



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

MINUTES

AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 25, 2023
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kurt Balasek
Paul Lum
Cork Mclsaac
Eric Schene
David Viguie

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Spencer Bei (Arrived at 6 pm)
Bruce Brazelton

COALITION STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly Huff
Chris Rose
Martha McKeen

Finances of the Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition

Ms. McKeen reviewed the program year-end projected final budget for 22/23.

Fiscal year budget 22/23 will finish \$42,412.71 more than expected due to a large carry-over with a net of \$16,941.02 and \$20,000 less in DRCD and SRCD staffing. The projected income vs. expenses for the year (Net Position) is \$-3,489.48 with an ending fund balance of **\$188,703.82**.

Fiscal year 23/24 will be a non-assessment year for monitoring and is expected to have a net position of (-\$55,427.87) for the year. FY 23/24 is projected to finish in the black by **\$83,275.95**. The **\$83,275.95** is in addition to a \$50,000 set aside for reserves so the ending fund balance is actually **\$133,275.95**. The FY 23/24 preliminary budget assumes the price of \$3.75/acre fee for irrigated land.



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The Committee Members collectively agree and recommend that both the 22/23 projected budget and the 23/24 preliminary budget be approved.

Ms. McKeen asked the Committee members to provide feedback on whether the current per/irrigated acre fee of \$3.75 should remain the same, increase, or decrease.

Based on the preliminary FY 23/24 budget review, the Committee recommended that the \$3.75 per/irrigated acre fee should remain the same for FY 23/24.

Policy Update-Groundwater Percentage in DMT

Ms. McKeen presented information to the Committee Members and requested their input and recommendation on the column we added to the DMT for the 2022 reporting season that requested the percentage of groundwater used by the grower on each field. We received about 40% response. The issue is we are not sure if the response we received was zero because they do not use groundwater or zero because they skipped the question. We would like to make the question a required response so the reporter (grower) would not be able to move forward with reporting if not answered. The Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Staff and the technical staff for the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) still feel that having the information on groundwater vs. surface water use for each field would be beneficial to the GSA. This data could possibly help in keeping costs down and keep the landowners from having to provide this information under a separate reporting system in the future. The Committee's recommendation was to add a range for the percentage 1-25, 26-50, 51-75, 76-100, and an opt-out like "Decline to state." Again, there is no cost to the Coalition.

The Committee members recommend that we move forward with the dropdown list and make the response required for the members for the CY 2023 farm reporting.

Program Update-Sacramento Valley Coalition Update – Cork McIsaac is the grower representative for the Sac Valley Coalition and attends meetings on behalf of the landowners enrolled in the Irrigated Land Regulatory Program - ILRP. He shared that there are many good things going on like Feather River being exempt from the program just as Goose Lake has been with no nitrogen or pesticides applied to Pasture which presents low risk to water quality. Mr. McIsaac provided an overview of valley-wide issues related to water quality.

No recommendation from the Committee was required for this agenda item.



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Policy and Program Review-Informational Only

Enrolled Acres-Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition are now asking members to enter their cropped/farmed acres in the irrigated acres column of the DMT even if the crop is not irrigated, use passive irrigation, in transition, or in rotation. This will require members to enter the nitrogen use and the other pages of the reporting for these acres. Fallow land is only land that is fallow due to lack of water.

Drinking Water Wells-Here are the current stats of the program as of May 1, 2023, for the Sacramento-Valley:

- 2100 on-farm drinking water well samples
- 272 of those exceeded the drinking water objective (10mg/L) for nitrate
- Equal to 13% of the wells sampled in the area.

The wells exceeding drinking water thresholds are clustered in Yolo/Solano Counties and around the Chico area.

A map of the drinking water well in Solano County on Geo Tracker was provided. Ms. McKeen will send a Geo Tracker tutorial to the Committee members.

Groundwater Protection Formulas, Values, and Targets-All of the coalitions in the Central Valley worked together on a strategy to meet requirements for groundwater protection formulas, values and targets for “high vulnerability” townships. A collective report was submitted to the Regional Board at the end of December 2022. These numbers will assign township level estimates of nitrates currently being contributed by irrigated agriculture, using the nitrogen applied and removed data from annual farm reporting. Then, starting in the highest priority groundwater basins (Priority 1 - Southern Central Valley), irrigated agriculture is working with other nitrate contributors (dairies, wastewater treatment, processors, etc.) to develop township and groundwater level basin plans for reaching improvement targets. Solano is not currently prioritized, but Yolo is in Priority 2. The take home for Solano County coalition members for now is to be as accurate as possible with nitrogen use reporting.

Online Payments-We will begin accepting online payments with *ALL PAID*, an online payment service and there is no cost to Special Districts. There will be a 2.25% cost to the Coalition member if they choose to use the service to pay their annual membership fees.

No recommendation from the Committee was required for this agenda item.

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