



## DIXON RCD NEWS

Annual Report - December 2023

### OUR MISSION

Dixon RCD's Mission is to provide leadership and to 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.

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### Will Dixon Resource Conservation District Survive to 75 Years?

*A message from Dixon RCD's Chairman, David Viguie ~*

Dixon Resource Conservation District was formed by a team of local landowners in September of 1952 to improve drainage for agricultural lands. That was 71 years ago and there have been significant changes in agricultural practices and an incredible amount of growth and development in the drainage service area in that time. I joined the Dixon RCD Board in August 1999 and in that short 24 years, there has been exponential growth in expectations for

services by the landowners as well as the costs for those services.

The need for regional drainage facilities, not just for agriculture but also for a higher density of development in the rural areas and for the increased flows due to urban and suburban development, has not gone away.

As the District is beginning to prepare for our 75<sup>th</sup> year of operation in 2027, the board and staff are taking a hard look at the drainage services we provide with a focus on the long-term sustainability of the District. Over the coming year, we will be asking these critical questions:

- Is Dixon RCD the best agency to continue providing drainage services within our District?
- Are the costs of services fairly allocated to the lands receiving drainage benefits?
- Do existing agreements between Dixon RCD and other agencies need to be updated?
- Will the historic/existing level of drainage services be adequate under changing land use conditions?
- What is the will of the members/landowners within our service area today?
- What will be the will of the members/landowners within our service area in the future?

At the District, we track Income and Expenses broken into our core cost centers (See Financial Review below). General District Services (which has included support for the Groundwater Sustainability Agency), Ditch Operations, Water Quality Coalition, and Regional Joint Powers Authority. Drainage Fees that are paid by District landowners regularly underfund the Ditch Operations Expenses. Based on a 2016 Rate Study, the Drainage Maintenance Fee rate was adjusted in 2019, 2020, and 2021, but we are in need of reviewing that charge once again. As a board, we have decided to hold off on that formal review until we have better clarity on some of the critical questions listed above.

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We want to hear from you! We will be working closely with our partner agencies during this process as well. If you have input contact one of our board or staff members or join us for a monthly board meeting!

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## **Shout Out To Ditch Members**

~ Thanks for your help with Ditch Maintenance!~

Despite significant increases to just about every cost out there, Dixon RCD will be able to maintain drainage fees at \$4.00 per acre again this year. In addition to the ability to manage funds from other District cost centers to help offset ditch maintenance costs, another significant cost savings comes from assistance with maintenance from District landowners & operators, and partner agencies.

Below is a list of individuals and agencies who have gone over and beyond to assist and through their efforts have offset the costs for everyone.

## **Thank You!**

If you helped out with maintenance and we missed you below, please let Kelly know and she will include you next year! Dixon RCD conducted regular maintenance through a combination of contractor and partner agency services (Dixon Tractor & Gravel / RD 2068 for excavation, bank repairs, debris removal, spoils management / Washburn Ag Services for weed control).

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Cleaning/Excavation

David Eldridge  
Glico Farms  
Timothy/Viguie Farming  
Reclamation District 2068  
Robben Ranch  
Schene Enterprises  
Solano Irrigation District

Spoils Management

Daniel Jones  
Dettling Farms  
E&H Farms  
HD DAIRY  
Leo Soukeris  
Robben Ranch  
Solano County Water Agency

Debris Removal & Storm Season

Assistance

City of Dixon Staff  
Daniel Jones  
Jacqui Pisenti  
Robben Ranch  
Russ Hovey  
Tim Peevyhouse  
Tom Nishimura

Vegetation Management

E&H Farms  
Maine Prairie Water District

\*\*\*Also noted below are those that provide significant stormwater detention on their properties, within and above the service area, which supports the overall system function.

