



SLOUGHHOUSE

Resource Conservation District

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Meeting of the Board - MINUTES Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

When: Wednesday, May 8, 2024
Where: Rancho Murieta Community Services
15160 Jackson Rd.
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

or

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84032627877>
Meeting ID: 840 3262 7877

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 12:32pm.

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

Director and Treasurer Silva provided an update on SRCD's financials including the current invoices for the month. SRCD has been working with Rick Wood to assist with the final budget to be presented at the June 2024 meeting. We will also be looking into a yearly monitoring contract with O'Sullivan Pump Co. to see if this is a cost effective option for our semi-annual monitoring efforts.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Agenda – May 8, 2024
- b. Minutes – April 10, 2024
- c. Financial Report – May 2024

Finalized on:
6/12/2024

Director Schneider moved to approve the consent calendar with the addition of the two late invoices.

Director Carter seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

REPORTS

- a. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
None.
- b. Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report
None.
- c. SRCD Board Member Reports
 - Director Silva commented on the NRCS update that ended up running out of money for the EQIP Program and many people who had applied did not receive payment/award they thought they would receive. Instead, Southern California residents/farmers received the majority share of these funds. He also noted that the furniture that is for sale for the potential office space will need to be stored somewhere if we go and purchase it within the next month and a half.
 - Director Carter commented on the fruit fly epidemic that will be increasing as the weather warms up and there are seven active quarantines in the state with hundreds of thousands of fruit being destroyed already (mostly citrus trees). Oriental fruit flies are being found with certain ones like the Tao fly being its first time in the Western Hemisphere. The Ag Commissioner and USDA is still trying to figure out the point of origin tracing but it is surmised that the increase of travel since the pandemic may be a part of it. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation is going through its budget updates and money will be tight this year and most likely next year, as well.
 - Director Washburn provided a report on the rooting depth of oak trees that has been used to set the boundaries for the GDE. The Lawrence Berkeley Lab in the Bay Area is submitting a grant to the Delta Conservancy to relook at that question and Director Washburn was asked if the SRCD GSA would be interested in submitting a letter of support to the Lab to hopefully receive the grant. At the moment it is in pre-proposal state so there is no action needed now but should they be funded, they would like to know if we would support them.
 - Asst Director Flewellyn updated the Board on the Wildeye Training that staff received last week from Sergio and Tania. The dashboard can be downloaded as an app on your phone as well as on the computer and is simple to use. She also commented on the leasing agreement that we are working on for the upcoming office space.

GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

1. California Special District Association (CSDA) FY 24-25 MOU

The District has been working with Rick Wood at CSDA on financial matters and receiving valuable information, advice and business acumen into accounting. To continue

with this Sloughhouse RCD will need to extend the current contract with CSDA that expires in June 2024. Staff is looking to extend and add funds to the current contract for the next fiscal year with an additional \$3,000 for a total of \$5,000 in the CSDA approved budget.

Director Schneider moved to approve the updated MOU until June 2025.

Director Silva seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

2. CARCD/SRCD FT 24-25 Contract

The current contract between Sloughhouse RCD and CARCD that covers staffing needs and HR-related responsibilities will expire at the end of June 2024. A new version of the contract has been drafted to extend until June 2025. This contract includes the date change as well as the permanent placement of Brittany Friedman as District Manager. Along with the contract, the Board is interested in developing yearly evaluations with one to be held in December 2024 with a self-evaluation, as well. The Board will need to make the evaluation process a formal procedure that can be adopted by the Board at a future board meeting, which staff will create.

Director Silva motioned to approve the contract and update to the District Manager role

Director Washburn seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

3. Draft SRCD FY 24-25 Budget

Staff provided a draft budget to the Board for the fiscal year 24-25. The budget will need to be adjusted based on incoming taxes, the groundwater fee, and a separate PMA retainment/income of about \$60,000 to focus on CGA Projects for the GSP 5-year update. Director Washburn commented that money should be set aside for projects/grant writing to possibly apply for more grants/take on more projects. Staff may add a line item or adjust the community projects line item under general to account for this. A final draft of the budget will be presented at the June 2024 Board meeting. The Financial Ad Hoc Committee will review it before it is presented to the Board.

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). For outreach efforts, the Board discussed different flyering opportunities, looking at farmers markets, working with NRCS, mailing to the irrigator list, etc. The Board also discussed the hesitancy from some farmers and suggested to add a confidentiality aspect to service agreement.

b. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant (WETA)

Program Coordinator Chris Timmer provided a report on the WETA program including a recent certification he obtained, an in-person training program from Cal Poly coming up and the consultation efforts from Conor Higgins.

The Board discussed a Sloughhouse credit card for Chris Timmer to host the WETA charges including supplies, travel, trainings, etc. Director Wasburn commented on the confidentiality aspect of the programs and the fact that we will not report people for anything noticed on the ranch/farm but only focus on the program itself.

*Director Carter moved to approve a credit card for Chris Timmer/WETA Program
Director Silva seconded the motion.
The motion passed with all in favor.*

5. SRCD Mapping Update

Staff provided draft GSA maps and annexations from Cali Consulting along with an invoice for \$800. The maps are designed to show OHWD/SRCD boundaries and annexation areas (staff will ask for better detail and legend for the maps to show what people are looking at and clear up confusion and talk to the County about district boundary specifics, GIS access to it, layers, etc.)

*Director Silva made a motion to approve the invoice sent from Cali Consulting
Director Schenieder seconded the motion.
The motion passed with 4 in favor and 1 recused (Carter).*

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS

6. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

a. Fee Study Resolution

The Board discussed the Groundwater Fee Resolution drafted by legal counsel. Legal counsel Scott Morris spoke about the intent to regulate de minimis users (needing to be approved at a board level), not requiring meters, implementing a groundwater fee (needing to be approved at a board level), the various charges - base fee, public water system fee, irrigated acreage fee and annual fee adjustment which legal is recommending. Tax roll will need to be done and sent into the county by the end of July and the hearing is to be at the next Board meeting with staff sending out the notices mid-May since there is a 20 day notice via Newspaper. There is technically no need to mail individually since it is not a new fee. However, a notice to the de minimis users should go out since they will be receiving this fee for the first time. Director Washburn elected that we send out a postcard to all irrigators/di minimis with information about where they can access info regarding this fee and for the hearing and the Board agreed.

7. South American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

Sloughhouse RCD is now making a contribution to the South American Subbasin for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for \$8,325. More updates to come at future meetings.

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. SRCD Staff Report

Staff provided a brief report highlighting the upcoming Spring 2024 Groundwater Monitoring on April 16 and 17 with O’Sullivan Pump Co. There are 14 wells total to be monitored and 13 separate locations. 13 wells were monitored in total as one landowner could not be reached. Staff sent the information to EKI to be compiled for the Annual Report and the Board agreed to pay the invoice to O’Sullivan Pump Co.

IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:

- Future SRCD office space
- Staff Eval documents
- Final SRCD Budget
- Fee Study hearing date and resolution

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Garms adjourned the meeting at 3:50pm.