

Annual Report

December 1, 2018



DIXON RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Dixon RCD News

Dixon RCD Mission

To provide leadership and make available technical, financial and educational resources to local land users for drainage, water quality, and habitat management through competent, cost effective services and partnerships.

Ditch Maintenance Fee Increase for 2019

Using the financial goals and objectives established in the 2016 rate study, the Board and Staff have reviewed the completed maintenance activities in fiscal year 2017/18, along with the ongoing and anticipated maintenance activities for fiscal year 2018/19 and determined that the voter approved rate of \$3.50 per acre scheduled for December 1, 2018 will be implemented.

The Board and Staff are committed to reviewing the District's ongoing financial position and the needed ditch maintenance activities to only impose ditch maintenance fees that are sufficient to cover the ditch operations and maintain sufficient reserves as presented in the 2016 rate study.

Billed Acres May Have Changed

The District continues to update its records and has updated the billed acres to match the County's Assessor's parcel acres. The District policy is that each parcel must pay for 100% of the assessor's parcel acres if the parcel is within the drainage service area. However, there are two (2) possible exemptions to the Ditch Maintenance Fee:

- Only a portion of the parcel drains to the drainage service area, for example a portion of the parcel drains to a creek or another district.
- A parcel or portion of a parcel has been excluded from the drainage service area. Landowners must submit sufficient evidence and documentation that there is no drainage. For example, a dairy facility that drains to the waste ponds and has no discharge.

If you have any questions about your Invoice, please call John Currey at (707) 678-1655 ext. 105

Ditch Maintenance Activities

A dry Spring and Fall has allowed an extended maintenance period. We have completed the following activities in 2018 (Dec. 2017-Nov. 2018).

- **Ditch Spraying:** The Fall spray application was broken up and the pre-emergent did not achieve the desired result do to the timing and the extended dry periods. The Spring spray was delayed until early July. This delay resulted in poor weed control. In September we sprayed tules and cattails throughout much of the District.
- **Ditch Excavation:** In 2018 5.0 miles of ditches were cleaned. In the Spring 1.7 miles of Tremont 2 Lateral E was cleaned. While in the Fall 3.3 miles of Tremont 1, Tremont 1 Lateral C, Dixon Main Drain Lateral B and Lateral 5b.
- **Access Maintenance:** After the ditch cleaning about 1.25 miles of spoils were disked to improve access for District spraying.
- **Debris Removal:** Numerous ditch inspections and 10 days of debris and trash removal were performed throughout 2018.
- **Culvert Replacements:** The Board authorized landowners to replace 2 culverts in Tremont 3 and install a new culvert in Tremont 1.

Need Dirt we have it! The District wants to coordinate with landowners to reduce the amount of spoils we have accumulated over the years.

In 2019, we will focus on the spray program with a pre-emergent Winter spray followed by a mid-spring application. If you observe any trash, plugged culverts or other concerns, please call us.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

The Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Authority (SSGSA) is working in cooperation with the other GSAs within the Solano Subbasin (Vacaville, Solano Irrigation District, North Delta, and County of Sacramento). The GSAs are meeting on a monthly bases to begin the process of developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). SSGSA did receive a grant from Department of Water Resources to assist us in preparing the GSP. In the coming Spring the GSAs will be conducting public meetings to provide interested parties with the latest information. The GSP must be completed by January 31, 2022.

The materials related to GSA formation and the GSP preparation are available at the Solano County Water Agency website <http://www.scwa2.com/resources-management/ground-water/sgma>

Technical Assistance for Healthy Soils and State Water Efficiency Enhancement Program Grant

We can help you apply for cost-share funds!

Dixon RCD and Solano RCD received funds from the CA Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to assist growers in their applications to two CDFA programs that pay for the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on farms and ranches:

- The Healthy Soils Program (HSP) funds the installation of cover crops, hedgerows, vegetated buffer strips and waterways, compost applications, and more. Deadline: January 2019
- The State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) funds soil moisture monitoring systems, drip irrigation or low pressure systems, pump retrofits, installation of renewable energy systems to reduce on-farm water use, and more. Deadline: February 2019



If you are interested in applying for cost-share assistance on any of these practices, please contact us as soon as possible! We will be working with applicants on a first-come, first-served basis to put together applications to these CDFA programs. It is a great opportunity to get significant financial assistance to conserve water, create wildlife habitat and improve water quality and soil health on your farm or ranch.

Congratulation to Trinity Roach of Dixon! Trinity represented Solano County at the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts annual Speakoff Contest after wining the Regional Bay-Delta and the local Solano County RCDs contests. The topic of this years contest was “How can RCDs help landowners reduce the threat of fires?”

DIXON RCD 2017-2018 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

2017/2018 Fiscal Year	Governmental Services		Professional Service		Combined District Operations
	Ditch Operations	Other Govern- ment Activities	Water Quality Co- alition	Dixon Regional Watershed JPA	
Total Revenues	\$ 127,558	\$ 146,938	\$ 151,882	\$ 6,710	\$ 433,089
Staff Expenses	\$ 19,497	\$ 114,499	\$ 102,170	\$ 6,527	\$ 242,694
Ditch Maintenance Exp.	\$ 138,738	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 138,738
Overhead & Direct Exp.	\$ 23,120	\$ 30,132	\$ 38,921	\$ 1,073	\$ 93,246
Capital Improvements	\$ 8,999	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,999
Total Expenses	\$ 190,356	\$ 144,634	\$ 141,094	\$ 7,600	\$ 483,683
Net Position	\$ (62,797)	\$ 2,306	\$ 10,791	\$ (890)	\$ (50,589)

The District tracks expenses and revenues based on two overall categories: Governmental Services and Professional Services. **Governmental Services** include standard drainage services and landowner assistance within the District to address natural resource concerns. These services are paid for with the ditch maintenance fees, property taxes, and the occasional grant. **Professional Services** include providing staff to other programs and to support services that benefit landowners and growers within the District and that further the mission of the District. These services are paid for by a fee for service agreement between the District and other organizations.