Flood Storage (on fields or in ponds)

6734 Midway Partners, LLC.  
Bulkley Family  
Bullseye Farms  
Campbells Soup Company  
City of Dixon - City Ponds  
City Northeast Quad Developments  
Cooley Enterprises  
Currey Ranch  
Eldridge Family  
E&H Farms  
Fred & Donna Barry  
Gamio Livestock  
Glico Farms  
HD Dairy  
Jacqui Pisenti  
Jason Bravos  
John Cuneo  
Milk Farm Partners  
Robben Ranch  
Sally & Pat Negroni  
Schene Enterprises  
Schulze Partners  
Tom Nishimura



Reveille Farms  
Robben Ranch  
Russ Hovey  
Timothy/Viguie Farming  
Tremont Farms LLC

T. Ray Farms  
Reveille Farms

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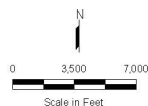
## **Dixon RCD, Providing Drainage & Conservation Services Since 1952**

A close look at the map below, illustrates one of the District's primary challenges with continuing to provide drainage services. In general, our systems were not designed to accept flows from west of the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks. The Tremont 1 & 3 Systems have large "upper watersheds" west of the railroad tracks that were not included in the design service areas. In reality, the lands do drain to the Dixon RCD systems that do not have adequate capacity to accept them. Development between Highway 80 and the railroad tracks in the City of Dixon's Northeast Quadrant and Solano County's Agricultural Industrial Service Area have the potential to make the problem much worse. A significant amount of Dixon RCD's staff and board time in recent years has been spent trying to resolve differences and agree on regional drainage solutions for these areas.

The Solano County Water Agency and the Dixon Regional Watershed Joint Powers Authority, whose member agencies include City of Dixon, Dixon RCD, Reclamation District 2068 and Maine Prairie Water District, have active planning efforts focused around these issues.

### **Regional Watersheds map**





West Yost Associates

[Click here to see enlarged map](#)

## Can We Divert Flood Flows for Beneficial Uses?

We are exploring this as we look for creative solutions to flooding and water supply challenges that overlap in some portions of our watersheds. With leadership from Solano County and the Solano County Water Agency, public agencies around the County are looking for any ways we can manage “problem water” into “solution water”. Dixon RCD’s Tremont 3 Watershed is one of the pilot areas for these efforts. It has some key features that make this worth exploring: historical flooding issues, upcoming development, an upper watershed with areas of good soils for potential groundwater re-charge. In response to recent droughts followed by floods, the State of California is providing some regulatory relief and financial and technical assistance to encourage use of “natural infrastructure”, especially below ground. There are new opportunities for creative solutions. If you want to try something on your property or have an idea, let us know! Below are a few places to track these efforts more closely.

[~CA Department of Water Resources \(DWR\) Groundwater Exchange Website~](#)

[~Solano Groundwater Sustainability Plan~](#)

[~Solano County One Water Framework for Master Infrastructure Planning~](#)

## Interview with a Solano Partner

*Reprinted with permission from Solano RCD's "Lay of the Land" Fall 2023 Newsletter*

[Click Here to See Enlarged Version](#)

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Carly and Wally, Teri's mini long-haired dachshunds, enjoying some outside time!

## Interview with Teri Knight

By Amy King, Watershed Project Manager  
Thursday, July 27, 2023

*Our partners at the USDA-NRCS office in Vacaville are lucky to have a top-notch District Conservationist in their midst! Teri Knight began her position managing the Vacaville NRCS office in February 2021, following a long and successful career in resource conservation in Nevada. I interviewed Teri in July and learned about her history of conservation on working lands and what she likes about her new(ish) position:*

### **Q: When did you first start working for NRCS?**

**A:** I was the Director of Science and Stewardship for the Nature Conservancy in Nevada for years, when a "dream-job" opened up in 2002 as a Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator in Las Vegas. Those were really cool organizations, working closely with NRCS and doing great work with landowners. We purchased equipment for farmers to implement innovative practices, helped them with their operations and worked with them to protect sensitive species. When Congressional funding for RC&Ds ended, I was offered a position with NRCS in Phoenix for 2 years, and then the District Conservationist position in Las Vegas for 5 years, until I took the Vacaville position.

