

**DIXON RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (DRCD)
MINUTES FOR MARCH 12, 2025**

DIRECTORS

DAVID VIGUIE

SPENCER BEI

ERIC SCHENE

DANIEL JONES

ALEXIS HARVEY

DIXON RCD STAFF

KELLY HUFF, DISTRICT MANAGER

MARTHA MCKEEN, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

JOANNA YAC, OFFICE MANAGER

OTHER ATTENDEES

**MIKHAEL KAZZI, NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST
(ACTING)**

**ALLEN CURRY, NRCS ASSISTANT STATE
CONSERVATIONIST (AREA 2)**

DAVID ELDRIDGE, LANDOWNER

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Director Viguie called the March 12, 2025, Board meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. at 1170 North Lincoln Street, Dixon, CA for DRCD staff and Board Members.

Roll call was taken:

Present: Viguie, Bei, Schene, Jones, Harvey

Absent: None

2. Establish a Quorum

A quorum was established.

3. Approve the Agenda

A motion was made by Director Schene, seconded by Director Jones, to approve the agenda. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Schene, Jones, Harvey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4. Presentations – None

5. Comments from the Public - None

6. DRCD Consent Calendar

- a. Approval of Minutes from the Board Meeting dated **February 12, 2025**
- b. DRCD- Approval of Expenses from **February 13, 2025, to March 12, 2025**, and review of the 2024-2025 budget
- c. Office Management - Approval of Expenses from **February 1 to February 28, 2025**, and review of the 2024 / 2025 Budget
- d. Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition – Approval of Expenses from **January 16, 2025 to March 12, 2025** and review of the 2024 / 2025 Budget – (To be distributed)

A motion was made by Director Jones, seconded by Director Harvey, to approve the Consent Calendar items 6a-6d. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Schene, Jones, Harvey

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Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report –

Acting NRCS District Conservationist, Mikhael Kazzi attended via zoom to give his report and mentioned EQIP ranking deadline is March 14, 2025, CSP deadline is April 14th, 2025. See NRCS report for more details. Following Mikhael, Allen Curry from NRCS also attended and wanted to mention all the good work Mikhael Kazzi has done and wanted to know how best to support the team at an area level to support their outputs and partners. He mentioned there being questions about spacing and employees having to work in the office full time. They will and are working on that. Director Viguie asked if Teri's position was going to be filled and Mr. Curry responded with not sure yet they are seeing what is priority and what is to come.

8. Old Business – None

9. New Business-

- a. Legal Services – Consider Executive Committee Recommendations for Selection of General Counsel and Special Counsel Services (**ACTION**)

Ms. Huff reported that the executive committee met and their recommendations to the Dixon RCD board are to move general counsel services to and maintain specialized drainage counsel with Downey Brand. This may require waivers from a few agencies such as Solano GSA, SCWA, RD2068, and MPWD. Ms. Huff mentioned they are experts in drainage/water related issues. Director Bei stated that Downey Brand is more money, but you get what you pay for. Director Viguie explained in looking over the old agreements it seems wise to have Downey Brand's review and assistance. Ms. Huff also wanted to mention that Downey Brand will provide 20 hours to the District at no cost to get to know the District. The board agreed to move general counsel and maintain specialized drainage counsel with Downey Brand per the recommendations.

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A motion was made by Director Schene, seconded by Director Harvey, to approve the Executive Committee Recommendations to move general counsel to Downey Brand. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Schene, Jones, Harvey
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

**b. Regional Drainage – Receive Staff Update, Provide Direction
(ACTION)**

Ms. Huff provided an update and mentioned the Dixon 257 comment letter was sent. The Harvest project preliminary application is still under review and the response letter needs to be reviewed to make sure the District is comfortable with sending it. The board reviewed the Harvest response letter and had some updates they wanted to make. The change was made to the 1st bullet point on the 2nd page for the sentence to now read Discharges will be at ag runoff rates that meet the system design. Other than that the board felt the letter was fine to send.

A motion was made by Director Harvey, seconded by Director Schene, to approve the Draft response letter to the Harvest with the proposed changes. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Schene, Jones, Harvey
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

c. Approval of REVISED DRAFT Letter to Dixon RCD Ditch Members & Plans for Ditch Member Outreach Event (ACTION)

Ms. Huff explained last month the draft letter to the Dixon RCD Ditch Members was approved but not sent yet, since we are now proposing a meeting for ditch members to hear about and offer input on the proposed development in Lat 1/2/3. A revised draft letter with plans to hold an event and questionnaire was reviewed. We worked on gathering as many emails we could to send this correspondence via

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email. Director Viguie suggested including a map that highlights the laterals that may be impacted and the development areas. Ms. Huff will work on that and include it in the correspondence. For the open forum a few potential dates for an evening date were selected. The dates that would work for the meeting at the RCD office (hybrid) were March 31st, April 14th, and 16th. After the date gets finalized and the map gets created the correspondence letter and questionnaire is approved to be sent.

A motion was made by Director Viguie, seconded by Director Jones, to approve the Revised Draft letter with invitation to open forum regarding proposed development to be sent to all ditch members with potential chosen dates. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Schene, Jones, Harvey
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

d. Consider CARCD Request for Additional Advocacy Support (ACTION)

Ms. Huff explained that CARCD recently requested for each RCD to consider making an additional contribution for advocacy to pay a consultant at the federal level. Their suggested minimums are \$50/month for 3-6 months. Ms. Huff suggested a one-time payment upfront for 6 months at \$50/month which would be \$300. With the federal executive orders, CARCD is wanting to send a consultant at the federal level to talk about impacts of losing funds. Ms. Huff mentioned that we have active and potential grants with NACD (\$30,000) that are potentially impacted with these freezes. The board agreed to contribute the additional \$300 one-time payment for advocacy help.

A motion was made by Director Schene, seconded by Director Harvey, to approve a one-time additional payment to CARCD of \$300 to help with additional federal advocacy. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Schene, Jones, Harvey

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Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

10. DRCD Staff Reports:

a. **District Manager's Report-** Nothing additional was discussed on the DM's Report. See District Manager's Report for more details.

b. **Water Quality Coalition Update-** None

11. Director's Report –None

12. Communications – None

13. Upcoming Events –None

14. Announcements –

The next Dixon RCD Board Meeting is Wednesday April 09, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

15. Adjourn Meeting

A motion was made by Director Bei, seconded by Director Jones, to close the meeting. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Schene, Jones, Harvey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The Dixon RCD Board meeting adjourned at the hour of 1:00 p.m.



Kelly Huff, District Manager

Dixon Resource Conservation District