San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District

Board of Director’s Meeting

October 16, 2014

CALL TO ORDER President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

ATTENDANCE Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Molly Watkins, John Herrick, Marden Wilber, Bill Koster, Phil Balmat and Diego Olagaray. Members absent excused included John Thoming and Jack Hamm. Staff members and contractors present included Ora Van Steyn and Mike Wackman.

MEETING AGENDA Accept meeting agenda as presented. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Olagarary, approved unanimously.

Approve meeting minutes from September 18, 2014 with corrections. Motion Mr. Balmat, second, Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT The lists of income and bills to be paid were presented. Pay the bills. Motion by Mr. Koster, second by Mrs. Watkins, approved unanimously.

NRCS UPDATE Ora V. reported no approved timeline for EQIP Application as of now. NRCS will screen applications before going through scoring process to check and make sure they meet all the criteria. The new contracts may be rolling contracts in which growers will be able to submit applications year round for funding. First deadline for new contracts will be in January. The NRCS is working on consent forms that will not require growers to consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Corp of Engineers when implementing NRCS funded projects. Ora Van Steyn also discussed the process of consultation with USFWS and the Corp.

Ora also reported that NRCS has not hired a new soil conservationist yet; they are still going through the process.

A local workgroup meeting was held and several items where discussed including water quality and salinity. Those items of concern were suggested to be priorities for resource concerns in NRCS.

SWEEP was discussed; it is a new state program that focuses on water quality practices, conservation and energy efficiencies. It is a state program modeled off the NRCS programs. The state is looking at using the RCD’s to implement the program.

RESOURCES It was the 10 year anniversary for CRAE. Over those years it has lobbied for more EQIP money for CA and many other things. Karen Ross spoke at meeting along with Paul Martin from dairy industry who now works with Governor’s office. Dairy digesters were discussed along with the importing of waste from the LA basin into the Central valley.

There was nothing to report for MokeWISE and the Mokelumne River Coordinator.

IRRIGATED LANDS The financial report from the Coalition was reported to the Board. It was moved to spent up to $1,000 to buy a QuickBooks program. Motion by Mr. Balmat, second by Mr. Koster, approved unanimously.

Minutes from the Steering Committee were reviewed. The RCD Board instructed staff to make comments on the nitrogen management plan template which is currently being considered by the Regional Board. The Board also discussed the farm management plans and what they will consist of. It was also mentioned and suggested that well drillers need to review Groundwater Assessment Report when it is in the draft form.

The RCD discussed that it is still waiting for Contra Costa RCD to approve the MOU’s in order for the SJRCD to operate the Coalition in their boundaries.

MokeWISE was discussed, with the RCD noting that it needs to come up with a policy when deciding which projects it will be participating in though MokeWISE.

GRANT UPDATE Ora V. reported on the grants and employees that work under the NRCS grant to the RCD.

Pending grant proposals were discussed, with the RCD still waiting for a response on the EPA methyl mercury concept proposal.

The RCD is also still waiting on final approval through NRCS on funding targeted management plan areas.

NEW BUSINESS Information regarding the CARCD conference was contained in the board packet; it was discussed that no one from the SJCRCD will be attending.

COMMUNICATIONS Attention was called to CARCD information contained in the meeting packet, including the CARCD Conservation Strategies Group Update and “What is an RCD” flyer.

CARCD Annual Membership Dues were discussed. It was moved to pay $750 in membership dues to CARCD. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Wilber, unanimously approved.

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

Applications for the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Coordinator/SJCRCD District Administrator were reviewed. An interview committee was established, comprised of Bill Koster, Molly Watkins and Diego Olagaray. A public meeting notice will be posted stating the time and place where interviews will be held. A beginning contract price was established to fill the position. There was discussion with how to arrange RCD personnel; it was decided that Mike Wachman will take over all financial responsibilities of the Coalition and coordinate all contracts as it relates to the Coalition. Current employee contracts and wages were also discussed by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2014 at the USDA Stockton Service Center at 11:00 a.m. The December meeting, with lunch to follow at Dave Wong’s as the holiday gathering, was also set for December 18, 2014. Adjourn meeting at 1:35 p.m. Motion by Mr. Wilber, second by Mrs. Watkins, approved unanimously.