### **Q: What is your favorite part of the job?**

**A:** The customers, for sure. I love to see what they are doing, how food comes to our table. The diversity of agriculture and of ecosystems here is super interesting to work in. The population is also quite diverse; I am looking forward to working with more urban customers as those NRCS programs expand.

### **Q: What area of agriculture would you like to explore or learn more about?**

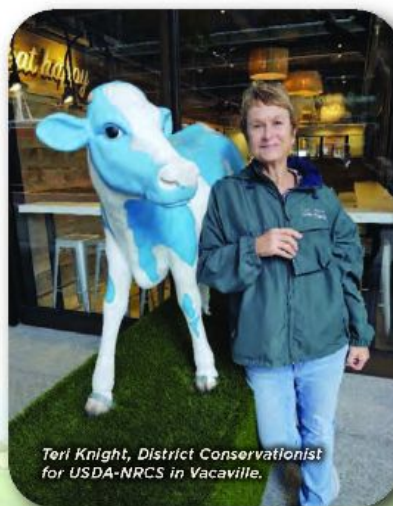
**A:** I would love to know what happens next after products leave the farm, get to see what happens with our local food. It would be really cool to tour a nut processing facility, tomato processing plant, etc.

### **Q: What do you like to do when you are not at work?**

**A:** I love to garden, bird watch, travel, get the dogs outside. (See photo for dog details).

### **Q: Anything you'd like Solano County producers to know about upcoming NRCS activity?**

**A:** The new Farm Bill is supposed to be renewed beginning in October 2023, and a lot of program components can change, so it will be interesting to see what is included in that bill. The NRCS EQIP program tends to stay consistent, but newer programs involving urban agriculture, organics, aquaculture, etc. may be part of the new bill. Please stay tuned as we learn more on the new Farm Bill!



Teri Knight, District Conservationist for USDA-NRCS in Vacaville.

## Dixon RCD 2022-2023 Annual Financial Report

	Governmental Services		Professional Service		
2022/2023 Fiscal Year	Ditch Operations	Other Government Activities*	Water Quality Coalition	Dixon Regional Watershed JPA	Combined District Operations
Total Revenues	\$ 156,870	\$ 222,577	\$ 118,458	\$ 15,399	\$ 513,304
Staff Expenses	\$ 18,356	\$ 138,987	\$ 86,252	\$ 6,678	\$ 250,273
Ditch Maintenance Exp.	\$ 105,395	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,220	\$ 111,615
Overhead & Direct Exp.	\$ 28,939	\$ 53,224	\$ 26,890	\$ 1,494	\$ 110,547
Capital Improvements	\$ 21,814	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 174,505	\$ 192,211	\$ 113,142	\$ 14,392	\$ 494,250
Net Position 2022-2023	\$ (17,635)	\$ 30,366	\$ 5,316	\$ 1,007	\$ 19,054
District Cash Position 06/30/23	\$594,882				

[Click Here for Enlarged Version of Financial Report](#)

**2022-2023** The District's actual net position of \$19,054 for the fiscal year on June 30, 2023 was higher than budgeted due to the delayed maintenance activities that were pushed to the current fiscal year as well as less than anticipated services and supplies expenses. The District's overall cash position of \$594,882 consists of \$548,687 in allocated reserves.

\* General District Services revenue is from property taxes, shared services agreements with partner agencies and grants. Expenses include staff and direct costs to fund the District's non-drainage core services (focused on the priority natural resource concerns). Reduced expenses and additional revenues in General District Services continue to offset the negative net position in Ditch Operations.

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024**

**2023-2024** The current year budget projects a negative net position of (\$6,931) which assumes \$12,000 in ditch improvement projects (capital expenses). The District experiences year to year variations in positive or negative net position, but continues to maintain our average net position close to zero.

