



SLOUGHHOUSE

Resource Conservation District

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Meeting of the Board - MINUTES Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

When: Wednesday, August 14, 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., Lindsay Carter, 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 12:42pm.

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. This current report highlighted an error in Quickbooks that will soon be fixed by staff as well as the Sacramento County account that holds \$7,000 in addition to our Five Star accounts. This account must remain open with the County in order to collect certain property taxes from them.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Agenda – July 10, 2024
- b. Minutes – June 12, 2024
- c. Financial Report – July 2024

Drafted on:
8/14/2024

*Director Carter 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 17 approved EQIP applications with \$3.3 million already contracted out/obligated to farmers/ranchers that have applied. The CSP has 3 pre-approved applications currently but NRCS will accept year-round applications for this program. If anyone has questions on these programs, Toney is available by phone or email.
- b. Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report
None.
- c. SRCD Board Member Reports
 - Director Silva reported on the recent water evaluation conducted by SRCD's Chris Timmer. He said he did a fantastic job and has seen him conducting other evaluations for local farmers which has been quite helpful to them.
 - Assistant Director Flewellyn reported on Wildeye Telemetry updates for the Denier Ranch and Foley Farms wells. It was suggested that SRCD use these wells as supplemental wells for the CGA's monitoring network. Staff will work with consultants to add these to the monitoring network, if possible. It was also suggested that staff look into possible grants to implement further telemetry on other wells/farms.

GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of California CLASS Account

Jerry Legg, Senior Director of Investment Services, from California CLASS discussed the benefits of opening a CLASS account to the SRCD Board.

This particular account would be where the RCD will place the future groundwater sustainability fee project funds. The interest rate at this time is 5.2%. The account can remain open and without funds without penalty for as long as needed. This account would be kept separate from the standard Five Star bank funds but is easily transferable, if needed.

*Director Silva moved to open a California CLASS Account.
Director Schneider seconded the motion.
The motion passed with all in favor.*

2. SRCD Open Board Appointments

There will be three open Board positions coming this October that will need to be elected or re-elected. The directors that will need to re-apply if wishing to continue on the Board

include: Barbara Washburn, Lindsay Carter and Jay Schneider. Any member of the public can apply if interested in these positions or an Assistant Director position. Staff will be advertising in local newspapers, on the SRCD website, through the SRCD email blast and on social media. Another reminder will occur in September for applications to be submitted. The County of Sacramento has been made aware of these vacancies.

3. Office Space Update

Staff provided an update regarding office furniture for the new office space. Staff will look into leasing a printer for the space and will coordinate with the Board to select the best option for SRCD. It was suggested that staff look into a possible government or non-profit discount that we may qualify for. Staff is also looking into acquiring a refrigerator for the office as well general decor, cleaning supplies and office supplies. Further updates will be provided at the September meeting.

The lease for the office space is currently being looked over by the landowners and the Board is hopeful it will soon be signed. The landowners have said they are willing to let us keep our office furniture in the space before the lease goes into effect, free of charge. Staff will update the Board on the eventual signing and start of office workability soon.

4. Grant Updates

a. Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program (CAPGP)

Staff provided a report/update on the CAPGP grant. There are currently 10 landowners working with Technical Service Providers (TSP's) with 3 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.

b. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant (WETA)

Program Coordinator Chris Timmer provided a report on the WETA program. 10 irrigation evaluations have been performed this past month. The plan to perform roughly 20-25 irrigation evaluations before the irrigation season ends. Year 1 objective with CDFA WETA grant, is at least 20 evaluations performed.

CDFA has denied SRCD purchasing an ATV for the Mobile Irrigation Lab.

Unfortunately, the grant only allows rentals or leases. Recommend to table to vehicle until next irrigation season and plan during winter. Will be using rental trucks for the rest of this irrigation season. SRCD staffed a booth at Herad Day on Saturday August 3rd. Flyers of the Mobile Irrigation Lab were provided. Outreach and communication were made with attendees.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS

5. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

a. Filling Data Gaps

The Board discussed the data gaps laid out by EKI that need to be addressed before the October monitoring this year. This includes checking on the monitoring status of two DWR wells and the possible replacement of them. It also includes

activating the Dry Creek Stream Gauge. Staff will discuss with the County how to access/activate the steam gauge and check in with DWR regarding the wells. In terms of other data gaps, the board suggested continuing creating interactive maps that showcase areas where supplemental wells are needed. Staff will look into possible additions for the Monitoring Network including the Denier Ranch well and Foley Farm well.

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. SRCD Staff Report

Staff has ordered SRCD swag! Hats, t-shirts, tablecloth and polo shirts will be arriving soon. This will improve the RCD's professional look when out in the field and networking or tabling events.

Staff will be in attendance at the SLEWS Academy Retreat on August 20-21 in Woodland. Staff will present on possible program ideas for our own SLEWS program to be implemented next Fall 2025 as well as receive assistance and ideas from SLEWS Staff and other partners.

Compost Lunch and Learn Event: SRCD Staff will be taking part in a Sac County/Agromin ran lunch event for local farmers and ranchers to present our programs to the public as well as conduct general outreach. This well be held at the Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove from 12 – 2pm. It is a free event with BBQ lunch and all are welcome to attend.

IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:
None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Garms adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm.