scope of work, purchasing materials and supplies, collecting data, writing reports and working with administrative staff to develop invoices, and contributing to other general SRCD work and assisting other staff as needed. The Project Coordinator will assist growers by improving irrigation practices, developing conservation plans, provide education on how to maintain efficient irrigation systems, provide semi-annual groundwater elevation monitoring of groundwater wells, collecting water samples, introduce growers to new technologies and best management practices relating to water efficiency, and encourage growers to become more active in location education and outreach events.

Overview of job duties includes responsibilities to:

- Schedule and coordinate with growers for meeting locations, dates, and times.
- Perform irrigation evaluations, typically 1 to 2 per day between the months of April through September. Evaluations include determining system pressure, system uniformity, flow-rates, and application rates. Irrigation System Evaluation training program at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo will be provided.

- Attend additional trainings and certifications as needed. Certifications helpful for this position include Irrigation Association's Agriculture Irrigation Auditor and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Technical Service Provider (TSP) and Conservation Planner.
- Develop a comprehensive irrigation evaluation report for each grower using data collected in the field and field notes with the goal of providing changes to irrigation scheduling that lead to improved irrigation efficiency and water conservation.
- Provide other on-farm technical assistance as needed, including pump efficiency testing, best management practices for water efficiency, soil health, carbon farming, and other on-farm conservation topics.
- Perform networking and outreach activities through one-on-one grower interactions and through attendance and participation in workshops, seminars, and agricultural events.
- Develop presentations and/or workshops to promote the water efficiency program and educate on topics that focus on irrigation efficiencies, modern technologies, and related topics.
- Coordinate and collaborate with a broad array of partner organizations, agency staff, and landowners.
- Manage project budget and grant deliverables, communicate with California Department of Food and Agriculture grant managers as required, purchase materials and supplies, and work with SRCD administrative staff to develop invoices, and quarterly and annual reports to grantors.
- Exercise independent judgment and discretion in the overall management and issue resolution on projects.

Qualifications:

Any combination of experience and education which provides the required knowledge and skills is acceptable:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Natural Resources Planning, Plant or Soil Sciences, Ecology, Agriculture, Biology, Environmental Science or a related field of study or five (5) years field and management experience in agriculture, irrigation technology, agricultural or natural resource technical assistance or crop and soil sciences.
- Community-oriented individual that conducts themselves in a professional manner and is passionate about working cooperatively with people with different perspectives, priorities, and temperaments.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience working in the Sacramento region.
- Fluent in Spanish, Hmong, or another language widely spoken in Sacramento County.
- Possession of a Technical Service Provider certification through the Natural Resources Conservation Service or a willingness to obtain one.

Physical Requirements:

- Ability to work in the field in a variety of outdoor and sometimes inclement weather conditions and walk on uneven terrain including disked fields and ditch hopping. Considerable physical activity is involved including walking up to two miles, bending, stooping, squatting, twisting, reaching and working on irregular surfaces, lifting of up to 25 pounds and occasional lifting of up to 50 pounds.
- Ability to sit for long periods of time; to climb stairs; work inside buildings and in confined spaces; to either work alone or closely with others.

License:

- Required to possess and maintain a valid California driver's license, Class C or higher, to carry out job related duties.

Compensation:

- Salary Range: \$60,000-75,000
- Benefits include full coverage of health insurance and a deferred compensation plan with employer match.

Anticipated Start Date:

- November 2023

To Apply:

- Please email a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to Austin Miller at info@SloughhouseRCD.org. Deadline to apply is Friday, October 13, 2023. Applicants may later be asked to submit a driving record. The position is open until filled. If you would like additional information, please contact the email address above.
- The Resource Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer. Candidates reflecting the social diversity of California are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: November 15, 2023

Agenda Item #: #2

Agenda Item Subject: Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Update

To: SRCD Board of Directors

From: SRCD Staff

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) Overview

Links: [Board Meeting Materials](#) | [Committee Meeting Materials](#)

