



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

MINUTES

AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kurt Balasek
Eric Schene
Bruce Brazelton
Herb Wimmer
Sam Beukelman
Cork Mclsaac
Paul Lum
David Viguie

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

David Eldridge

COALITION STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly Huff, DRCD
Chris Rose, SRCD
Martha McKeen

The discussion began at 5:30 pm.

Finances of the Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition

Ms. McKeen reviewed the projected year-end budget for FY 25/26.

Projected FY 2025/2026 WQ Budget Ending Fund Balance is \$236,900.

With an overall projected net position of -\$11,789 (Initially projected ending balance of \$207,488 with a net position of -\$41,200.) The difference from preliminary to projected ending fund balances is +\$29,411.



Key reasons for the difference:

- A large Sac-Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) carry-over for (Nov 24 – Oct 25) of \$29,364
 - Breakdown: (Surface Water Monitoring -\$2,432, Groundwater Requirements \$15,893, Reporting \$12,723, SVWQC Prog. Mgmt. \$3,180)
- Approx. \$11K less in DRCD and SRCD staffing than expected, grant offset and less project and outreach hours used by all staff.

FY 26-27 Projected **Beginning Fund Balance** available are **\$236,900**

FY 26-27 Projected **Ending Fund Balance** (cash-on-hand on July 1, 2027) will be **\$185,103**.

After subtracting the minimum fund balance reserves of \$100,000, there would be a remaining balance of **\$85,103**.

Considerations:

Fiscal Year 26/27 will be another “Core” (or “Non-Assessment”) year for surface water monitoring. Overall, the Water Quality enrolled acres remain steady and the budget is stable. The WQ staff does not anticipated additional cost for the FY 2026/2027.

The committee discussed the next few year’s monitoring schedule and how this could affect the program costs in the upcoming years.

Mr. Lum asked for more explanation of the large carry-over. Ms. McKeen explained that the SVWQC budget is not finalized until late fall therefore the budget we project in May/June is based on mainly historical data and is not the final SVWQC budget. We budget for the cost of each program (Surface Water Monitoring, Groundwater Requirements, Reporting, and SVWQC Program Mgmt.) and do not consider the carry-over each year for budgeting due to its uncertainty. Ms. McKeen also mentioned that the State’s fees were estimated to be at a 5% increase for FY 2026/2027. Based on the meeting attended by Mr. Mclsaac, he stated the State may have some increase, but most likely not significant.

The Committee Members collectively agreed and recommended that the FY 25/26 projected year-end budget and FY 26/27 preliminary budget should be approved.

Fee Policy of the Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition

Ms. McKeen asked the committee members to provide feedback on whether the current per/irrigated acre fee of \$3.75 should remain the same, decrease or increase and possibility assessed an administrative fee be to each account/membership.

Ms. McKeen shared the multi-year comparison graph showing the actual per/acre program costs by year. The eight-year average for 2019-2026, is \$ 3.83 per/acre.



The committee members discussed these action items. Based on the preliminary budget for FY 26/27, they feel there is sufficient ending fund balance 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 the topic of an Admin fee 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 research the other Sac-Valley subwatershed's admin fee policies looking at small and large growers to include in next year's discussion for consideration.

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 26/27.
- Do not adopt an Admin fee at this time.

Membership Policy of the Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition

Ms. McKeen reviewed the current membership policy for reporting. Currently, we add the member's name and parcel number(s) to the participant's list with a note that the member did not report. The Regional Board can then send a reminder notification to the member.

Prior to 2019, the policy was to drop a member for failure to complete reporting until the Regional Board said it could no longer be done so we changed our policy. The proposed membership policy reinstates dropping a member if they do not complete their farm reporting by July 1. Mr. Wimmer stated that it seemed reasonable to drop the member for not reporting like we do for non-payment. Others agreed that the farm reporting has been due each year for the past 12 plus years. Mr. Viguie added that it takes additional staff time to try to gather these late reports from the members. Also, Mr. McIsaac suggested we send the certified letter June 1 for a 30-day notice, rather than on June 15. The committee concurred.

