San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District

Board of Director’s Meeting

December 18, 2014

CALL TO ORDER President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

ATTENDANCE Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Diego Olagaray, Phil Balmat, Bill Koster, Jack Hamm, John Herrick, Molly Watkins, Marden Wilber and John Thoming. Staff members and contractors present included Ora Van Steyn, Fanny Ye, Mike Wackman, Ruth Mulrooney, John Brodie, Jonna Spaletta, Melissa Turner (Michael L. Johnson, LLC) and Robert Cima (Michael L. Johnson, LLC). Guests present included Lee Tecklenburg (grower), Julianne Phillips (SJFB), Tim Pelican (Ag Commissioner).

MEETING AGENDA Motion to add personnel matters to the executive session of the agenda. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously. Accept meeting agenda as amended, to include personnel matters addition to executive session and movement of the MPEP administrative proposal from new business to the irrigated lands section of the meeting. Motion Mr. Hamm, second Mr. Herrick, approved unanimously.

Approve minutes from November 20, 2014 meeting. Motion Mr. Thoming, second Mrs. Watkins, approved unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT John B. presented the list of income and bills to be paid. Pay the bills. Motion by Mr. Hamm, second by Mr. Herrick, approved unanimously. Complete financial reports were also presented.

NRCS UPDATE Ora V. reported that EQIP applications are down and that she is expecting there to be a time crunch at the end of summer. She reiterated that the batch process being used is new and it will take a couple of years for eligibility to be worked out. She explained that funding is expected in April/June/July and may actually occur when projects are underway; she further noted the tractor program is a continuous funding cycle.

 She explained that the RCCP grant notification has been extended to January. She noted that John B. previously submitted a request on behalf of the District. She further explained that the program was based on water quality management in all project areas, with high vulnerability areas being surface and ground water; she also noted the use of regional funding instead of local funding. Ora also reported the temporary 2015 funding of the Farm Bill Assistance Cooperative Agreement with NRCS; personnel matters relating to this were to be addressed during executive session.

RESOURCES Ruth M. requested to save her CRAE report for next month.

The new Watershed Coordinator gave a very brief report of her activities since being hired at the last meeting. It was decided that she should attend a few MokeWISE meetings and report back to the Board on the benefit, relative to the cost, of attending.

GRANT UPDATE As mentioned above, Ora reported that a temporary $8,800 renewal of the Farm Bill Assistance Cooperative Agreement was being offered by NRCS for 2015, pending contract completion.

 The new 2015 NRCS Plant Materials Center Cooperative Agreement was presented for action. Accept and approve the agreement. Motion Mrs. Watkins, second Mr. Koster, approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS The Board discussed the need of a new RCD laptop, as the previous laptop had broken and the repair cost exceeded its value; price quotes were included in the meeting packet. It was motioned to pay no more than $800 for the purchase of a new RCD laptop. Motion Mr. Olagaray, second Mr. Wilber, approved unanimously.

 The Board discussed the need for a District debit card, to avoid independent contractors having to incur thousands of dollars in RCD expenses, and then having to wait for reimbursement by the District. It was motioned that an account allowing for the use of a debit card, not to exceed $5,000 should be established for the RCD. It was clarified that the card shall remain in a locked, secure place within the office when not in use and that receipts/statements for each purchase shall be maintained. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Wilber, approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS Jonna S. called the attention of the Directors to communication items in the meeting packet.

IRRIGATED LANDS Mike W. presented the QuickBooks financial report to the Board, noting the percentage of budget column requested at the last meeting had been added and that fund account balances match those presented separately by Mr. Brodie.

The CURES MPEP Administrative Proposal was presented. Accept the proposal. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Wilber, approved unanimously.

The steering committee minutes and program report were referenced in the meeting packet. It was reiterated that Farm Evaluation Plans had been approved by the Regional Board and will be mailed the first part of January to every grower. Details as to what was included in the packet were discussed. It was noted that staff will be available Tuesdays and Thursdays to help growers with questions, specific dates were included within the mailed packet. It was also discussed that a plan is still being developed for those growers who did not already attend a grower meeting as required. It was discussed that Nitrogen Management Plans are currently due by April 2015. Requesting a year extension was suggested, noting that surrounding area coalitions had done the same. Motion to request one year extension with the Regional Board. Motion Mr. Hamm, second Mr. Thoming, approved unanimously.

A software/database upgrade for the Coalition was discussed as presented in the meeting packet. It would allow for online access of multiple users and storage of necessary farm data. Motion to accept and approve the total expense of $19,660 associated with the upgrade. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Wilber, approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Board members retired into executive session for conference on personnel matters. Upon returning from the executive session the Board made the following motions:

The new 2015 Farm Bill Assistance Cooperative Agreement with NRCS was discussed, noting that it only allowed for temporary funding at this point in time. Accept this agreement. Motion Mr. Wilbur, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously. The wage paid under this contract was also discussed. It was motioned to reduce the hourly contract wage paid under the Farm Bill Assistance Cooperative Agreement from $25/hour to $20/hour, with this adjustment taking affect January 1st, 2015. Motion Mr. Olagaray, second Mr. Hamm, approved unanimously.

It was motioned to create a subcommittee to deal with any personnel matters requiring action; members of the committee to include Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Olagaray, Mr. Balmat, with alternate being Mr. Koster. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Olagaray, approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2015 at the USDA Stockton Service Center at 12:00noon. Adjourn meeting at 11:45 a.m. Motion by Mr. Koster, second by Mr. Thoming, approved unanimously.