



Regional Drainage Concerns

In 2008, Solano County updated their General Plan to rezone part of the area north of Pedrick Rd and Vaughn Rd as the "Agricultural Limited Industrial Service Area (AISA)". There was limited consideration of where the drainage waters from the developed lands would go in the 2008 General Plan. Staff of the Dixon Regional Watershed Joint Powers Authority (JPA) member agencies expressed concern at public and committee meetings that the County was assuming drainage water would go into Tremont 3, without considering impacts to the system. Tremont 3 was never built to accommodate the agricultural drainage water from this area, let alone industrial runoff. In addition there is an existing agreement between Dixon RCD and RD 2068 that restricts the flow downstream. If the AISA is developed, we are concerned that it will change the volume and timing of water arriving at the culvert underneath the railroad tracks and into Tremont 3. This will potentially increase the volume and duration of flooding downstream. Additionally, accepting this water may jeopardize the agricultural exemption that we use with permitting agencies to maintain most of the Dixon RCD ditches. If we lose the agricultural exemption, it would increase our maintenance costs with additional staff time and permitting costs for routine maintenance activities such as spraying and excavating.

In the County's environmental compliance documents, they agreed to require a development agreement for each development project in the area. Development agreements would allow the drainage agencies in the area (including Dixon RCD) a chance to comment on the proposed development plans before any permits are issued. To date, the County has not done this. They have issued grading and building permits without addressing all of the issues brought forward by Dixon RCD and JPA. Dixon RCD and the JPA have tried unsuccessfully to solve this problem through discussions with County staff.

The Dixon RCD staff has created a White Paper in order to review and identify the outstanding drainage issues and underlying history. In the coming year we will be actively seeking a resolution to the issue by engaging the County senior staff and Board of Supervisors.

If you are interested in learning more about this issue we would be happy to provide you a copy of this White Paper. For more information, please call (707) 678-1655 x105 or email (john-currey@dixonrcd.org).

Ditch Maintenance

From July 2013 to June 2014, the ditches were sprayed three times (fall, spring and summer), 6.25 miles of ditches were excavated, and twelve sites were cleaned of debris. The District replaced two culverts, one in Hackmen Road and one in the Silvey-Joy Lateral. The District also, removed 3 large stands of Tamrasik, an invasive shrub on the Tremont 1 ditch. During the upcoming year, a digital inventory is being taken of the ditch system to help us update our records and assess the overall condition. As part of this update, we will be asking everyone who withdraws water from the ditch to update his/her contract with us. We are hoping to have the agreements updated by summer 2015.

Water Quality

Dixon and Solano RCDs have been busy helping our water quality coalition members through the new requirements to maintain compliance with water quality regulations adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in March 2014. For a detailed discussion of the program, please visit our website to view the 2014-2015 newsletter (www.dixonrcd.org).

USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Will Be Moving

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies that we are housed with, Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), had to renew their lease. Unfortunately, the lease was not renewed in our current location. They will be moving to the same building as Solano Irrigation District (SID) and Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) located at 810 Vaca Valley Parkway in Vacaville (SID building).

Dixon RCD and Solano RCD are now faced with a decision about whether to remain in our current location or move to this new location with our Federal Partners. If the Districts move NRCS will continue to provide two work stations for each District. However, the Districts will now be responsible for renting additional space for the Irrigated Lands Program. The Board is reviewing overall cost difference between the two locations (current building & SID building) and the assessing other options.

The Board would like to know if the Ditch members have an opinion on office location. If Dixon RCD and Solano RCD remain at our current location, the office will remain in DRCD's ditch service area, which is potentially easier access for landowners. However, landowners and tenants will have to go to two different locations in order to talk with FSA/NRCS and the RCDs. If the RCDs move to the SID building, people will be able to come to one location to talk with everyone, staff will be able to foster better relationships with SCWA and SID staff, but the location will be outside of the DRCD's ditch service area in a potentially less convenient location.