The committee recommend that we reinstate the dropping a member for failure to report. See Correspondence Policy for additional details.

Correspondence Policy of the Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition

Ms. McKeen reviewed the current policy and the proposed more streamlined version. The committee discussed the need for having a more streamlined policy to save staff time and therefore, cost to the program. The proposed changes could result in an annual saving of over \$2,000. Mr. Viguie stated members have been notified of the requirements of the program, it is not new and at this point, everyone should know the due dates for the annual membership



dues and farm reporting. The discussion led to the following recommendation(s) from the committee.

Invoices:

- October 1 – Send annual membership dues invoice via US mail
 - December 1 – Invoice due date
- March 15 – Reminder by text (or email or US mail, if applicable)
- June 1 – Send certified letter (final notice)
- July 1 – Membership is cancelled if not paid*

* Reserving flexibility for the coalition staff to extend the deadline or offer a payment plan to members who are experiencing a hardship and are unable to pay in full by the due date.

Farm reporting:

- December 1 – Send farm reporting letter via email (or US mail, if applicable) with note that there will be less reminders.
 - February 15 – Farm reporting due date
- March 15 – Reminder by text (or email or US mail, if applicable)
- June 1 – Send certified letter (final notice)
- July 1 – Membership is cancelled if failure to report*

* Reserving flexibility for the coalition staff to extend the deadline to members who are experiencing unforeseen circumstances that has cause them the inability to report on time.

Tech Policy of the Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition

Ms. McKen reviewed the addition of a new tech policy by adding a mass texting service. This service should reduce the costs for reminders and for correspondence to non-reporting and non-payment members. It is estimated that it would save approx. \$1,200 per year (possibly more) after subtracting the \$720.00 (\$59/month) estimated cost of the service.

The advisory committee discussed the mass texting proposals and agreed that Option 2 is the preferred approach. The consensus is that this option is most likely to generate a response from the majority of our members.

The advisory committee recommendation to the Boards that they adopted the tech policy for a mass texting service at the \$59/month rate.



Coalition and Program Updates (Informational Only)

ENROLLED ACRES:

The acreage in the D/S RCD Water Quality Coalition appears to have stabilized at roughly 120,000 acres. We continue to work with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to get any remaining irrigated acres within Coalition boundaries enrolled.

The coalition staff will keep a close eye on the surrounding areas proposed for development. This potential reduction of approx. 2500 enrolled acres could impact the cost of the program for members.

COORDINATION WITH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES (GSA):

Coordination efforts continue by providing reporting data and assistance with outreach and well recruitment for areas with data gaps to local well owners in the lower portion of Solano County. The well sampling is mainly tracking water levels and also water quality, if owner agrees, at no-cost and they can request the sampling results to be sent to them. Monitoring costs are paid by the GSA, with grant funds from a CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) Implementation Grant and/or fees.

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

The DMT reporting for groundwater/surface water use on crops continues to be useful information and has proved to be beneficial to fill data gaps for the GSA.

DRINKING WATER WELLS (DWW):

As of January 2022, all members with actively used drinking water wells on enrolled parcels needed to have their well tested for nitrates.

Here are the stats in Solano County from the Regional Board as of May 5, 2026:

Sac Valley

- Total samples submitted: 4518
- Exceedances: 480
- % of samples exceeded: 10.6%

Solano County

- Total samples submitted: 528
- Exceedances: 122
- % of samples exceeded: 23.1%
- Out of all Sac-Valley exceedances, % from Solano: 25.4%



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GROUNDWATER PROTECTION TARGETS (GWPT):

Groundwater Protection Targets have been developed for HVA - high vulnerability area townships in Solano County and we await the Regional Board's approval of the report to move forward with requirements for nitrogen for growers to meet the new target(s). Details will be provided as we know them.

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

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

Ms. Huff stated that members in the Yolo Subbasin MZ are paying an additional \$2.15 per/acre on top of the ILRP fees.

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 possibility that this area will be prioritized in the future.

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 6:45 pm.