## **Grant Funding**

In deciding whether and how to participate in a grant proposal, Dixon RCD's priorities are to support our core services of drainage, water quality, water supply (including groundwater), wildlife friendly farming and soil health/sustainability. In some cases the grant funding helps offset costs that allow us to pass on those savings to landowners and/or growers. We also strive to balance any expansions in service and/or staffing using grant funds with the District's long-term ability to support them. Dixon RCD is included as a partner agency in several larger grants over the next 3-5 years. Please call us for details on any of the grants listed below.

- CA Wildlife Conservation Board Riparian Pollinator Habitat
  - CDFA 2022 Water Efficiency and Technical Assistance (WETA) Program
  - National Association of Resource Conservation Districts Outreach & Technical Assistance
  - CA Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management for Solano Subbasin
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## DIXON RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### PUBLIC NOTICE

### OPEN POSITION ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 9314 and Government Code Section 54974, this Notice is to inform the public that one (1) Director Position has become available on the Board of Directors for the Dixon Resource Conservation District as a result of a resignation.

The Solano County Board of Supervisors is responsible for appointing individuals to fill open positions on the Board of Directors for the Dixon Resource Conservation District. The Board of Supervisors will take action to make such appointment(s) at a noticed meeting that is open to the public.

Applications are now being accepted to fill the open positions of Director and should be submitted to the Dixon Resource Conservation District. Applicants must meet specified qualifications to be eligible for office, including residency requirements and being qualified to vote. Applicants must also obtain the signatures of at least five landowners of the District.

Please contact the Dixon Resource Conservation District located at **1170 North Lincoln, Suite 110**, or by phone at **(707) 678-1655, Extension 102**, for more information regarding the open Director positions and the application/nomination process.

Posting Date: November 22, 2023

Deadline for Applications: Open Until Filled

[www.dixonrcd.org](http://www.dixonrcd.org)

[Click here to see the enlarged Notice](#)



**Are you interested in serving?**



As of November 2023, Dixon RCD has a vacancy on our Board of Directors

In addition, we are always looking for Associate Board Members  
& Water Quality Coalition Advisory Committee Members

To learn more, contact us  
or join us for a board meeting (2nd Wednesday @ Noon)

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## **In Memory of Charles “Charlie” F. Misuraca ~ We Sure Will Miss Him!~**

Anyone familiar with Dixon RCD’s history is likely aware of the impact that Charlie had on the District during his 24 years of service from 1988 to 2011. Charlie believed in cost-effective and responsive small local government and he was passionate about Dixon RCD serving our constituents well and fairly. We are all so grateful for his service and for everything he did to develop and to guide the District. Charlie set the tone with his genuine interest in every person, whether employees, fellow board members or anyone in the Dixon community. Thank you Misuraca Family for sharing Charlie with us, for all your family has done for the District and for all you continue to do in the Dixon community!



*Charlie with former District Manager John Currey in 2008*

## Outreach Events

### Groundwater Workshop

Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Time: 9am to 12 Noon

Location: American Legion Hall 1305 N. 1st. Street Dixon, CA 95620

Contact Martha Mckeen for more information at 707-678-1655 x103 or [martha-mckeen@dixonrcd.org](mailto:martha-mckeen@dixonrcd.org)

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## Dixon RCD Board and Staff



*Dixon RCD board & staff with 2023 CSDA Safety Award*

### **DIXON RCD BOARD**

David Viguie  
Spencer Bei  
Daniel Jones  
Eric Schene  
VACANT  
Jim Campbell, Associate  
Leo Soukeris, Associate

### **DIXON RCD STAFF**

Kelly Huff, District Manager  
707-678-1655 x102  
kelly-huff@dixonrcd.org

Joanna Yac, Office Manager  
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Martha McKeen, Program Coordinator  
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