During the Fiscal Year 2017-18 (FY 2018) total expenses were \$483,683, which exceeded the total revenue of \$433,089, resulting in a negative net position of \$50,589. This negative net position was a result of ongoing ditch maintenance and capital improvements, and followed last years positive net position. The District's operating reserve balance as of June 30, 2018 was \$501,753.

The District established a target reserve balance of \$520,000 on June 30, 2021 in the 2016 Ditch Maintenance Fee Rate Study, which can be accessed on the District's website, www.dixonrcd.org.

The **Governmental Services** (Ditch Operation and Other Governmental Activities) cost center shows a total negative net position of \$60,491. The negative net position for the Ditch Operation was \$62,797. The primary reasons for the negative net position were changes because of our ditch maintenance activities. There was increased excavation in the Fall of 2017 and capital improvements to the drainage system. Furthermore, staff expenses increased due to the oversight of the additional maintenance activities. The Board's objective is to use the ditch maintenance fees paid by you to maintain and improve the drainage system.

The positive net position for Other Governmental Activities was \$2,306. District expenditures included the onetime cost to participate in the Solano Sub-basin Ground Water Sustainability Agency (GSA) along with the staff and overhead costs to work on the GSA and the cover crop pilot project. The District has received \$25,111 in grant funds for the GSA, cover crop project, and District operation improvements. The grant fund only covers a portion of the project cost.

The District's overall objective for the Governmental Services is to use the ditch maintenance fees and property taxes to fund the District's core services.

The **Professional Services** had a positive net position of \$9,901.

The District's current **Fiscal Year 2018-19** final budget has a breakeven net position. The District expects net revenues from Professional Services to be near \$10,000 in future years and the Governmental Services to be negative in 2019/20 and then return to a positive position in future years.

Overall, the District's financial position is sound. The Board continues to monitor revenues and expenses to ensure the overall plans and objectives set forward in the 2016 Ditch Maintenance Fee Rate Study are achieved. The Board expects that during the five (5) year planning period, expenditures will at times exceed revenues. However, the Board has dedicated reserves sufficient to cover the anticipated fluctuations and necessary capital investments through the planning period.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Farmers and ranchers across the United States utilize USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill programs to conserve resources and improve the quality of the environment. NRCS programs are available to any producer and can help you plan and implement a broad range of practices such as irrigation system improvements, replacement of aging tractors, habitat establishment, nutrient management, integrated pest management, and grazing plans. Big or small, conventional or organic, range or pasture, nuts or vegetables, grains or alfalfa, there is something that NRCS can do for you. Conservation specialists are available to provide technical assistance and work with you to develop a plan to make improvements in energy and water efficiency, soil health, air quality, livestock forage utilization, wildlife habitat and more. NRCS is here for you in Solano County and in every county in California. Together with our partners at the Resource Conservation Districts, we are working to serve agricultural producers and the greater public and to meet the NRCS mission of "Helping People Help the Land".

NRCS technical assistance is available at any time, while financial assistance is available competitively at several funding selection deadlines throughout the year. Please keep in mind that the deadlines that are publicized are the dates at which complete applications are ranked and selected for funding. This is not the deadline to bring in a new application. The application process includes developing a conservation plan with an NRCS Conservationist, completing eligibility determination, design reviews, and other plan components based on the proposed project. Please come in to the Vacaville NRCS office early to ensure that you can participate in the process. If an application comes in too close to a selection deadline, it will be kept back for consideration at the next date. The next date for consideration of projects for funding selection is in February 2019. Any application received after that will be considered at a later time. Feel free to contact your local NRCS office at any time with questions and to seek technical or financial assistance to achieve your conservation goals.

Contact us to get started: 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 104, Vacaville, CA 95688 (707) 448-0106 ext. 3.

Board of Directors

We are excited to welcome Eric Schene to the Board. Eric has submitted his application to serve and we are looking forward to his appointment. I know that together the Board will continue its focus on the water related issues that have been a priority of the District, while seeking to address other resource issues of concern to the District constituents. The Board meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday. Please check our website for the agendas and meeting schedule. If you would like more information, please feel free to join us at a board meeting or contact us at (707) 678-1655.

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.DIXONRCD.ORG

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – David Viguie
Director – Spencer Bei
Director – Sam Beukelman
Director – Chope Gill
Director – Eric Schene*
Associate Director – Jim Campbell
Associate Director – Leo Soukeris
**Pending Appointment*

STAFF

District Manager - John S. Currey, AFM
john-currey@dixonrcd.org
Project Manager - Kelly Huff
kelly-huff@dixonrcd.org
Office Manager - Brook Rosenberger
brook-rosenberger@dixonrcd.org
Membership Coordinator - Martha McKeen
martha-mckeen@dixonrcd.org

DIXON



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

707.678.1655 |PHONE

1170 N. Lincoln Street, Ste. 110, Dixon, CA 95620