



SLOUGHHOUSE

Resource Conservation District

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Meeting of the Board - MINUTES Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

When: Wednesday, September 11, 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: 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, 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 12:33pm.

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. This current report highlighted an error in Quickbooks that will soon be fixed by staff with the assistance of Rick Wood at CSDA. It was also noted that a WETA grant reimbursement is on its way in the amount of \$36,000. Finally, staff signed a new insurance agreement with Glatfelter for the 24-25 fiscal year which will be billed in October.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Agenda – September 11, 2024
- b. Minutes – August 9, 2024
- c. Financial Report – September 2024

Finalized on:
10/9/2024

*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 the 13 approved EQIP applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program. Starting October 1, all persons applying for NRCS programs will get reset on payment limitations..If anyone has questions on these programs, Toney is available by phone or email.
- b. Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report
None.
- c. SRCD Board Member Reports
 - Director Washburn reported on the Lawrence Berkeley Lab and the Delta Stewardship Council grant which will examine the rooting depth of oak trees. EKI estimated this may be, on average, about 50 ft. This grant will encourage isotope studies (funded to almost \$1 million) for oak trees along rivers and inland to see exactly how deep they are rooted. OHWD has submitted a letter of support for this grant and Director Washburn would like to represent SRCD on the grant Board for this opportunity.
 - Director Schneider commented on isotope studies of the past and wondered if there was any availability to participate in this study in the future since there are Valley Oaks located in SRCD.
 - Director Carter reported that at the end of December, she will step off the Fire District Board and represent SRCD at LAFCO beginning in January 2025.
 - Director Silva reported on the stream gauge grant from DWR (CalSIP) which could help to reactivate several gauges in SRCD areas. Staff will look into applying for this grant.
 - Asst. Director Flewellyn reported on the Wildeye Telemetry water levels seen on the Denier Ranch which currently show 8-10 ft less of irrigation usage this month compared to last.

GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

1. CARCD Updates

a. Contract for Services

CARCD recently updated their contract for services since they have signed on with a new HR company, Insperty. The main change is that instead of using billable rates, they will invoice based on actual costs plus a 4% administrative fee. This new contract would go into effect as soon as it was signed. The board discussed how this would be about a \$200 increase in fees per month.

Director Carter moved to approve and sign the new CARCD contract with an option to revisit this in July 2025 when it is time to re-sign the contract.

*Director Washburn seconded the motion.
The motion passed with all in favor.*

b. CARCD Conference

The CARCD conference will be held at the DoubleTree Hilton in Sacramento on December 10-12, 2024. Staff will be purchasing tickets for the early bird pricing and requested the Board to do the same if they are interested in attending as it is \$50 less than regular pricing. Early bird pricing will end on September 5, 2024.

2. SRCD Open Board Appointments

There will be three open Board positions coming this October that will need to be elected or re-elected. The directors that will need to re-apply if wishing to continue on the Board include: Barbara Washburn, Lindsay Carter and Jay Schneider. Any member of the public can apply if interested in these positions or an Assistant Director position.

Director Washburn announced that she will not be re-applying for the new term. She will still be a voting and active Board member through December 2024. Board appointments will be made at the October meeting.

3. Fall Monitoring Processes for SRCD

Staff provided an update regarding the Fall Groundwater Monitoring process for SRCD who will also be conducting Clay WD and Galt ID's monitoring. SRCD will once again be working with O'Sullivan Pump Co. to take water levels and test for water quality. It was noted that staff should make sure to read the meters on the wells when in the field and include this information in the report. A member of the public volunteered his wells to be monitored if SRCD needs to fill a data gap. The monitoring will take place on October 10 and 11, 2024.

4. SRCD Audit

Richardson and Company have completed the last several years of audits for Sloughhouse RCD. According to Government Code Section 12410.6 (b), RCDs are required to change auditor and audit reviewer at least every six years. SRCD will need to complete the 22-23 and 23-24 audit this year. The Board advised staff to move forward with soliciting auditors. It was noted that a 1st year agreement is typically less expensive than a multi-year contract.

This solicitation will be posted to the SRCD website and a general email will be sent out though the RCD network.

5. 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.

b. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant (WETA)

Program Coordinator Chris Timmer provided a report on the WETA program.

Staff presented the Mobile Irrigation Lab to staff and the board at the RD 800 board meeting on 8/15/24 as well as at the Learn & Grow event hosted by Agromin in Walnut Grove on 9/6/24.

Staff is working to prepare, advertise and host a Water Efficiency Workshop that will be hosted at the Wilton Community Center on October 5th at 10 AM. Staff will present about the District, CGA and the Mobile Irrigation Program. Other presentations will also be provided by UCANR, NRCS, Sacramento Valley Conservancy & Wildeye.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS

6. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

a. Recommended Corrective Actions

The Board discussed the recommended corrective actions laid out by DWR that need to be addressed before the October monitoring this year. This includes checking on the monitoring status of two DWR wells (both confirmed by staff). It also includes reactivating the Dry Creek Stream Gauge. Staff will work to submit applications to the DWR CalSIP grant that is active and granting funding to reactivate and implement new stream gauges in the district area. Staff will also look into possible additions for the Monitoring Network including the Denier Ranch well and Foley Farm well.

b. Upcoming Events

SRCD/CGA staff will be in attendance at the following events:

1. SRCD Water Workshop on Saturday, October 5 from 10am - 12pm
2. Wilton Chili Cook Off on Saturday, October 12 from 10am - 4pm
3. Galt Cemetery Dia de los Muertos on Saturday, October 26 all day

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. SRCD Staff Report

SRCD swag in the form of polo shirts, t-shirts and hats have arrived. Board members and staff are welcome to each have these items.

Staff has been working to improve the office space and is currently working to finalize a lease for a printer. The lease is also still being looked over by the landowner.

DM Brittany Friedman graduated from SLEWS Academy and will now begin to look into grant funding for youth programs to get up and running by Fall 2025.

IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:

Groundwater Update

Board Elections

SRCD Audit

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Garms adjourned the meeting at 3:27pm.