

Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022
7:00 P.M.

NOTE: This meeting is being agendized to allow Board Members, staff, and the public to participate in the meeting via teleconference, pursuant to [AB 361 \(Government Code section 54953\(e\)\)](#).

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Tuesday, April 5, 2022 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (PDT)

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Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor's Office, in order to minimize the spread of COVID-19, please consider the following:

1. You are strongly encouraged to observe the live stream of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Board of Directors' meeting (see details above).
2. If you are joining the meeting via GoToMeeting and wish to make a comment on an item, please provide your comment in the chat box to "YCFC&WCD Board of Directors". You will be called by name or phone number when it is your turn to comment.
3. If you choose not to observe the Board of Directors' meeting but wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2022. Please submit your comment to Christina Cobey at ccobey@ycfcwcd.org to place your comment into the Board meeting record.
4. If you are watching/listening to the live stream of the Board meeting and wish to make either a general public comment or to comment on a specific agenda item as it is being heard, you may submit your comment to Kristin Sicke at ksicke@ycfcwcd.org. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting.

Public documents relating to any open session item listed on this agenda that are distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours before the meeting are available for public inspection by scheduling an appointment with Christina Cobey at (530) 662-0265 or ccobey@ycfcwcd.org.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting please contact Christina Cobey. Requests should be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

AGENDA

- 7:00 1. Consideration: Re-authorize Teleconference Meetings as a Result of the COVID-19 Emergency
- 7:05 2. Consideration: Adoption of the March 1, 2022 Regular and March 14, 2022 Special Board Meetings' Minutes
- 7:07 3. Open forum (Limited to five minutes): Guest introductions, unscheduled appearances, opportunity for public comment on non-agenda items
- 7:12 4. Consideration: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda
In order to add an item to the agenda, it must fit one of the following categories:
a) A majority determination that an emergency (as defined by the Brown Act) exists; or
b) A 4/5ths determination that the need to take action that arose subsequent to the agenda being posted.
- 7:15 5. Presentation: RD 2035 Conaway Ranch Salmon Habitat Floodplain Reactivation Project and West Side Levee Project
- 7:45 6. Director's Report: Report on meetings and conferences attended during the prior month on behalf of the District
- 7:50 7. Attorney's Report: Report on legal matters of concern to the District
- 7:55 8. General Manager's Report: Report regarding current general activities and projects of the District
a) Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions
b) Financial Report
c) Capital Improvement Program
d) YSGA Update
e) General Activities
f) Upcoming Events

8:15 9. General Discussion: Opportunity for clarification or additional information request

8:20 10. Consideration: Consider the approval and the payment of bills

8:25 11. Closed Session: Bay-Delta

Closed session conference with legal counsel for existing administrative proceeding and anticipated litigation/significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, subsections (d)(1) and (d)(2) – State Water Resources Control Board Bay/Delta Plan update proceeding.

8:45 12. Adjourn

The public may address the Board concerning an agenda item either before or during the Board’s consideration of that agenda item. Public comment on items within the Board’s jurisdiction is welcome, subject to reasonable time limits for each speaker. Upon request, agenda items may be moved up to accommodate those in attendance wishing to address that item. Times listed for consideration of agenda items are approximate only. The Board may consider any agenda item at any time during the Board meeting.

I declare that the foregoing agenda was posted at the office of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, CA on April 1, 2022.

By: _____
Christina Cobey, Administrative Assistant

YOLO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 5, 2022

ITEM #: 1

SUBJECT: Consideration: Re-authorize Teleconference Meetings as a Result of the COVID-19 Emergency

INITIATED OR BOARD
REQUESTED BY: STAFF
 OTHER _____

COORDINATED OR
PREPARED BY: Kristin Sicke
APPROVED BY: Kristin Sicke

ATTACHMENT YES NO
 DIRECTION

INFORMATION
 ACTION: MOTION
 RESOLUTION

BACKGROUND:

Yolo County health officer has recommended that local government boards, commissions, and councils continue to meet remotely given the continued threat of COVID-19. Assembly Bill 361 passed in September 2021, which allows virtual board meetings to continue until January 1, 2024. In order to meet remotely, government agencies must make findings every 30 days that the existing state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet in person, or state officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the Board 1) find that, as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and 2) hold meetings by teleconference as authorized by subdivision (e)(1)(C) of Section 54953 of the Government Code.

