



Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition | 1170 N. Lincoln Street, Suite 110
Dixon, CA 95620 | (707) 678-1655

MINUTES

AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eric Schene
Herb Wimmer
Kurt Balasek
Sam Beukelman
Cork McIsaac
David Viguie
David Eldridge

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Paul Lum
Bruce Brazelton

COALITION STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly Huff
Chris Rose
Martha McKeen

The discussion began at 5:05 pm.

Finances of the Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition

Ms. McKeen reviewed the program year-end projected final budget for 24/25.

Fiscal year budget 24/25 will finish \$78,290 (error in the MAR which states \$41,344) more than expected due to a large carry-over of \$51,951 from SVWQC, \$6447 of unexpected interest income, and \$43,000 less in DRCD and SRCD staffing costs. Due to less hours needed to run the program and grant offsets. The projected income vs. expenses for the year's net position is (-\$24,012) with an ending fund balance of **\$239,247**.

The FY 25/26 preliminary budget assumes the cost of \$3.75/acre fee for irrigated land. Fiscal year 25/26 will be a non-assessment year for surface water monitoring. It is expected to have a net position of (-\$41,200) for the year-end. FY 25/26 projected beginning fund balance is



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\$239,247 and would leave an ending fund balance of \$198,047. The **\$198,047 ending fund balance** would consist of \$100,000 set aside for reserves plus an additional remaining \$98,047.

Ms. McKeen mentioned that the State's fees are on a steady increase 6-8% each year. We budgeted for a 7% increase for FY 25/26. Mr. McIsaac asked what the State attributes to the increase. Ms. McKeen was not sure and would do some research to see what is contributing to the increased costs.

The Committee Members collectively agreed and recommend that the 24/25 projected budget and the 25/26 preliminary budget should be approved.

Policy Update - Ms. McKeen asked the committee members to provide feedback on whether the current per/irrigated acre fee of \$3.75 should remain the same or increase and a possibility of an administrative fee be assessed to each account (invoice).

The committee members discussed these action items. The committee discussed the preliminary 25/26 budget shows that an increase of any kind is not warranted at this time. Mr. Wimmer shared that an admin fee seems reasonable as did Mr. McIsaac. Based on the preliminary budget for FY 25/26, they feel there is ample ending balance funds in the budget to make it through the next year, therefore raising the fees or adding an admin fee is not needed at this time. Mr. Balasek and Mr. Viguie asked that we continue to bring these topics to the table for discussion by the advisory meeting each year. The discussion continued with the entire committee adding their thoughts to the dialogue.

Ms. McKeen will collect data on staff time used for a subset of small and large growers to include in next year's discussion.

Based on the discussion of the Committee, they make the following recommendations:

- The \$3.75 per/irrigated acre fee should remain the same for FY 25/26.
- Do not adopt an Admin fee at this time.

Coalition and Program Updates (Informational Only)

ENROLLED ACRES:

The acreage in the D/S RCD Water Quality Coalition appears to have stabilized. We continue to work with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to get the remaining irrigated acres within Coalition boundaries enrolled.

The coalition staff will keep a close eye on the enrolled acreage in respect to the surrounding areas going into development.



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COORDINATION WITH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES (GSA):

The Coalition continues to coordinate efforts with the local GSAs by assisting with outreach and information to coalition members as well as helping gather information and feedback from coalition members back to the GSAs. The cost to coordinate is currently being supported with grant funds from a CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) Implementation Grant.

WATER USAGE DATA FROM THE DATA MANAGEMENT TOOL (DMT):

The groundwater/surface water use on crops was a required field in the DMT for crop year 2024 reporting with the option to choose “prefer not to answer”. We had approximately 97% completion. The Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition Staff, technical staff for the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) and consultants continue to look for ways the data can be useful to fill data gaps in areas without groundwater use statistics so the water use data collection in the DMT has proved to be beneficial in doing just that. Mr. Balasek commented that it is a good thing to share data and the entire committee noted they felt the same way.

DRINKING WATER WELLS (DWW):

As of January 2022, all members with actively used drinking water wells on enrolled parcels had to have their well tested for nitrates before December 31, 2022. At the end of 2024, many of the landowners will have completed their third sample and may qualify to reduce their testing to every five years if they had a test that resulted in nitrates as nitrogen less than 8 mg/L for three consecutive years (2022, 2023 and 2024).

Here are the stats of the program from the Regional Board as of May 29, 2025:

Sac Valley

- Total samples submitted: 3960
- Exceedances: 439
- % of samples exceeded: 11.1%

Solano County

- Total samples submitted: 484
- Exceedances: 117
- % of samples exceeded: 24.2%
- % exceedance compared to total Sac Valley exceedances: 26.7%

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION TARGETS (GWPT):

Groundwater Protection Targets have been developed and submitted to the Regional Board for HVA - high vulnerability area - townships in the Central Valley, including Solano County. Coalitions are now working to update Groundwater Management Plans that show how those targets will be achieved. We are planning to have a workshop either in person or online that will explain the details and how it



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will affect growers in the Sac-Valley. Ms. Huff noted that the data used to establish the GW Values and Targets comes from actual grower INMP data and modeling done for each area.

CENTRAL VALLEY SALINITY ALTERNATIVE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY (CV SALTS):

In 2020, coalitions in high-priority (Priority 1) areas of the Southern Central Valley received notices to comply with the CV SALTS Nitrate Control Program, along with all permitted dischargers that could contribute nitrates (e.g. dairies, processing facilities, wastewater treatment plants and like facilities).

Yolo County is the only prioritized region (Priority 2) in the Sacramento Valley. Valley Collaborative manages both Priority 1 and Priority 2 areas. The Yolo County Farm Bureau's water quality coalition and all permitted dischargers are in the Yolo Subbasin Management Zone (MZ). See map.

Note: Non-15 is a general category of permitted discharger (it includes individually permitted dischargers such as wastewater treatment facilities, wineries, composting facilities, food processing plants, etc.) – NOT ag, dairy, poultry or sectors that have a "General Order".

In Yolo free water testing is available to those in the MZ. For those that have their drinking water samples over the safe drinking water limits for nitrates as nitrogen exceeding 10 mg/L are able to apply for free drinking water deliveries. So far there are 19 total sites receiving free drinking water.

Although the Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition is not currently prioritized, there are a number of drinking water wells that exceed the drinking water limits in Solano County and there is a strong possibility that this area will be prioritized in the near future.

Ms. McKeen shared some additional stats given by Denise Sagara, ILRP Coordinator, at the Yolo County Farm Bureau.

- 25 total permitted dischargers within the MZ
- Fees were paid by Northern CA Water Agency (NCWA) in 2024 and fees for 2025 are being determined and look like they will be \$1.00 per/acre for those with the Yolo Subbasin MZ.

Ms. Huff reiterated that the coalition staff will be keeping a close eye on the progress and will inform the committee and board members as we learn more.

No recommendations from the Committee required for any of the informational agenda items.

All agenda items were discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

ATTACHMENTS: Map of Yolo Subbasin