

MINUTES

Dixon / Solano Resource Conservation District (RCD) Water Quality Coalition

AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 3, 2021

6:00 pm – 7:15 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Martinez, Eric Schene, Paul Lum, David Viguie, Kurt Balasek and Cork Mclsaac

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGRETS: Spencer Bei

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Brazelton and Guy Garcia

COALITION STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Huff, Chris Rose and Martha McKeen

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed King

1. Related Programs Update:

Ms. Huff presented information on the related programs to the Committee Members and requested their input and recommendation on the level of involvement/coordination between the following groups/programs and the Coalition:

- Solano Subbasin's Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency (SGMA)
- Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability initiative (CV-SALTS)
- Other local dischargers (e.g. City of Vacaville, Solano County etc.) complying with pyrethroid monitoring and reporting requirements

Mr. Lum asked for clarification on which data from ILRP would be shared. Ms. Huff explained that the most likely data shared would be field by field cropping information as a proxy for water use. These program affect the same landowners and growers that our database holds information for and instead of charging landowners again for the development of another database in addition for asking for the data twice that we should share that information with the other agency groups.

Mr. McIsaac proclaimed that data sharing would be a cost savings to all involved and it made sense not to have to do the collection of the same or similar information again.

Mr. Martinez shared some concern about how SID might want to charge well users that are outside of their boundaries.

Mr. Balasek stated that water levels not water usage were the focus at this time. He feels that collaboration with SGMA and the other programs would be a good idea and supports the use of Coalition Staff time.

2. Finances of the Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition:

Ms. McKeen reviewed the program year end and projected final budget for 2020-2021 and the preliminary budget for 2021-2022 and asked for recommendations from the Committee Members. She also asked the Committee to review and provide recommendations on the 2021-2022 per irrigated acre member fee and cash reserves (cash on-hand) for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year budget.

Mr. McIsaac shared that the late fee should not be considered a revenue added into the budget (zero dollars were added in the preliminary budget) and the Wetland acreage dollars even if they are removed from the program, there are enough ending funds to cover the loss. Mr. Schene asked how many acres the Coalition had in Wetlands (1685 acres) and agreed that the Wetland acreage should remain in the budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 because we are not certain if they will be removed.

Mr. Viguie stated even with a net position of \$-72,491.00, the ending fund balance minus \$50,000 cash reserves is \$123,157.14 so the Coalition should be able to keep the member fees at current rate of \$3.75 per irrigated acre for the next year (2021-2022) then think about raising the fees fee the following year (2022-2023). Overall, the Committee Members discussed that the budget did not warrant changing the per irrigated acre membership fee at this time and it should remain at \$3.75.

Mr. Martinez was concerned about increasing the reserves. In the past while sitting on the DRCD Board, this was a topic of discussion that landowners might criticize the Coalition for having excess dollars in the budget when saying we were trying to keep costs as low as possible. Mr. McIsaac stated that the original reserves of \$50,000 was established for an unforeseen monitoring in case the State required it in the middle of a fiscal year. The Committee Members

collectively agreed that the reserves did not need to be increased and should remain at \$50,000.

3. Policy Update:

Ms. McKeen reviewed the current membership policy of revocation for failure to complete annual farm reporting and presented the Regional Board's request that Coalitions do not drop members for failure to report but rather put a checkmark next to their name of the annual participant's list to the Regional Board for failure to comply. The Regional Board will send a follow-up letter to the landowners requesting they comply with the requirements and letting them know about the possible fines that could occur if they do not.

Mr. Viguie was concerned that if the policy is changed there would then not be any a penalty like we currently have when the member has to pay the reinstatement fee to reenroll after being dropped from the program. Ms. McKeen reminded Mr. Viguie and the Committee Members that the Coalition has the late reporting fee for members that do not report on time. The Committee felt that as long as there was a consequence for failure to report, they would recommend the new policy.

All agenda items were discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.