Upcoming CGA Board Meetings

Next Regular Meeting

- Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 8:30-11:30am
- Location: Galt Police Department, 455 Industrial Dr., Galt, CA 95632

Fee Study Development and Future Member Contribution Agreements

On November 1, 2023 the CGA Board of Directors reviewed and discussed memorandums discussing future member contributions and the CGA cost of services funding study. Under current estimates, Sloughhouse RCD would be responsible for \$256,263 annually for CGA operations. Additionally, the current fee study is looking at a parcel base fee, a public supply fee, and an irrigated acreage fee. Sloughhouse RCD should discuss how this would impact our GSA and what implementation would look like.

Those CGA memos, including the Draft Fee Implementation Memo from SCI, can be found here: <https://www.cosumnesgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/CGA-Funding-Memos.pdf>

Scott Morris, legal counsel for Sloughhouse RCD, has prepared a presentation on the Fee Study and how it may impact CGA and Sloughhouse RCD, alike. This [presentation](#) includes further considerations for the Board from a legal standpoint.

Member Contribution Agreement (Current Fiscal Year, 2023-2024)

In June 2023 the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors adopted a Member Agency Contribution Agreement for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Now GSAs need to adopt the agreement and invoices will be developed. The agreement is attached.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the CGA Contribution Agreement.

COSUMNES GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY MEMBER AGENCY CONTRIBUTION
AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made this _____th day of _____ 2023 between COSUMNES GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (“CGA”), a California Joint Powers Authority, by and through its Board of Directors, and the seven Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) of the Cosumnes Subbasin, which are: Amador County Groundwater Management Authority (“Amador”), City of Galt (“City”), Clay Water District (“Clay”), Sacramento County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“County”)¹, Galt Irrigation District (“Galt ID”), Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (“OHWD”), and Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (“Sloughhouse RCD”), each of which is a “Party” to or a “Member” of this Agreement.. Each of the parties to this Agreement shall individually be referred to as the “Party,” or collectively, as the “Parties.” This Agreement is effective as of the date the last Party signs the Agreement.

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the CGA was formed to implement certain aspects of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) and the Cosumnes Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”), and;

WHEREAS, the GSAs entered into the Initial Funding and Revenue Agreement for Implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan Agreement which set member contributions to CGA for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, and those GSAs entered into a similar agreement for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and;

WHEREAS, the CGA Board of Directors annually adopts a budget outlining CGA’s projected expenses and revenue, which delineates the proposed member contributions, and;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties, on the terms and conditions herein set forth, hereby agree as follows:

TERMS:

1. The Parties shall each pay their member contributions, as delineated in Exhibit 1 hereto (“CGA Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget”), to the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority.
2. Each Party must meet its Member Contribution obligation to the CGA, as outlined in Exhibit 1, by June 30. However, it is recommended to make early payment, whether in part or in full.
3. In-kind contributions are appropriate and recognized as satisfactory to meet a member’s contribution. Any in-kind contributions proposed to be substituted, in whole or in part, for monetary payment of a Party’s Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Member Contribution must be part of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 approved budget and approved in advance by the CGA Board of Directors.

4. In the event that CGA's actual Fiscal Year 2023-2024 costs are less than the total estimated costs set forth in Exhibit 1, the remaining funds held by CGA shall be refunded to each members or placed in reserve, as determined by the CGA Board of Directors.

EXHIBIT 1

FY 2023-2024 Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Budget

Adopted June 2023

Expenses - Regulatory and Operational Costs

Activity	FY 23-24 Expenses
Personnel	\$161,000
Legal	\$30,000
Public Outreach Supplies	\$5,000
Annual Report	\$33,000
Data Management System	\$10,000
Other Technical Services	\$75,000
Monitoring	\$15,000
Miscellaneous	\$3,000
Financial Audit	\$12,500
Grant Funding Exploration	\$20,000
Post-GSP Fee Establishment	\$65,000
Other PMAs + Data Gaps	\$45,000
Responding to State Comments on GSP	\$50,000
Grants	\$ -
Contingency	\$10,000
Totals	\$534,500

