

# Annual Report

December 1, 2017



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 **Waived** for 2018

Using the financial goals and objectives established in the 2016 rate study, the Board and Staff reviewed the completed maintenance activities in fiscal year 2016/17, along with the ongoing and anticipated maintenance activities for fiscal year 2017/18 and determined to forgo the \$0.25 per acre increase scheduled for December 1, 2017.

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.

### Board of Directors

The Board was deeply saddened by the passing of Mark Holdener. His leadership and commitment to serve the landowners and farmers in the District are greatly missed.

There is presently a vacancy on the Board and we are always interested in adding associate directors.

By serving on the Board you can guide the District's activities and prioritize current and future natural resource conservation efforts in our community.

The Board meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 6pm (Mar.-Oct.) and at 12pm (Nov.-Feb.). If you would like more information, please feel free to join us at a board meeting or contact John Currey at (707) 678-1655 ext. 105.

### Staff Changes

The Board and Staff have appreciated Janice Beaman's service to the District and wish her well in retirement. Brook Rosenberger has joined the District as our new Office Manager. Welcome aboard Brook!

### Ditch Maintenance Activities

The 2017 maintenance activities got off to a slow start due largely to the wet spring. We have completed the following activities in 2017 (Dec. 2016-Nov. 2017).

- **Ditch Spraying:** The fall spray included a pre-emergent. This application was done in a timely manner and achieved the desired result, extending the weed control well in to spring.
- **Ditch Spraying:** The spring spray was delayed until early July. This delay resulted in poor weed control.
- **Ditch Excavation:** In spring 2017, 2 miles of Tremont 3's Laterals C and D were cleaned.
- **Ditch Excavation:** In fall 2017, 6.86 miles of Tremont 2, Lateral C, Maxwell and Lateral F were cleaned.
- **Access Maintenance:** 2.75 miles of Lateral 1, Lateral 2 and Tremont 2 were disked to improve access for District spraying.
- **Debris Removal:** Numerous ditch inspections and 7 days of debris removal were performed from Dec. 2016-Mar. 2017.
- **Culvert Replacements:** The District replaced 2 culverts in 2017 located in Lateral 5a.

In 2018, we will focus on the spray program with a winter spray that will include the pre-emergent followed by a mid-spring application.

This winter the Ditch Maintenance Committee will review the overall effectiveness of our current maintenance program.

If you observe any trash, plugged culverts or other concerns, please call John Currey at (707) 678-1655 ext. 105.

## Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

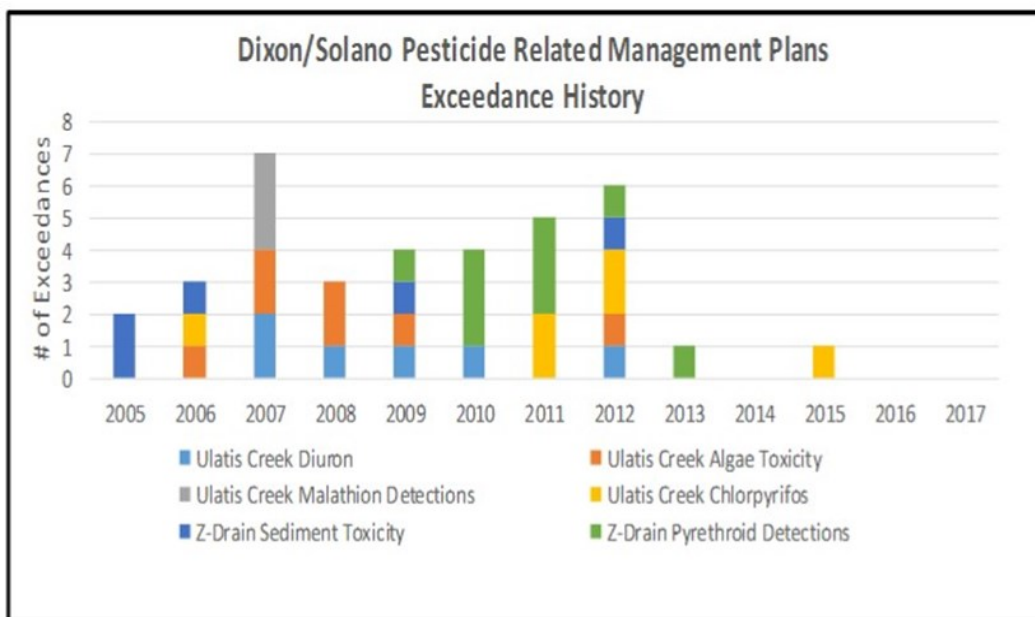
The District continues to participate in the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) activities. In June 2017, as required by State law, the local agencies created the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSGSA). The eleven (11) members of the SSGSA are: City of Dixon, City of Rio Vista, Solano County, Dixon Resource Conservation District, Solano Resource Conservation District, Maine Prairie Water District, Rural North Vacaville Water District, Reclamation District 2068, Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee, Solano County Farm Bureau, and California Water Service. The City of Vacaville, Solano Irrigation District, Delta Reclamation Districts and County of Sacramento have chosen to create separate GSAs for their jurisdictional boundaries. While we had hoped to form one GSA for the entire Solano Subbasin, having multiple GSAs will not prevent us from working closely together. The five (5) GSAs have recently submitted a grant application to the Department of Water Resources for \$1 million to fund portions of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) preparation. Over the next four (4) years there will be many opportunities for individuals to participate in the GSP preparation. 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>

Spencer Bei serves on the SSGSA Board and John Currey serves on the Technical Advisory Committee. The goal of our participation is to represent the groundwater users within the Dixon Resource Conservation District, while seeking an approach to the required plans and regulations that is as efficient and cost effective as possible.

## Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition

The first ten years of the Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) were focused on working with members to address specific pesticide issues in local waterways (see chart). The Coalition is now in its fourth year of assisting members with farm reporting requirements that began in 2014, which cover additional water quality concerns (nitrates in groundwater, sediment and erosion control etc.).



### NEW THIS YEAR

- LATE FEES will be charged for farm reporting received after the February 15th Deadline.
- New methods for pesticide monitoring in surface waters began in November 2017.
- Regional Board plans to conduct randomly selected site inspections for memberships in good standing.
- Regional Board is contacting members that have not submitted required farm reporting forms to the Coalition.

Please visit our website for a schedule of upcoming trainings/education events and to view the 2017-2018 newsletter ([www.dixonrcd.org](http://www.dixonrcd.org)). You may also contact Kelly Huff (707) 678-1655 ext. 102 or Martha McKeen ext. 103.

## DIXON RCD 2016-2017 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

2016/2017 Fiscal Year	Governmental Services		Professional Services			Combined District Operations
	Ditch Operations	Other Government Activities	Water Quality Coalition	NRCS Engineering Support	Dixon Watershed JPAs	
<b>Revenues</b>	\$ 121,834	\$ 117,123	\$ 136,055	\$ 12,451	\$ 13,421	\$ 400,884
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 92,382	\$ 117,701	\$ 125,621	\$ 12,403	\$ 12,221	\$ 360,328
<b>Cap. Improv.</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Net Position</b>	\$ 29,452	\$ (578)	\$ 10,434	\$ 48	\$ 1,200	\$ 40,556

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 Fiscal Year 2016-17 (FY 2017) total revenues were \$400,884, which exceeded the expenses of \$360,328, resulting in a positive net position of \$40,556. This positive net position followed the District's first deficit in 12 years and contributed to the District's operating reserve balance of \$555,281. The District has established a target balance of \$520,000 in the 2016 Ditch Maintenance Fee Rate Study, which can be accessed on the District's website, [www.dixonrcd.org](http://www.dixonrcd.org).

The **Governmental Services** (Ditch Operation and Other Governmental Activities) cost center shows a total positive net position of \$28,874. The positive net position for the Ditch Operation was \$29,452. The primary reasons for the positive net position were changes in the ditch maintenance activities. There was no excavation in the fall of 2016 and delayed ditch repairs and spraying, both occurred in July 2017. Furthermore, staff expenses decreased due to the delayed maintenance activities.

The Board approved rolling the unspent Ditch Operation funds into the 2017/18 maintenance budget. The Board's objective is to use the ditch maintenance fees paid by you to maintain and improve the drainage system.

The negative net position for Other Governmental Activities was \$578. This negative net position was due to the legal and staff resources dedicated to the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) formation. The District spent \$10,541 while participating in the GSA formations. The long term cost to participate in the GSA is not known at this time. However, the District did receive a small grant to offset a portion of the staff expense to participate in the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

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 \$11,681.

The District's current **Fiscal Year 2017-18** Final Budget has a projected negative net position. The Board approved allocating \$40,556 to meet the ditch maintenance expectations and to achieve the target reserve balance set forward in the 2016 Ditch Maintenance Fee Rate Study. The District expects net revenues from Professional Services to be near \$10,000 in future years and from the Governmental Services to be negative in 2018/19 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 insure 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 incentivize 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, grass fed or corn fed, 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 there for you in nearly every county in the United States and territories. Together with Resource Conservation Districts and the USDA Farm Service Agency, we are able to better serve agricultural producers and the greater public, and meet the NRCS mission of “helping people help the land”.

NRCS technical assistance is available year round, while financial assistance is available competitively year round with several funding selection deadlines. 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 documents based on the proposed project. Please come in to a NRCS office early in your planning to ensure that you can participate in the process. If an application comes in too close to the selection deadline, it will be set aside for consideration at the next date. The current deadline for consideration of the first funding selection is early December. 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

## The Dixon Regional Drainage Joint Powers Authority (JPA)

The JPA and its partner agencies have determined that at this time pursuing new detention ponds provide the best possible option to meet local and statewide funding priorities such as flood control, groundwater recharge and water quality improvements. We are currently, working to secure the Solano County’s cooperation in the new drainage project. If you would like more information, please call John Currey (707) 678-1655 ext.105.

VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.DIXONRCD.ORG](http://WWW.DIXONRCD.ORG)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President** – David Viguie  
**Director** – Spencer Bei  
**Director** – Sam Beukelman  
**Director** – Chope Gill  
**Director** – Vacant  
**Associate Director** – Jim Campbell  
**Associate Director** – Leo Soukeris

### STAFF

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

DIXON



RESOURCE  
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