



**DIXON RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (DRCD)
MINUTES FOR
NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

DIRECTORS

**MARK HOLDENER, PRESIDENT
SAM BEUKELMAN
RICK MARTINEZ
DAVID VIGUIE**

DIXON RCD STAFF

**JOHN S. CURREY, DISTRICT MANAGER
JANICE BEAMAN, OFFICE MANAGER**

OTHER ATTENDEES

JIM CAMPBELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

1. Call the Meeting to Order

President Holdener called the November 19, 2014, Special Meeting, to order at 12:00 noon at 1170 North Lincoln Street, Suite 110, Dixon, CA.

Present: Beukelman, Martinez, Viguie, Holdener
Absent: None

2. Establish a Quorum

A quorum was established.

3. Approve the Agenda

There was no discussion on this item.

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

Ayes: Beukelman, Martinez, Viguie. Holdener
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

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4. **Comments from the Public - None**

5. **Presentations – None**

6. **Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area – Monthly Reports**

a. **Approval of Expenses – None**

b. **Activities Report – Monthly Summary of Staff's Activities.**

Mr. Currey noted that the Request for Proposal was released on November 14th and that he attended the Department of Forestry Rangeland Management Advisory Committee to discuss grazing on public lands.

This item was filed.

7. **DRCD/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition (Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program) – Monthly Reports**

a. **Approval of Expenses – None**

b. **Activities Reports – Monthly Summary of Staff's Activities.**

Mr. Currey noted that Ms. Huff will be at the next meeting to give the quarterly report.

This item was filed.

8. **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report - None**

Mr. Currey reported that Ms. Rash had a baby boy.

9. **DRCD Consent Calendar - (ACTION)**

a. **Approval of Minutes for the Board Meeting dated October 8, 2014.**

b. **Approval of Expenses from October 9, 2014, to November 19, 2014, and review of the 2014 / 2015 Budget Update.**

There was no discussed on these items.

A motion was made by Director Martinez, seconded by Director Viguie, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: Beukelman, Martinez, Viguie, Holdener
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

10. **Old Business**

a. **South West Dixon – Receive information on NV5 conceptual development plan in the SW Dixon Specific Plan area.**

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Mr. Currey reported that the City of Dixon will require the water be put into the storm drain for Pond A and it will be a temporary solution until the McCune Creek outfall is constructed as part of the larger development in the area.

This item was filed.

- b. **Encroachment Permit - Consider approving an encroachment permit for Viguie Farm's new irrigation pipeline.**

Director Viguie noted his conflict of interest and left the room.

Mr. Currey reported that there was no quorum at the last meeting, but staff was directed to install the pipe and it has been installed.

A motion was made by Director Martinez, seconded by Director Beukelman, to approve the Encroachment Permit for Viguie Farms. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: Beukelman, Martinez, Holdener
Noes: None
Abstain: Viguie
Absent: None

11. New Business

- a. **Review of relevant drainage history & the current state of the Agricultural Light Industrial Service Area (AISA) & the lands tributary to the Tremont 3 Drainage Facilities – Review and consider the issues presented and provide direction to staff regarding the next steps to be taken by the Board and staff.**

Mr. Currey noted he and the District Engineer have been working on the white paper and it has been presented to the Dixon Regional Watershed Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board to determine if it accurately reflects the history of the issues. He is asking all boards to review the document to determine if it is comprehensive and to consider what to do with it. He hoped the white paper demonstrates that there is a credible plan that can be jointly addressed.

His biggest concern is if another project would to be approved by Solano County, that they would only follow their own policy, and that their action will need to be challenged. Too much time has passed for the Button project. The issue with Solano County is they do not look at water surface elevation and their staff feels they have done their due diligence. The County has no plan or restriction on how a water system is designed or evaluated beyond the individual project boundaries. The question is does this Board support the JPA moving forward.

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Director Martinez thought the JPA may have a problem with Maine Prairie taking action. He noted that Dixon RCD is responsible for dealing with this issue. If there is not support of the JPA, should Dixon RCD move forward and pursue Solano County to pay for the West Yost study. He noted he reviewed the white paper and felt it should go to the Solano County Board of Supervisors. He also suggested including information and a statement in the newsletter that Dixon RCD is trying to protect the District.

Directors Martinez and Viguie said they will review the newsletter.

A motion was made by Director Viguie, seconded by Director Martinez, to make no changes and to move forward. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: Beukelman, Martinez, Viguie, Holdener
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

b. Tremont 1 Culvert Crossing – Consider proposed location for a new farm access culvert in Tremont 1, Lateral C on Bains property.

Mr. Currey reported he met with the new property owner, Mr. Bains, discussed the current property access, the request from Mr. Bains for two culverts on 40 acres, and discussed alternatives that could be done.

Director Martinez preferred extending the current culvert.

Director Viguie felt maintenance will be an issue and noted the difficulty getting to the bottom of the culvert.

Director Holdener felt that if a culvert is approved, it should be away from the corner.

Mr. Currey said he would talk to Mr. Bains and report back to the Board.

This item was filed.

c. Tremont 1 Maintenance Road – Consider the location and improvements to the maintenance access road on the Fahn Property.

Mr. Currey is planning to move the maintenance road to the east side of the ditch. Mr. Currey noted to access the relocated maintenance road that the District would need to install a new field drain.