Income - Member Contributions

GSA	FY 23-23 Contributions
City of Galt	\$15,000
Amador CGMA	\$5,000
Galt Irrigation District	\$156,749
Clay Water District	\$21,737
OH Water District	\$23,241
Sloughhouse RCD	\$148,402
County of Sacramento	\$55,601
Total	\$425,730

Expenses and Income Overview

Category	FY 23-24 Projected
Starting Balance	\$297,488
Expenses	\$534,500
Income	\$425,730
Difference	\$(108,770)
Year End Balance	\$188,718

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: November 15, 2023

Agenda Item #: #3

Agenda Item Subject: South American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Implementation

To: SRCD Board of Directors

From: SRCD Staff

South American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation

Links: [South American Subbasin Website](#)

GSA Contributions

Sloughhouse RCD has not yet made a contribution to the South American Subbasin for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 as we are waiting for a final breakdown of expenses.

The anticipated budget for the joint GSA efforts in the South American Subbasin for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is the same as the previous year and the Sloughhouse RCD contribution would be the same (\$8,325). Starting in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 work on the 5-year Update to the South American Subbasin will begin and a separate funding agreement will need to be developed.

Currently Sloughhouse RCD makes their GSA contribution payments from our general fund. To generate funding to sustain this work, we will need to either explore voluntary contributions from landowners or develop and implement a groundwater sustainability fee.

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: November 15, 2023

Agenda Item #: #4
Agenda Item Subject: SLEWS Academy

To: SRCD Board of Directors
From: SRCD Staff

Background

With support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Center for Land-Based Learning is reinstating the SLEWS Academy. This returning program trains educators and natural resource professionals to create meaningful, hands-on, habitat restoration-focused programs for high school youth in schools and communities throughout California. This comprehensive training in the best practices of the award-winning Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) Program will enable more organizations to engage youth in meaningful science and service-learning.

This training opportunity would provide support to Sloughhouse RCD as we aim to expand our educational programming, engage more local high school students, and implement conservation projects. See the attached materials for more information!

Staff Recommendation

- Authorize Staff to execute the SLEWS Academy Agreement.



SLEWS Academy Affiliation Agreement

This Agreement is made by and between the Center for Land-Based Learning, a California nonprofit corporation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) known as the “Center” in this Agreement, and:

Name of organization: Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Address: _____

Contact person: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

SLEWS Academy Trained Staff: _____

Known in this Agreement as the “SLEWS Affiliate” and “Affiliate”.

WHEREAS, The Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) Academy is a program of the Center that trains educators and natural resource professionals to create meaningful, hands-on, habitat restoration focused programs for high school youth in schools and communities; and,

WHEREAS, The Center is the owner of all program materials and methods, as now existing or developed in the future, associated with its SLEWS habitat restoration program, including without limitation the program name(s), slogans, training materials, manuals, processes and procedures and all legal rights to the foregoing, including copyrights and trademarks, whether or not such marks are currently or later registered with the appropriate government agencies (hereinafter referred to collectively as the Center’s “MARKS”); and,

WHEREAS, the organization identified above warrants that it has the desire, staff and necessary resources to become a SLEWS Affiliate.

THEREFORE, the SLEWS Affiliate agrees to the following terms and conditions in consideration for the Center naming it a SLEWS Affiliate and allowing it to use the Center’s MARKS, program materials and methods:

1. **SLEWS Academy.** SLEWS Affiliate, including the required affiliate staff, agrees to complete all components of the SLEWS Academy as detailed in the SLEWS Academy Complete Information Packet as currently existing or later amended

and included in Attachment A to this Agreement and made part of this Agreement by this reference.

