



Y O L O C O U N T Y

FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 5, 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, April 5, 2022 remotely via GoToMeeting. Chair Vink convened the meeting. The following people were remotely in attendance:

District Board

Erik Vink, Chair
Tom Barth
Jim Mayer
Shane Tucker

District Staff

Kristin Sicke, General Manager
Ryan Bezerra, Legal Counsel

Members of the Public

Jim Barrett
Byron Buck
Marianne Estes
Cork McIsaac
Kate Reza
Jeanette Wrynsinski

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.

22.16 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, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: Director Kimball

Abstain: None

2. CONSIDERATION: Approval of Minutes

22.17 M/S/C approved the minutes of the March 1, 2022 regular and March 14, 2022 special Board meetings.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: Director Kimball

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: RD 2035 Conaway Ranch Salmonid Habitat Floodplain Reactivation Project and West Side Levee Project

General Manager Sicke introduced Conaway Ranch's Natural Resources Director Byron Buck to provide a presentation on the *Conaway Ranch Salmonid Habitat Floodplain Reactivation Project* and *West Side Levee Project*.

Buck provided a brief overview of the historical extent of flooding and floodplain losses in the Central Valley; we have lost approximately 90% of floodplains in the Sacramento Valley. Buck highlighted the importance of floodplains in providing rearing habitat and influencing early ocean survival for fish. The food source in the rivers is not adequate and fish need access to better habitat for improving their strength and ensuring higher survival rates. Buck stated that there were three reactivation/restoration modes included in *Conaway's Integrated Floodplain Reactivation*

Proposal: 1) floodplain reactivation with fish feeding and rearing; 2) floodplain reactivation for fish food production; and 3) permanent wetland re-creation for year-round fish, waterfowl, and other aquatic species. Buck reviewed maps that illustrated the proposed modifications to levees and properties to provide the farmed floodplain reactivation and Tule Canal corridor restoration. The project will be receiving five million dollars in federal funding and includes support from many non-governmental entities.

Buck stated that Conaway is working with DWR to integrate this project with the State's floodplain restoration projects.

Buck provided a brief overview of a map illustrating the potential *West Levee Setback Project* that Conaway Ranch is investigating, which involves modification to the levees surrounding their property to increase floodplain areas and receive compensation for flood easements.

Director Mayer asked whether there were the appropriate considerations for houses in and around the County Road 103 area and Buck said he would be sure to investigate that. Additionally, Mayer asked about what would happen to the existing levees, and Buck informed the Board that the existing levees would stay intact. Mayer also asked how this project relates to the Fremont Weir Notch Project and how those modified operations may affect the agricultural activities on Conaway Ranch's property. Buck relayed that there will be a change in the timing of when the property can be planted; early access will likely not be available.

Mayer and Chair Vink thanked Buck for his presentation and for thinking creatively about the landscape and advancing and working with NCWA's initiatives.

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 and Bay-Delta Task Force meetings.

Director Barth reported on participating in the District's exploratory meeting with Mike and Lee Smith regarding Yolo-Zamora water supply planning and the future need for annexation. Additionally, he reported on participating in a meeting with General Manager Sicke and Yolo County Supervisor Gary Sandy and Natural Resources Manager Elisa Sabatini to discuss the Governor's Executive Order (N-7-22) and required change in well permitting procedures.

Director Tucker reported on his participation in the District's Infrastructure Committee meeting on March 30, 2022 along with Director Mary Kimball.

Chair Vink had nothing to report.

7. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

Legal Counsel Bezerra reported on the Governor's March 28, 2022 Executive Order ([N-7-22](#)) along with the proposed bills listed below.

- [SB 1205: Water Rights: appropriation](#)
- [AB 1717: Public Works: definition](#)
- [AB 2201: Groundwater Sustainability Agency: groundwater extraction permit: verification](#)
- [AB 2313: Water: judges and adjudications](#)
- [AB 2639: San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary: water quality control plan: water rights permits](#)
- [AB 2895: Water: permits and licenses: temporary changes: water or water rights transfers](#)

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 March 31, 2022 Financial Statements Report were reviewed, and the actual FY 2021/2022 Budget was compared to the projected FY 2021/2022 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 Special Board of Directors Meeting (April 6)
 2. Water Education Foundation's Groundwater Tour: Capay Dam Site Visit (April 7)
 3. Drought Coordination with Yolo County Staff (April 7)
 4. Sacramento Valley Discussion with DWR on Executive Order (April 7)
 5. YSGA: Hungry Hollow Area Community – Groundwater Subcommittee Meeting (April 7)
 6. Yolo County BOS Meeting: Drought Update (April 12)
 7. YSGA Ad Hoc Drought Contingency Planning Committee (April 13)
 8. WRA TC Ad Hoc Drought Task Force Meeting (April 14)

9. WRA/YSGA Executive Committees' Meetings (April 18)
10. Yolo County Climate Compact Meeting (April 22)
11. NCWA Groundwater Task Force Meeting (April 26)
12. YSGA Ad Hoc Committee to Reconsider Voting and Fees (April 28)
13. Yolo County/Farm Bureau Coordination Meeting (May 2)
14. NCWA Bay-Delta Task Force Meeting (May 2)
15. ACWA 2022 Spring Conference (May 3-6)

9. GENERAL DISCUSSION

There was no general discussion.

10. CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills

22.18 M/S/C approved the following claims for payment – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Checks # 61041-61055 and e-payment 47.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: Director Kimball

Abstain: None

11. CLOSED SESSION

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.

Closed Session Report: Chair Vink reported that the Directors, General Manager Sicke, and Legal Counsel Bezerra participated in the closed session item and that there was nothing to report.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Erik Vink, Chair

ATTEST:

Kristin Sicke, Secretary

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