YOLO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 5, 2022

ITEM #: 2

SUBJECT: Consideration: Adoption of the March 1, 2022 Regular and March 14, 2022 Special Board Meetings' Minutes

INITIATED OR BOARD
REQUESTED BY: STAFF
 OTHER _____

COORDINATED OR
APPROVED BY: Kristin Sicke

ATTACHMENT YES NO
 DIRECTION

INFORMATION
 ACTION: MOTION
 RESOLUTION

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to Section 54957.5 of the Brown Act, copies of the draft minutes are available to the public on the District's website and at the District office prior to their approval.

In advance of the Board meeting, staff request the Directors notify staff if a correction is needed in the draft minutes to clarify a substantial point or to correct content. Staff will make the appropriate change(s) and submit the revised draft for review to the Board and the public at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

District staff recommend the adoption of the attached minutes with any corrections.



Y O L O C O U N T Y
FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 7:00 PM

YCFC&WCD Offices
34274 State Highway 16
Woodland, CA 95695

Due to the threat of COVID-19 and pursuant to the [AB 361 \(Government Code section 54953\(e\)\)](#), the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) was agendized to allow Board members, staff, and the public to participate in the meeting via teleconference. The meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 remotely via GoToMeeting. Chair Vink convened the meeting. The following people were remotely in attendance:

District Board

Erik Vink, Chair

Tom Barth

Mary Kimball

Jim Mayer

Shane Tucker

District Staff

Kristin Sicke, General Manager

Andrew Ramos, Legal Counsel

Members of the Public

Taylor Broadhead

Charles Delgado

Cork McIsaac

Dave Pratt

Taryn Ravazzini

Kate Reza

1. CONSIDERATION: Re-authorize Teleconference Meetings as a Result of COVID-19 Emergency

District staff recommended the Board find that, as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to health and safety of attendees and recommend the Board hold meetings by teleconference as authorized by Section 54953 (e)(1)(C) of Government Code.

M/S/C found that, as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees and as authorized by Government Code Section 54953 (e)(1)(C) meetings will be held by teleconference.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

2. CONSIDERATION: Approval of Minutes

M/S/C approved the minutes of the February 1, 2022 regular Board meeting.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

3. OPEN FORUM

There were no comments.

4. CONSIDERATION: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda

There were no changes made to the agenda.

5. PRESENTATION: Sustainable Conservation's Groundwater Recharge Efforts

General Manager Sicke introduced Sustainable Conservation's (Conservation) Policy Director Charles Delgado and Project Manager Taylor Broadhead prior to their presentation on Conservation's groundwater recharge efforts.

Broadhead reviewed the [technical support](#) that Conservation provides to growers, non-profit partners, and government agencies related to groundwater recharge, which includes on-farm assistance, soil health impact assessments, crop compatibility calendars, a recharge methods manual, and the [Groundwater Recharge Assessment Tool \(GRAT\)](#). Broadhead discussed some of the regenerative agriculture practices for modifying fields to slow the spread of water and ensure runoff capture and retention. The Directors and Broadhead engaged in a discussion about possible ways to ground truth the true quantity of recharged water, such as an isotope study or a defined monitoring plan connected to an isolated or confined aquifer. Lastly, Broadhead mentioned Conservation's current 'On-Farm Recharge Pilot Site Program 2022' opportunity where

Conservation is looking to recruit four to six willing growers for on-farm pilot recharge projects to demonstrate and promote successful grower experiences. This opportunity will likely be limited by available water in the 2022 Water Year, but Conservation is interested in extending the opportunity to next year.

