

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Board of Director's Meeting
August 21, 2014

- CALL TO ORDER President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Molly Watkins, John Herrick, Marden Wilber, Bill Koster, and, John Thoming. Members absent excused included; Phil Balmat, Diego Olagaray, and Jack Hamm. Staff members and contractor present included Ora Van Steyn, Mike Wackman, Ruth Mulrooney and John Brodie (via conference call). Guests present included Lee Tecklenburg (Pure Sense) and Thomas Martin.
- MEETING AGENDA Accept meeting agenda and approved minutes from July 22, 2014 meeting. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Herrick, approved unanimously.
- TREASURER REPORT Ruth M. presented the lists of income and bills to be paid. Pay the bills. Motion by Mr. Thoming, second by Mr. Koster, approved unanimously.
- NRCS UPDATE Ora V. reported that the National Air Quality Initiative funded 79 contracts. Irrigation practice EQIP funding was reduced due to other drought programs available to growers. AFO funding has been drastically reduced in comparison to previous years. Our county will receive 1.5 million of Bay Delta Initiative monies. In personnel matters, Ora reported two positions are open in her office; a farm bill assistant and a soil con tech position.
- RESOURCES Molly reported on CRAE. She attended a meeting where they discussed how to manage northern California forest lands in such a way as to conserve water that could then be sent to the drought starved central valley. On September 22nd CRAE will be celebrating its 10th anniversary. MokeWISE and the Mokelumne River Coordinator had nothing to report.
- SCHOLARSHIP DINNER Richard R. reported that approximately 70 people attended the dinner. Two scholarship recipients were selected. Francesca Arnaudo and Brooke Niederhauser.
- LABILITY INSURANCE Pay the insurance premium invoice upon receipt. Motion by Mr. Herrick, second Mr. Wilbur, approved unanimously.
- IRIGATED LANDS Mike W. reported that exceedances in the test samples collected, may result in increased sampling in waterways and thus higher sampling fees. It is thought that lower water flows may be the cause of the increased exceedances. Ruth M. reported that the deadline for open enrollment is August 23rd. She has received hundreds of new member applications. Jennifer S. reported that the new general order allows growers to self-certify their nitrogen plans. The self-certification program has to be approved by CDFA and the SB. Terry Pritchard will develop self-certification classes and/or an online certification program and submit it for approval. Accept Terry Prichard's proposal and add language specifying that, the scope of work must be completed within 45 days for a maximum payment of \$3,750.00. Motion by Mr. Koster, second Mr. Herrick, approved unanimously. Hydro Focus submitted their Ground Water Assessment Report, discussions of the report were tabled until the next meeting, so that Board members could review the report. The Management Plan Effectiveness Program (MPEP) has asked that each of the three Coalitions participating appoint two representatives. Mike Wackman, Richard Rodriguez have agreed to represent the SJCDWQC, with Diego Olagaray, as an alternate. The representatives will oversee the development of a plan to be submitted to the RB that will include a series of studies to be completed on three crops/ year on varying soil types. The study costs could exceed \$100,000.00/Coalition group. Appoint Richard Rodriguez

and Mike Wackman to MPEP committee. Motion by Mr. Thoming, second by Mrs. Watkins, approved unanimously.

GRANT UPDATE

John B. reported via conference call that he will apply for an extension of the Farm Bill assistance grant through 12/31/14, the grant currently expires 9/30/14. NRCS has not requested funds for a technical assistance grants for 2015. John B. will be applying for the EPA 319H grant, and will rework a previous proposal for submittal. October 2nd is the deadline for the RCPP grant through the NRCS National Office for the Bay Delta area. John B. will apply on behalf of our Coalition area and hopes to receive funding for the high vulnerable areas in San Joaquin County. The MOU's for the East Stanislaus RCD and the Contra Costa County RCD have not been signed; John B. will follow up and obtain the signatures needed.

NEW BUSINESS

John B. is no longer able to attend the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Water Committee meetings. Diego Olagaray or Jack Hamm will give a report on the Coalition to the committee, and Joe Valente will submit a written report from the Steering Committee meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ruth M. called the attention of Directors to communication items in the meeting packet including a letter from the Alameda County RCD regarding their outreach efforts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board members retired into executive session for conference on anticipated litigation and personnel matters as listed on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled Thursday, September 18, 2014 at the USDA Stockton Service Center at 12:00 noon. Adjourned at 2:40 p.m. Motion by Mr. Koster, second by Mrs. Watkins, unanimously approved.