Director Viguie felt the old culvert should be removed once the landowners come to an agreement about the property line.

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The Board authorized the District Manager, at his discretion, to remove the culvert pipe in the ditch and install a field drain.

Director Viguie noted he would work on the property line issue with the landowners representative.

This item was filed.

d. Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area – Review and provide direction to staff regarding the proposed scope of work for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Lease Management Services.

Mr. Currey noted there is no Board action for this item, but he wanted the Board to see the Scope of Work. It is the same services as before except the dry matter monitoring. Also, the State would like the Board to enter into an agreement.

Director Martinez noted when Yolo Bypass began, there was no Irrigated Lands Program or groundwater monitoring. He expressed concern about the time spent by the District Manager and Project Manager, staffing needs, and space rental. He was not sure this is a priority of the District.

Mr. Currey reviewed the budget, including staffing costs for this year and next year. He asked the Board to consider Irrigated Lands serving a majority of Solano County, Solano RCD doing habitat and restoration, no problem with staffing level, and the Board possibly formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with Solano RCD. He noted that if they are not a party to the Agreement with Yolo Bypass, the jurisdiction may go to Yolo RCD and not Solano RCD.

Director Martinez asked that liability and risk be addressed, to see choices, to scale down Dixon RCD's role, core identity drainage, groundwater, broad statements about other resources in the District, long-term District identity, and working comprehensively with Solano RCD.

Mr. Currey reviewed options, including a contract and organize between Solano and Dixon RCDs, structure an out in the contract, Dixon RCD provide service for a year and train someone else to take over, possibly Solano RCD.

The Board asked for an exit strategy and short-term solution from Yolo's lease management services and felt that this needs to be profitable.

This item was filed.

e. Office Lease – Review and provide direction to staff regarding options for leased office space.

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Mr. Currey reported that he met with the property managers for office building at 810 Vaca Valley Parkway (where Solano Irrigation District (SID) is located) and 1170 N. Lincoln Street (current office), and that there could be an option where the costs are about equivalent if we are to stay at the current location or move.

He discussed that NRCS is providing four desks (2 each) for the District to use. He felt more can be accomplished if the agencies stay together. He felt the Board might consider the possible benefits of being located in close proximity with NRCS, SID and Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) as we work on tangible issues together.

Mr. Currey noted if only Solano RCD moves with NRCS, the cost of the space will be high. He noted that David Okita, SCWA, is retiring and felt being in close proximity could foster a relationship with the new person. He discussed possible options: Farm Service Agency (FSA) and NRCS together, go with Solano RCD or separate from Solano RCD, and Dixon RCD to use NRCS space.

Director Martinez preferred Dixon RCD to stay in Dixon. He suggested sending a postcard to survey landowners because he was not sure how everybody feels about going to Vacaville. He noted that what decision the Board makes will be for a longtime.

Mr. Campbell noted that growers would go to NRCS and FSA anyway.

Mr. Currey asked where the Board wants to see themselves in 5 to 20 years and what the relationship with SCWA will be. Currently, he has not taken advantage of attending SCWA meetings and thought in the long run it would be beneficial.

Director Martinez noted this District started out being a small drainage district and ditch is our Number 1 responsibility. Now there is an increase with the JPA. He thought the time for District management for ditch has not changed and he doesn't want to lose sight of what Dixon RCD is. He thought the identity of the Board is identified by its Directors and they may not be farmers in the future. He felt if a postcard survey is not sent to property owners, each Director should ask the property owners they work with for their opinion and past Directors should also be asked.

This item was filed.

12. DRCD Staff Reports **a. District Manager's Report**

Mr. Currey noted that the Personnel Committee will need to meet in December. He felt if the Board wants to discuss where they want to be in 5 to 10 years, they may want to discuss it before the Federal partners move. He felt the questions now will be different than 5 or 7 years ago.

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Director Martinez preferred to not have an outside moderator.

Director Viguie felt the priorities are ditch, RCD alliance, water quality and groundwater. He didn't see that the goals have changed.

Director Martinez felt the need for a District Engineer position should be discussed at the Personnel Committee.

Mr. Currey discussed that Solano RCD has been getting grants and providing restoration activities throughout the County, including within Dixon RCD, and what their expectation is. He felt it can be addressed in the MOU.

Director Martinez felt the MOU should formalize what is already happening and that the MOU could be amended.

Mr. Currey noted he will review the Ledgerwood report, possibly reaffirm priorities and creating an MOU with Solano RCD. Also, a Ditch Maintenance Committee meeting will be called.

Mr. Currey discussed the handout from the California Resource Conservation District (CARCD) that provides what is happening Statewide. He noted that the Association and other Districts are seeking permanent funding to meet resource concerns. He stated the handout challenges all RCD's to have vision, competence, and opportunity to look Statewide and that all goals are covered.

b. District Engineer's Report - None

13. Directors Report

Brief reports given by Directors on meetings attended on behalf of DRCD.

14. Communications

None

15. Upcoming Events

The next Dixon Regional Watershed Joint Powers Authority will be determined.

16. Announcements

The next Dixon RCD Business Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 12:00 noon.

17. Adjourn Meeting

The Dixon RCD Board meeting adjourned at the hour of 3:05 p.m.



Janice Beaman, CMC
Office Manager
Dixon Resource Conservation District