2. **SLEWS Materials.** SLEWS Affiliate agrees to operate the SLEWS program only in accordance with the SLEWS program methods and procedures as learned by Affiliate in the SLEWS Academy or later developed and provided to the Affiliate by the Center. It is understood and agreed by Affiliate that it may not change or modify the SLEWS program materials or methods, or the SLEWS program name, logo or model, in any way other than as provided in the SLEWS training and program manuals, without the prior written consent of the Center.
3. **Reporting.** SLEWS Affiliate agrees to complete and provide in a timely manner to the Center all required SLEWS Affiliate program reports. It is anticipated that at a minimum online field day reports after each SLEWS field day and an annual report will be required that includes information on funding secured by Affiliate for the SLEWS program, the number of participants in Affiliate's SLEWS program (students, teachers, schools, volunteers, partners, etc.), and SLEWS project locations and accomplishments.
4. **SLEWS license.** The Center grants the Affiliate the nonexclusive, non-transferable license to use the SLEWS name, logo, slogans, MARKS, methods and materials (known collectively as the "SLEWS Materials" in this Agreement) during the period this SLEWS Academy Affiliation Agreement is in effect. Affiliate understands and agrees that the right to use the SLEWS Materials shall automatically terminate upon the termination of this Affiliation Agreement for any reason. If at any time within or outside the term of this agreement, the Affiliate wishes to search for or find funding sources to continue the SLEWS program or programs using the SLEWS model at their site, Affiliate must notify and correspond with the Center.
5. **Center ownership of all SLEWS materials and methods.** Affiliate acknowledges the Center's exclusive ownership of and right to use the SLEWS Materials and agrees that it will not claim any right to the SLEWS Materials other than the permission to use the SLEWS Materials as intended and detailed in this Affiliation Agreement and during such period of time Affiliate is party to a current and valid SLEWS Academy Affiliation Agreement with the Center. Affiliate further agrees that it shall not dispute or assist others to dispute the Center's ownership, validity or right of exclusive use of, or any registration or application, including without limitation any registrations now

existing or later filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and/or the U.S. Copyright Office, filed by or issued to the Center with respect to the SLEWS Materials.

6. **Notice of unauthorized use.** Affiliate agrees to immediately notify the Center in the event that Affiliate becomes aware of any unauthorized use or imitation of the Center's SLEWS name, logo, slogans, MARKS, methods and materials associated with its SLEWS programs. Affiliate understands that the Center shall have sole discretion to take such action as it deems appropriate in the event of any unauthorized use or imitation of the Center's Marks, methods or procedures associated with its SLEWS programs.
7. **No assignment.** Affiliate understands and agrees that the rights granted to Affiliate in this Agreement are personal to Affiliate and may not be assigned, transferred, or otherwise encumbered by Affiliate in whole or in part.
8. **Confidentiality.** Any information that Affiliate is exposed to by virtue of its relationship with the Center, which information is not available to the general public, shall be considered to be "Confidential Company Information." Affiliate may not disclose any Confidential Company Information to any person or entity, except where compelled by law, unless Affiliate obtains prior written consent for such disclosure from Company.
9. **Term.** This Agreement shall begin on **October 6, 2023** and continue for one complete SLEWS Academy cycle of approximately *two and a half years* ending on the termination date of **April 6, 2026**. Affiliate understands that its affiliation with the Center as a SLEWS program provider may be renewed after successful completion of the first program cycle upon the mutual written consent of the Affiliate and the Center.
10. **Termination by Center.** This Affiliation Agreement may be terminated by the Center at any time upon written notice to Affiliate if the Center determines in its sole discretion that:
 - (a) Affiliate lacks the capacity to effectively operate a SLEWS program, provided however that the Center shall give Affiliate notice of its finding that Affiliate lacks sufficient capacity to maintain a SLEWS program and a minimum of thirty (30) days for the Affiliate to respond to the Center's findings. Center may request from time to time that Affiliate provide evidence to the Center that Affiliate continues to have the capacity, including funding, financial stability, SLEWS-trained staff, and other criteria as determined by the Center, to

effectively operate a SLEWS program;

(b) Affiliate has breached any condition(s) of this SLEWS Affiliation Agreement, or breach of any of the SLEWS Affiliate policies, procedures and guidelines now existing or later developed by the Center; or,

(c) Continuation of the SLEWS Affiliate Agreement is not in the best interest of the Center.

11. **Termination by Affiliate.** Affiliates may terminate this Agreement upon giving the Center thirty (30) days prior written notice.

12. **SLEWS Academy training and Affiliation cost.** Affiliate agrees to pay the Center a SLEWS Academy program fee of **\$3,000** per organization, which includes 3-4 staff in attendance at the training. This fee is due and payable no later than the day prior to the first day of training of the SLEWS Academy. Affiliate understands and agrees that the Center may charge, and Affiliate agrees to pay, additional fees should Affiliate require any additional or customized training that is not included in the regular SLEWS Academy program, including without limitation tuition fees for additional Affiliate staff to attend a SLEWS Academy training session. Affiliate further understands that a renewal fee may be charged to remain an affiliate after completion of the first program cycle.

13. **Compliance with law.** Both parties shall abide by all applicable federal and state laws and regulations in the performance of their respective obligations under the terms of this Agreement.

14. **Relationship of Parties.** This Agreement shall not be construed to create any employment relationship, agency relationship, or partnership between Affiliate and the Center. Affiliate shall have no authority to bind Company into any agreement, nor shall Affiliate be considered to be an agent of the Center in any respect.

15. **Limitation of Liability.** The Center shall not be liable for any loss of profits or costs, or for any direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages, including costs associated with the procurement of substitute goods or services (whether Center was or should have been aware or advised of the possibility of such damage), arising out of or associated with any loss, suspension or interruption of service, termination of this Agreement, use or misuse of the SLEWS Materials, or other performance of services under this

Agreement.

16. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one agreement.
17. **Severability.** If any part or parts of this Agreement shall be held unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect. If any provision of this Agreement is deemed invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, and if limiting such provision would make the provision valid, then such provision shall be deemed to be construed as so limited.
18. **Headings.** The headings for section herein are for convenience only and shall not affect the meaning of the provisions of this Agreement.
19. **Choice of Law.** This Affiliation Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California. Any legal action arising as a result of this Agreement must be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction within the State.
20. **Entire Agreement.** This written Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the parties, merging and superseding any prior understandings either written or oral, and may be amended only by a writing signed by the parties.

The undersigned represent and warrant that they are authorized to agree to the terms and conditions of, and execute this Affiliation Agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.

For Affiliate:

For the Center:

NAME, TITLE

NAME, TITLE

DATE

DATE



SLEWS Academy Complete Information Packet

With support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Center for Land-Based Learning is reinstating the SLEWS Academy. The S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and the James Irvine Foundation supported the initial launch of this program. This returning program trains educators and natural resource professionals to create meaningful, hands-on, habitat restoration-focused programs for high school youth in schools and communities throughout California. This comprehensive training in the best practices of the award-winning Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) Program will enable more organizations to engage youth in meaningful science and service-learning.

SLEWS Academy – why participate?

Connect young people to agriculture and the environment

Develop new partnerships

Engage your community

Utilize an established model for youth engagement with all the tools such as field day activities, evaluation, and outreach materials, already created for you.

CLBL background

The Center for Land-Based Learning (CLBL) was founded in 2001 by Winters, CA, walnut farmer Craig McNamara to teach the next generation about the cause and effect relationship between agricultural practices and the environment, and to create connections with the land that so many youth need. CLBL serves urban, suburban, and rural youth throughout California in 15 counties from Yuba to Sonoma to Los Angeles.

The Center for Land-Based Learning is dedicated to creating the next generation of farmers and to teaching California's youth about the importance of agriculture and watershed conservation. Combining innovative hands-on experience with classroom learning, participants in CLBL's many programs develop leadership skills, learn how sustainable agriculture practices contribute to a healthier ecosystem, and create connections to agricultural, environmental, and food system careers.