Delgado reviewed Conservation's core mission to achieve a sustainable groundwater future and incentivize responsible actors and pioneers that are leading groundwater recharge policy innovations. Conservation maintains effective relationships with the State Water Board, Department of Water Resources, and Department of Fish and Wildlife, and is currently examining ways in which we can improve or streamline agency processes related to groundwater recharge. Delgado presented on Conservation's involvement in the evaluation of the current water right system and the potential revamping of the State's water right system to eliminate inadequacies.

On behalf of the Directors, Chair Vink thanked Broadhead and Delgado for their time.

6. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Director Mayer reported on NCWA's bi-monthly coordination task force meetings with state, federal, and water district managers, which allow for interagency coordination in preparing and planning changes in flow standards and processing of water transfers. He also reported on NCWA's Board meeting, annual meeting, and North State Drinking Water Solutions Network Webinar.

Director Kimball had nothing to report.

Director Tucker reported on his very enjoyable field trip with Senior Advisor Tim O'Halloran to come up to speed on District activities. He also reported on his review and requested sharing of the Kaweah GSA presentation on their groundwater allocation process for GSP implementation.

Director Barth reported on participating in the District's meeting with Clearlake Oaks County Water District to continue negotiations for a long-term water sales agreement. He also reported on his participation in the District's Finance Committee meeting with Chair Vink. He reported on his involvement in the Hungry Hollow Area Community Groundwater meeting, and the upcoming objective to identify priorities, define the problem, evaluate near-term solutions, and implement action for long-term change in the Hungry Hollow area.

Vink reported on his participation at the Finance Committee meeting on February 23, 2022.

7. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

Legal Counsel Ramos reported that Governor Newsom's Emergency Proclamation was amended the week before and that the Yolo County Public Health Officer advised it was okay to conduct in-person meetings.

8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Sicke provided reports on the following:

- a) Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions
- b) Financial Report Summary – Highlights from the February 28, 2022 Financial Statements Report were reviewed, and the actual FY 2021/2022 Budget was compared to the projected FY 2021/2022 Budget. Additionally, there was a review of items discussed at the February 23, 2022 Finance Committee meeting, which included a discussion of Larsen Wurzel and Associates' current alternative funding assessment and planning related to FY 2022/2023. As part of the discussion, the Board of Directors discussed scheduling a special Board meeting on March 14, 2022 to have a focused discussion on the upcoming fiscal year activities and budget.
- c) Capital Improvement Program – An update on the planning activities related to capital projects was provided.
- d) YSGA Update – An update on Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency's 2022 *Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan* implementation activities was provided.
- e) General Activities – A list of outreach activities and projects both in-house and coordinated with other agencies was reviewed.
- f) The following upcoming events were announced:
 1. YSGA Working Group Meeting (March 3)
 2. Assessment & Alternatives Analysis for Reducing Flooding on Hwy. 16 (Mar. 3)
 3. NCWA Annual Meeting (March 4 & 11)
 4. NCWA Bay-Delta Task Force Meeting (March 7)
 5. Meeting with State Water Board to Discuss Winter Water Right Permit (March 9)
 6. North Yolo – South Colusa Recharge Meeting (March 10)
 7. YSGA: HUH Area Community – Groundwater Subcommittee Mtg. (March 10)
 8. WRA/YSGA Executive Committees' Meetings (March 14)
 9. NCWA Groundwater Task Force Meeting (March 14)
 10. NCWA Coordination Task Force Meeting (March 15)
 11. YSGA: Colusa Drain MWC Annual Board Meeting (March 16)
 12. NCWA Water Managers' Meeting (March 18)
 13. WRA Technical Committee Ad Hoc Drought Task Force Meeting (March 18)
 14. WRA/YSGA Board of Directors' Meetings (March 21)
 15. Yolo County Board of Supervisors Meeting – Drought Update (March 22)
 16. California Water Data Consortium Meeting (March 22)
 17. Jeanette Wrynski's Retirement Party (March 24)
 18. WRA Technical Committee Meeting (April 7)
 19. ACWA / ACWA JPIA 2022 Spring Conference (May 3-6)

9. GENERAL DISCUSSION

There was no general discussion.

10. CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills

M/S/C approved the following claims for payment – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Checks # 60935-60945.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Erik Vink, Chair

ATTEST:

Kristin Sicke, Secretary



Y O L O C O U N T Y
FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING (WORKSHOP)
MINUTES**

Monday, March 14, 2022, 5:00 PM

**YCFC&WCD Offices
34274 State Highway 16
Woodland, CA 95695**

A special meeting (workshop) of the Board of Directors of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) was held at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2022, at its regular place of business, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, California. Chair Vink convened the meeting. The following people were in attendance at the special meeting:

District Board

Erik Vink, Chair
Tom Barth
Mary Kimball
Jim Mayer
Shane Tucker

District Staff

Kristin Sicke, General Manager
Tim O'Halloran, Senior Advisor

1. OPEN FORUM

There were no comments.

2. STAFF PRESENTATION AND BOARD DISCUSSION: Staff and Board Discussion of District Mission, Opportunities, and Long-Term Sustainability Strategies

The Board and staff reviewed and discussed key issues related 1) the FY 2022/23 Budget development with deficit considerations, 2) the plan for generating additional revenue in the future as proposed by the Larsen Wurzel and Associates assessment, and 3) the dynamics involved in the first year of implementing the Yolo Subbasin GSP.

3. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Erik Vink, Chair

ATTEST:

Kristin Sicke, Secretary

YOLO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 5, 2022

ITEM #: 5

SUBJECT: Presentation: RD 2035 Conaway Ranch Salmon Habitat Floodplain
Reactivation Project and West Side Levee Project

INITIATED OR BOARD
REQUESTED BY: STAFF
 OTHER _____

COORDINATED OR
PREPARED BY: Kristin Sicke
APPROVED BY: Kristin Sicke

ATTACHMENT YES NO
 DIRECTION

INFORMATION
 ACTION: MOTION
 RESOLUTION

BACKGROUND:

The Conaway Preservation Group (Conaway), owners of the Conaway Ranch (Ranch), and Reclamation District 2035 are proposing a floodplain reactivation project, which would take advantage of flows available from the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project being implemented by USBR and DWR (Freemont Weir “Big Notch”). Conaway’s project envisions degrading of northern portions of the Yolo Bypass west levee to allow for periodic inundation of about 2,000 acres of the Ranch to create rearing and foraging habitat for salmon and steelhead fry and smolts. An additional 2,000 acres could be flooded periodically to create food sources for salmon once lands were drained but would not be subject to direct use by fish. Finally, a third component envisions creating a 295-acre linear wetland enhancement along the Tule Canal within the Ranch. Conaway is seeking grant funding to conduct a collaborative design development process involving interested parties and stakeholders to develop an implementation project with necessary permits and approvals. You can read more on NCWA’s blog at the following link: <https://norcalwater.org/2021/12/15/conaway-ranch-proposing-new-project-to-benefit-fish-and-birds-in-the-yolo-bypass/>.

Conaway also proposes for consideration in the statewide flood planning process the West Side Levee Project, which would allow for decommissioning portions of the West Yolo Bypass Levee on the Conaway Ranch and creating new levees on the west side of the Conaway Ranch protecting Woodland. This would provide more flood accommodation space, enhance flood protection for lands in east Woodland, avoids costs to rehabilitate the

Bypass West Levee and could work in conjunction with a floodplain reactivation project or other salmon restoration objectives.

RECOMMENDATION:

This agenda item is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.