



Y O L O C O U N T Y

FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 5, 2022, 7:00 PM

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

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at its regular place of business, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, California. Chair Vink convened the meeting. The following people were in attendance:

District Board

Erik Vink, Chair
Jim Mayer
Shane Tucker

District Staff

Kristin Sicke, General Manager
Andrew Ramos, Legal Counsel
Kristin Peer, Legal Counsel

Members of the Public

Jim Barrett
Scott Bradford
Patrick McLafferty
Chris Ott
Lee Smith

1. CONSIDERATION: Approval of Minutes

22.25 M/S/C approved the minutes of the June 7, 2022 regular Board meeting.

Ayes: Directors Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: Directors Barth and Kimball

Abstain: None

2. OPEN FORUM

There were no comments.

3. CONSIDERATION: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda

There were no changes made to the agenda.

4. PRESENTATION: Utilizing Excess Storm Flows for Groundwater Recharge on Agricultural Lands

General Manager Sicke briefly reviewed the District's history with diverting excess storm flows at the Capay Diversion Dam for retention in the District's earthen canal system and ultimately, percolation to the groundwater aquifer. Sicke discussed the vision to convey excess storm flows across a broader landscape and increase the available surface area for water retention and percolation. Sicke announced a potential pilot project opportunity to partner with Eaton Drilling (Eaton) in the hopes of successfully implementing an on-farm recharge program. Sicke introduced Eaton's Chief Operating Officer, Chris Ott, to provide additional details on the proposed public-private-partnership.

Ott informed the Board of his work in the Alexander Valley assisting in the development of a groundwater recharge program that involves farmers, municipalities, and the Pomo Indians. The Alexander Valley project inspired him to consider something similar in Yolo County; given the District's existing storm water diversion project, established infrastructure for farmgate deliveries, and existing customer base, he believes the District would be an excellent partner. Eaton is in the process of transitioning its strategic focus to incorporate sustainable water management in the company's mission. The proposed partnership concept entails Eaton and the District working together to develop a grant application for implementing an on-farm recharge program: delivering excess storm water to farm fields and tracking and monitoring deliveries and groundwater elevations. The project would likely include the installation of new farmgate deliveries or field (on-site) equipment for proper monitoring, along with a water availability analysis for the District to make progress on its long-term winter water right application for the State Water Board.

Director Mayer suggested that Eaton and Sicke create a summary of roles and responsibilities of each party detailing the partnership arrangement prior to proceeding with a potential grant opportunity.

5. PRESENTATION: USDA Agricultural Research Service Sustainable Agricultural Water Systems Unit

General Manager Sicke introduced Dr. Scott Bradford of the USDA Agricultural Research Service Sustainable Agricultural Water Systems Unit. Dr. Bradford provided a presentation on the use of drywells to enhance or increase groundwater recharge. Dr. Bradford reviewed his recent research for the McMullin Project in Helm, California. The McMullin Project utilizes Kings River flood water for transport of surface water through the vadose zone via the dry wells strategically located at a test site. Dr. Bradford and his team are monitoring the vadose zone to effectively determine when the surface water enters certain soil layers in the ground. Numeric modeling simulates the hydraulic properties throughout the test site to demonstrate the rate and effectiveness of recharge via the drywells.

There were general discussions about installation costs and maintenance of the drywells. Sicke reported that she would continue to work with Dr. Bradford to consider a potential test site for a drywell in Yolo County (assuming a funding opportunity arises).

6. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Director Mayer reported on participating in NCWA's Groundwater Management Task Force meeting and preparing for a conversation with DWR on ways to lessen regulatory barriers for groundwater recharge. Mayer reported that the NCWA Board of Directors were meeting on July 6, 2022 to receive a legislative update and review the annual budget.

Director Tuckers and Vink had nothing to report.

7. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Legal Counsel Ramos introduced Kristin Peer as a new BKS attorney. Peer recently transitioned from CalEPA and has good expertise in matters that are relevant to the District so she will be an asset to the team.

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 June 30, 2022 Financial Statements Report were reviewed, and the actual FY 2022/2023 Budget was compared to the projected FY 2022/2023 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 (in-house and coordinated with other agencies) was reviewed.
- f) The following upcoming events were announced:
 1. YCFB’s Young Farmers & Ranchers Meeting (June 8)
 2. WRA TC Ad Hoc Drought Task Force (June 9)
 3. YCFB / YSGA Workshop (June 9)
 4. YSGA: Hungry Hollow Area Groundwater Subcommittee Meeting (June 9)
 5. WRA / YSGA Executive Committees’ Meetings (June 13)
 6. NCWA: Groundwater Task Force Meeting (June 13)
 7. NCWA’s Coordination Task Force Meeting (June 14)
 8. Interview with Ricardo Amon (June 15)
 9. ACWA Legislative Committee (June 20)
 10. NCWA Voluntary Updates, Coordination Meeting (June 20)
 11. WRA / YSGA Board of Directors Meetings (June 20)
 12. YSGA: Hungry Hollow Area Community Town Hall Meeting (June 22)
 13. YCFB / YSGA SGMA Public Workshop (June 28)
 14. RD 108’s 150th Celebration (June 29)
 15. County / Farm Bureau Coordination Meeting (July 5)
 16. NCWA Voluntary Updates, Coordination Meeting (July 5)

9. GENERAL DISCUSSION

There was no general discussion.

10. CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills

22.26 M/S/C approved the following claims for payment – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Checks # 61347-61355.

Ayes: Directors Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: Directors Barth and 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 Ramos 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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