SLEWS Program Background

The Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) Program began in 2001, and has engaged more than 8,500 students and teachers in 13 counties in California. This award winning program has been recognized by national, state, and local partners for excellence in conservation education. With 22 years of history and collaboration with high school teachers, restoration professionals, private landowners, state and national agencies, universities and non-profit organizations, the SLEWS Program is an established and comprehensive approach to youth engagement.

Meeting Educational Needs

With the implementation of Common Core Standards, the SLEWS Program supports a key element of these standards, College and Career Readiness. These standards focus on speaking and listening, preparing students for being able to engage in conversations, consider points of view, and develop a line of reasoning. The SLEWS Program facilitates structured and informal conversations with professionals and peers. Skills applicable in all career fields, and commonly cited as lacking, such as communicating across generations, wearing appropriate attire for the given task and setting, seeing a task through from beginning to end, and problem-solving with a team, are practiced through the SLEWS Program.

In addition, California implemented the Next Generation Science Standards in 2015. These were the first broad national recommendations for science instruction since 1996, and brought sweeping changes for how science should be taught in the United States. The focus is shifted toward helping students experience *how* science is done so that they can understand how ideas are developed and tested, discern between strong and weak evidence, and how science is utilized to address issues. The SLEWS Program and the corresponding SLEWS classroom science curriculum were already perfectly suited for and supported Next Generation Science Standards upon its roll out. SLEWS programs continue to adapt, improve, and support current NGSS.

SLEWS Academy

The SLEWS Academy class will be limited to six teams to allow us to provide highly customized, hands-on instruction.

The SLEWS Academy consists of the:

- 3-day Intensive Training Kickoff,
- Six Monthly Group Sessions,
- Individual Program Support,
- 2-day Culminating Retreat of Sharing Your Implementation Plans, and
- SLEWS Network Access

3-day Intensive Training Kickoff – January 30, Tuesday - February 1, Thursday, 2024

The 3-day intensive training near Woodland, CA (exact location TBD) will focus on SLEWS program objectives and philosophy, field day structure and elements, funding and budgeting, habitat restoration for high school youth, developing essential partnerships, program evaluation, engaging culturally diverse audiences, SLEWS in the classroom and yearlong program elements.

Participants will receive comprehensive SLEWS Program development materials:

- SLEWS Administrator and Coordinator Manual
- SLEWS Classroom Curriculum
- SLEWS Field Guides
- SLEWS Program Activities Toolkit

Regular Group Sessions – February through July 2024

Six monthly online sessions following the 3-day workshop will further prepare teams to launch their own program. These sessions will go into greater depth on cultural competency; recruiting, training and rewarding mentors; taking SLEWS home with community action and public



participation in science; resources for program funding; and site visits to established and new SLEWS Programs.

2-day Culminating Retreat - August 21 - 22, 2024

Teams will be sharing their organization's SLEWS program implementation plans. We will discuss, and provide feedback for moving forward.

Individual Program Support

CLBL is committed to helping each organization successfully launch or enhance their program. Individual support may come in the form of meeting facilitation with new partners, assistance with project and school selection, fundraising support, and evaluation. This will include a CLBL visit to each organization, scheduled to meet their program needs.

SLEWS Network – Ongoing

The SLEWS Network will help participants stay connected to CLBL and peer organizations. The network will be open to all who participated in the SLEWS Academy, connect participants to a network of CLBL-certified practitioners who are applying SLEWS methods in their own communities, and provide an ongoing opportunity to transmit knowledge and share new practices as participants work to implement SLEWS in their communities.

TIMELINE

- January 30 - February 1, 2024: 3-day Intensive Training Kickoff
- February - July: Six Monthly Online Group Sessions
- Ongoing: Individual Program Support throughout your program implementation
- August 21 - 22, 2024: 2-day Culminating Retreat of Sharing Your Implementation Plans, and
- SLEWS Network Access
- Implementation of SLEWS programs during the 2024-2025 and/or 2025-2026 school year

CONTENT

How SLEWS works – what it would look like for YOU to run SLEWS.

