



## CHANGES AT THE DISTRICT

**BOARD ~ New President's Message ~** The District's primary mission will continue to be providing cost-effective drainage services. In addition, we are doing as much as possible to simplify and alleviate the burden of increasingly complex regulations for landowners & producers. As a Board we are proud that the services the District provides have significantly increased over the last 15 years, without an increase in ditch fees & we appreciate our staff making this possible. ~ **Mark Holdener**

**Charlie ~** After 23 years of service, Charlie Misuraca resigned this year. THANK YOU TO CHARLIE & THE WHOLE MISURACA FAMILY for your dedication to the District!

**New Board Member ~** Sam Beukelman, Foreman at E & H Farms, comes to the Board with 30 years of farming experience & a fresh perspective from our membership. Sam has attended the last 5 Board meetings. His directorship will be official this month. Welcome Sam!

**STAFF ~ Administrative Assistant ~** Our long-time administrative assistant, Kimberly Bratten is moving on to bigger & better things with the addition of her son Zachary ~ 4 months. Over the last 9.5 years Kim has helped the District establish new programs while keeping us organized and on top of paperwork and recordkeeping. ~Thank You & Congratulations Bratten Family!

Fortunately Janice Beaman, retired Dixon City Clerk, has made herself available to our District. Janice brings her wealth of experience in administration of government offices to the benefit of Dixon RCD's entire operation. Welcome Janice!

**OFFICE ~ New USDA NRCS District Conservationist-** Wendy Rash began in March 2011 & is using her talents to energize the partnership between the District & NRCS & to adapt NRCS programs to further local District goals. Welcome Wendy!



Charlie & John at 2009 Annual Dinner

## ACTIVITIES UPDATE

### DIXON RCD DRAINAGE

- \* Regular cleaning & weed treatment
- \* Sikes Road culvert replacement
- \* New membership database
- \* Casey Road vegetated ditch partnership project with Solano RCD & CA Audubon Society. Exploring a practice for water quality & wildlife habitat that also reduces long-term maintenance costs. If you are interested in finding out more, let us know!



Planting native grasses on ditch bank (Casey Rd. ~Silveyville/Joy Lateral) Photo ~ CA Audubon

### YOLO BYPASS WILDLIFE AREA

- \* Awaiting hire of new area manager
- \* Renewed Master Lease Agreement with Dept of Fish & Game for 5 yrs

### WATER QUALITY COALITION

- \* Changes to program scheduled to begin spring 2013
  - addition of groundwater
  - farm level plan requirements
  - tiered requirements by risk
- \* New membership database
- \* Working on management plans for recurring issues.

### REGIONAL DRAINAGE JPA

- \* Environmental Permits for the Dixon Main Drain/V-Drain Project have been approved. Easement negotiations and acquisition continue...
- \* The District will be looking for creative solutions that increase local drainage capacity and/or reduce the need for it. ANY IDEAS?????

~ for more detailed information on these activities please visit our website ~ **WWW.DIXONRCD.ORG**

## 2011 DIXON RCD COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR

This year's Cooperator of the Year spent the last 13+ years navigating the sometimes treacherous process of managing productive land in California. He balanced his time between farming, weed control, water management, communication with agencies, conservation practices installation, equipment operation & maintenance, employee management and public education. Sound familiar?? Dixon RCD is pleased to present **Dave Feliz**, former Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Manager from CA Department of Fish & Game (DFG) with our 2011 Cooperator of the Year Award! Dave's practical perspective and willingness to work with agricultural producers to experiment with practices have been instrumental in making the partnership between Dixon RCD and DFG what it is today. We look forward to hearing about the great things he will do in his new position as the Manager of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. Congratulations Dave!



"Swainson's Hawks working with the tractor" ~ Dave Feliz



Dave with elected officials & farmers  
~ Yolo Basin Foundation Photo ~

### USDA NRCS BAY DELTA INITIATIVE ~ Wendy Rash

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has recognized the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River watersheds as a region of national significance for conservation on private lands. NRCS has launched several Landscape Initiatives nationwide in recent years, in places like the Chesapeake Bay and the Mississippi River Basin, and this year the Bay-Delta Initiative joins that list. These Landscape Initiatives funnel technical assistance and financial resources toward resource conservation on private lands in order to make a greater impact on regional environmental problems, such as the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico caused in some part by nutrient runoff from farms. The Bay-Delta Initiative will target projects that conserve irrigation water, improve water quality, and/or create or enhance wildlife habitat.


The Dixon Resource Conservation District lies within the Bay-Delta Initiative boundary. The Bay-Delta Initiative will probably make more funding available to private landowners within the District to implement conservation work on their farms and ranches. The funds may come as additional allocations through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, funds may be awarded to partners on a competitive basis similar to grant funding, or funds may be granted to partners who can help NRCS implement conservation work on a broader scale. As always, NRCS will work with private landowners and with our partners at the District to develop conservation plans that achieve the goals of the Bay-Delta Initiative as well as the goals of the landowner(s). Stay tuned for further information as the Initiative rolls out over the next few months.

### DIXON RCD ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

	Governmental Services		Professional Services			TOTAL
2010/2011 Fiscal Year	Drainage Systems	Other Gov. Activities	Water Quality Coalition	Dixon Regional Watershed Authority	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area	Combined District Operations
<b>Revenues</b>	\$ 77,632	\$ 90,002	\$ 51,056	\$ 23,085	\$ 79,935	\$ 321,710
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 99,303	\$ 76,558	\$ 47,839	\$ 20,687	\$ 36,020	\$ 280,407
<b>Net Position</b>	\$ (21,671)	\$ 13,444	\$ 3,217	\$ 2,398	\$ 43,915	\$ 41,303

\* Note: the 2011 figures have not been audited.

\*\*Detailed financial information will be posted on Dixon RCD's website



**DIXON**  
**RESOURCE**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

707.678.1655 | PHONE  
707.678.5001 | FAX

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

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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President** – Mark Holdener  
**Director** – Rick Martinez  
**Director** – David Viguie  
**Director** – Sam Beukelman  
**Director** – Tom Bors  
**Associate Director** – Jim Campbell

#### STAFF

**District Manager** - John S. Currey, AFM  
**Project Manager** - Kelly Huff  
**Administrative Assistant** - Janice Beaman

*As always, if you have any questions or would like more information on anything in the newsletter, give us a call !*  
~DRCD Staff~