If you have an opinion that you would like our Board to consider, please call (707) 678-1655 x105) or email (john-currey@dixonrcd.org) us by January 10, 2015.

Dixon Regional Watershed Joint Powers Authority

The Dixon Main Drain V-Drain enlargement project is continuing. The hope is to start construction in August 2015. The project expands the bottom of the DRCD's Main Drain and RD 2068's V-Drain to allow water to move into Hass Slough more quickly – lessening the duration of any flooding. We realize that drought has been more of a concern lately, but the project is still continuing in the hopes that everything will be completed before another flood happens.

Farm & Ranch Clean-Up

Dixon RCD secured and administered almost \$35,000 in Farm & Ranch Clean Up Grant funds from Cal RECYCLE to clean up a historic dump site on Yolano Road on behalf of Park Avenue Turf Company. The Farm and Ranch Clean-Up grant program is available to agricultural landowners that have illegally dump sites on their property. For more information contact Kelly Huff (707) 676-5611.

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

The CA Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) is currently reviewing proposals for a new grazing permit and a new rice farming lease on the wildlife area that will begin concurrent with the end of Dixon RCD's Master Lease Agreement on March 1, 2015. Dixon RCD and CDFW are considering entering into a new contract for Dixon RCD to continue to provide lease management services beyond March 2015.

DIXON RCD 2013-2014 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

2013/2014 Fiscal Year	Governmental Services		Professional Services			Combined District Operations
	Drainage Systems	Other Gov. Activities	Water Quality Coalition	Dixon Regional Watershed Authority	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area	
Revenues	\$ 81,342	\$ 151,800	\$ 72,112	\$ 24,026	\$ 90,009	\$ 419,289
Expenses	\$ 117,375	\$ 158,520	\$ 66,692	\$ 22,120	\$ 35,890	\$ 400,597
Net Position	\$ (36,033)	\$ (6,720)	\$ 5,420	\$ 1,906	\$ 54,119	\$ 18,692

DIXON RCD FINANCIAL APPROACH

The District continues to evaluate and monitor expenses and revenues based on two overall categories; Governmental Services and Professional Services.

Governmental Services include standard drainage services and assistance to landowners within the District to address natural resource concerns. The “Drainage Systems” revenue is from annual ditch maintenance fees and “Other Governmental Activities” revenue is from County tax base. Dixon RCD’s goal is to keep the net position between Drainage System and Other Governmental Activities close to a zero balance. As shown above the District incurred several new cost obligations to address the regional drainage issues: the preparation of the whitepaper, reviewing proposed development and financially supporting the Dixon Regional Watershed Joint Powers Authority to develop new drainage projects have increased the Governmental Services expenses.

Professional Services include providing staff to other programs and support services that benefit landowners and growers within the District and that further the mission of the District. The District has continued to accumulate revenues in excess of expenses from “Professional Services”. Some of these reserves are being used toward long-term improvements to local drainage and projects like the current effort to update and improve the District’s policies, drainage standards and records. As a result, we are able to invest in the future of the District while keeping the same \$2 per acre ditch maintenance fee since 1989.

DIXON RCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Director’s leadership and willingness to address problems over the past 60 years has improved our community. Today, the Board provides for the sound management and continued direction that enables staff to address critical issues. The Board is always interested in your input. If you would like to participate in the decisions and policies, consider applying to be a board member or an associate board member. There is presently a vacancy on the Board and we are always interested in adding associate directors. You can help the District direct current and future natural resource conservation efforts in our community. The Board meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 6pm (March-October) and at 12pm (November-February). If you would like more information, please contact John Currey.

With increasing statewide attention on the Sacramento Delta Region, and a recognition that resource conservation districts are an important way to work with local landowners and land users, the District will be faced with how best to serve our landowners in these changing times. There will be frustrations and opportunities to structure how Solano County landowners and growers interact with the Bay Delta Conservation Project (BDCP) process. If you have input on how to interact with this process on behalf of our members, the District Board is interested in your opinions and ideas.



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VISIT US ONLINE AT
DIXONRCD.ORG

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