The SLEWS Program is designed around partnerships. The core team includes:

SLEWS Program Coordinator

Through the SLEWS Academy, your staff will have the tools and training they need to coordinate the team and to run the SLEWS Program. The SLEWS Coordinator is the lead on designing and implementing SLEWS field days, including student involvement in restoration tasks, teambuilding, leadership and science learning activities. The Coordinator also provides in-class presentations, trains volunteer mentors, and performs evaluation and reporting of field days.

Restoration Project Planner

Often from a partner organization, but sometimes on the same staff as the SLEWS Coordinator. This person is the lead on the restoration project planning and implementation; including restoration project funding, permitting, ordering plants, site preparation and maintenance.



High School Teacher

The teacher coordinates school logistics for SLEWS field trips such as scheduling buses and substitutes, participates in all SLEWS field days, and connects hands-on learning to the classroom with SLEWS curriculum.

Landowner

The landowner works closely with the Restoration Project Planner and the SLEWS Program Coordinator on logistics such as timing of SLEWS field days and access to the property. Often landowners will participate in SLEWS field days and discuss their land stewardship and/or agricultural operation with students.

Mentors/Community Volunteers

Mentors attend all the SLEWS field days for a particular school and project. They receive training in ecosystem restoration and outdoor education and help facilitate SLEWS field day activities. Mentors lead small groups of students to ensure student safety and restoration project success.

WHAT YOU NEED

A Team

Organizations should identify a team of three to four people who will attend all components of the SLEWS Academy together, and participate in the implementation of your program. This team can include someone from outside your organization who will be a partner in implementing your program such as a teacher or natural resource professional. At least one of your team members must be in an upper management position within your organization (i.e. Executive Director, Program Director, Supervisor).

Tuition

The tuition for an organization to participate in the SLEWS Academy is **\$3,000**. This covers 3-4 staff members from your organization (your team) to attend the 3-day SLEWS Academy Training Kickoff, the online once a month sessions, and the program support.

Organizational and Financial Support

Our goal in providing the SLEWS Academy is to invest in the capacity and training of youth providers and natural resource professionals, thereby increasing the number of high quality outdoor experiences for youth. Therefore, to be effective, we expect organizations who participate in the SLEWS Academy to implement their new programs within 1-2 years of participating in the training.

Questions?

Please contact Sabreena Britt, SLEWS Academy Manager at SLEWSAcademy@landbasedlearning.org

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: November 15, 2023

Agenda Item #: #5
Agenda Item Subject: SRCD Staff Report

To: SRCD Board of Directors
From: SRCD Staff

CARCD 2023 Annual Conference

This year's Annual Conference will be held in Sacramento from December 13 – 15, 2023 at the DoubleTree Hilton. SRCD Staff member Brittany Friedman will be in attendance all three days.

<https://carcd.org/conferences/carcd-77th-annual-conference/>

National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) 78th Annual Meeting

Next year's Annual Meeting for the National Association of Conservation Districts will be held in San Diego, CA from February 10 – 14, 2024. <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting/>

Sacramento County RCDs

Links: [Florin RCD](#) | Lower Cosumnes RCD (*coming soon!*)

Florin RCD: 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 6:30pm

CSDA Clerk Conference 2023

SRCD Staff Member Brittany Friedman recently attended the 2023 CSDA Clerk Conference held in Monterey. Brittany received a certificate of completion for attending the 8 – 10 sessions of Board Secretary/Clerk Training. Some of the session topics included: Overall role of the clerk, staying in compliance, California Public Records Act, Website Compliance, and more.

The conference fees were covered by a scholarship offered by CSDA.

CARCD Staff Changes

Cam Tredennick, Executive Director for CARCD, has been let go as of Friday, October 13, 2023. As of now, Nancy Wahl-Scheurich will be accepting the position of Interim Executive Director. An email was sent out to RCD's explaining that it was not a good fit but the organization is still doing well and programs are running smoothly. Updates will be provided.