



# SLOUGHHOUSE

## Resource Conservation District

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### Meeting of the Board - MINUTES Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

When: Wednesday, December 18, 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: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Board Members: Barbara Washburn, Herb Garms, Gary Silva Jr., Jay Schneider  
Associate Directors: Teresa Flewellyn  
Staff: Brittany Friedman, Chris Timmer

*\*\*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 11:35am.*

#### **CLOSED SESSION (STAFF EVALUATION, GOVT CODE 5497, DISTRICT MANAGER)**

*Chairman Garms adjourned the Closed Session at 12:10pm and provided a report that the Board had provided the District Manager with an official evaluation as well as general feedback. No action was taken.*

#### **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. It was suggested that, since Sloughhouse RCD is expanding and conducting two simultaneous audits, a bookkeeper may be a helpful addition for financial accuracy and ease.

Finalized on:  
1/15/2025

Staff will look into potential options and if needed, place an advertisement or part-time assistance.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a. Agenda – December 18, 2024
- b. Minutes –November 13, 2024
- c. Financial Report – December 2024

*Director Schneider moved to approve the consent calendar.  
Director Carter 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 deadlines for EQIP, IRA and NAPI. Applications are still open through March 31, 2025. Climate smart programs and ACT NOW applications are also available through January 31, 2025.
- b. Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report  
None.
- c. SRCD Board Member Reports
  - Director Carter reported on the Avian flu Outbreak that has affected local livestock and dairies. Quarantine is occurring throughout the region and will continue until an unknown date. This may affect farmers and ranchers throughout California.

**GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS**

**1. SRCD Board Appointment Updates**

Sloughhouse RCD’s submission to the County on the Board Appointments of Jay Schneider, Lindsey Carter and Teresa Flewellyn were approved and will go into effect on January 1, 2025. In looking over Board appointments, staff found that the Board is overdue to complete the Ethics Training. Staff is recommending that the Board schedule and take the training by March 1, 2025 to ensure we are compliant with State and Board Regulations. Staff will look into the details of scheduling this with legal and report back to the Board.

**2. Grant Updates**

**a. Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program (CAPGP)**

Staff provided a report/update on the CAPGP grant. There are currently 6 landowners working with Technical Service Providers (TSP’s) with 6 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. The Board discussed outreach strategies to fill the Carbon Farm Plan spots. It was suggested to release a report as an example if the contact information and specifics can be removed. Staff will check with CDFA to see if this is permissible.

**b. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant (WETA)**

Program Coordinator Chris Timmer provided a written report on the WETA program. Staff attended the CDFA OEFI CSA Technical Assistance Conference that was hosted for TSA providers throughout the state. This was a 2-day conference that focused on the CDFA WETA, SWEEP, HSP, AMMP. Six Well Pump Efficiency tests were performed on Monday November 4th, 2024 with collaboration from Herb Grams, Davis Ranch and Strutz Farms. One irrigation evaluation was conducted on an irrigated pasture with a buried solid set sprinkler system. The water source is from a surface water reservoir and not groundwater. Staff will also be presenting at the Sac Safety Seminar in January.

**c. DWR - CalSIP stream gage grant**

DWR is currently seeking to fund public entities to improve stream gage infrastructure and bridge data gaps as part of the Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP). Through CalSIP, public agencies can receive technical assistance to upgrade, reactivate, or install new surface water monitoring stations, at no additional cost to them, that will share important streamflow data that can help inform water management decisions.

Staff submitted an application on October 31, 2024 to reactive 3 stream gages (2 in the Cosumnes Subbasin and 1 in the South American Subbasin). The application requested a total of \$190,000 per stream gage to cover engineering, telemetry and staff time costs. If awarded, SRCD will need to fund maintenance expenses for the gages out-of-pocket beginning in 2027. CalSIP serves to execute funding agreements as soon as reasonably possible with a deadline to award by March 1, 2025, and to fully execute agreements by June 30, 2025. Gages should be fully operational by October 1, 2026.

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS**

**3. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority**

**a. General Board Discussion**

Director Carter provided an overview on the CGA GSP updates and the steps needed to make and implement specific changes. Staff displayed the PMA's written into the GSP along with the funding requested. These will most likely be amended after the GSP review in 2027. The board discussed what projects SRCD could implement if not what is listed in the GSP. The SRCD GSA Board should continue to look at potential project options and discuss further. It was suggested that we look at the Santa Cruz RCD Meter projects they have done in the past for inspiration and ideas.

**4. South American Subbasin GSP Implementation**

Sloughhouse RCD attended the SASb Executive Committee Meeting on November 21, 2024. A 24-25 FY budget was approved with a decision that any budget savings will be carried over to mitigate the costs of the GSP update. SASb is estimating the GSP evaluation and update will cost approximately \$900,000. Staff presented the draft Scope and GSP Budget to the Board.

SRCD is currently represented by one representative and has an assignable GSP Administration and Implementation cost of 3.7%. Member contribution agreements will be sent out in early Spring to the GSA's. It was suggested to have it legal at a future Board meeting to discuss fees on the SASb side of SRCD. There may be 7 or fewer growers in our district area that we would need either an MOU or Prop 26 to collect fees from.

## **INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7. SRCD Staff Report**

Staff has been working with Blomberg and Griffin Accounting to complete the FY 22-23 and FY 23-24 Audits. This will likely take several months before a written report will be presented to the Board. Consultant Rick Wood has offered to advise/assist staff if needed.

- Staff attended the CARCD Conference on December 10 – 12, 2024. The Conference included presentations on grant projects and ideas, potential partnerships and the general exchange of ideas between RCD staff. Several follow-up meetings will take place based on connections made at the conference.

- Due to scheduling conflicts, the scheduled meeting in January 2025 have changed and are reflected on the Sloughhouse Calendar.

- January Meeting: Wednesday, January 15 from 12:30 – 3:30pm

## **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:

Office Hours

5-Year Plan Updates

Delta Tunnel Letter

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Garms adjourned the meeting at 1:30pm.*