



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 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 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at its regular place of business, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, California. Chair Mayer convened the meeting. The following people were in attendance:

District Board

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

District Staff

Kristin Sicke, General Manager
 Erik Cadaret, Assistant General Manager
 Kim Villa, Finance Director
 Morgan Biggerstaff, Legal Counsel (closed session via teleconference)

Members of the Public

Jim Barrett
 Duane Chamberlain
 Ed Ketchum
 Heather Nichols, Yolo County RCD
 Erica Pastor, MUN CPAs
 Lee Smith

1. CONSIDERATION: Approval of Minutes

24 . 36 M/S/C approved the minutes of the September 6, 2024 Regular Board meeting minutes.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Mayer, Kimball, and Tucker

Noes: None

Absent: Director Vink

Abstain: None

2. OPEN FORUM

Duane Chamberlain asked if the weeds along the roads will be taken care of soon. Sicke responded that our team has cleaned weeds along the roads near Chamberlain's properties and we contract with the County to do weed control each year.

3. CONSIDERATION: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda

There were no changes made to the agenda.

4. CONSIDERATION: Review of Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Independent Audit

Erica Pastor, CPA and Partner of Mann, Urutia, Nelson, CPAs & Associates, LLP (MUN CPAs) reviewed the requirements for an independent audit (Audit) and stated that the Audit resulted in a clean unqualified report for the District. She then reviewed the highlights of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/2024 Audit, including any significant changes from FY 2022/2023. Pastor reported there were no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or compliance exceptions.

Director Barth thanked Pastor for her presentation and the MUN CPAs team for their work as part of the District's Audit. Sicke also acknowledged Financial Director Kim Villa's excellent work as part of the Audit, especially in light of her recent onboarding and transition from Financial Supervisor Barbara McGriff.

District staff recommended the Board accept the filing of the FY 2023/2024 Independent Audit.

24 . 37 M/S/C accepted the filing of the FY 2023/2024 Independent Audit.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

5. PRESENTATION: Yolo County RCD's Putah-Cache Watershed Restoration Program

General Manager Sicke introduced Heather Nichols with the Yolo County RCD (RCD) and appreciated the working relationship with the RCD while the District assisted with vegetation management in Cache Creek as directed by RCD's staff. Nichols presented on the RCD's Putah-Cache Watershed Restoration Program, where she educated us on how Arundo is detrimental to

our watersheds because Arundo 1) is fire prone, 2) promotes erosion and flooding, 3) uses three to five times more water than native vegetation, and 4) degrades quality of riparian and aquatic wildlife habitat. In 2020, RCD received grant funding to remove Arundo within the Putah and Cache Creek watersheds and to-date, has worked with 75% of landowners through 235 individual agreements to treat about 64 of the 256 total acres over 64.5 of the 91.6 total river miles in Yolo and Solano Counties. Nichols reviewed photographic examples of activities involved in the removal of Arundo such as mowing, cutting and chipping, and cut stump treatment, along with restoration activities like post treatment native planting. Nichols reviewed an upcoming grant opportunity with the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects Grant Program. The RCD is interested in partnering with the District to secure additional funding for Arundo removal in the Putah-Cache Watershed.

Chair Mayer asked how many additional acres will be included in a grant proposal to the Bureau and Nichols reported that 25 acres would be proposed with a focused effort on restoration of the area. Mayer also asked whether the RCD was treating areas that there were in partnership with Yocha Dehe and Nichols reported that they were working closely with Yocha Dehe.

Ed Ketchum asked whether the US Army Corps of Engineers is completing their required vegetation removal in Putah Creek, and Nichols was unaware of the federal program requirements.

Lee Smith inquired whether the RCD is focusing treatment efforts where there are multiple benefits because in addition to the habitat benefits landowners may have interest in cost sharing with the RCD and partners to complete other vegetation removal or restoration work while they are on site completing Arundo removal. Additionally, Smith requested that the Arundo be removed or burned after moved out of the waterway because it can play a role in flooding farmers' fields and county roads by clogging sloughs and canals. Nichols acknowledged the multi-benefit collaboration comment as a good idea that may be limited by available staffing and funding resources and took note of the need to get the Arundo out of the way prior to the rainy season.

Director Vink asked if there are other invasive plants that can be included, and Nichols noted that tamarisk could be incorporated into future funding requests.

Director Kimball asked if the proposal would include monitoring what's already been done, and Nichols suggested that would be ideal, but they were still determining whether that would be an eligible grant expense.

Chair Mayer thanked Nichols for her time in presenting to the Board and commented on looking forward to additional information on potential grant proposal collaboration.

6. PRESENTATION: Potential for Restoration of Off-Channel Mining Pits

General Manager Sicke introduced Jim Barrett, a neighbor to the District's Moore Siphon property, and a conservationist that serves on the Cache Creek Conservancy Board. Barrett provided a helpful history of the riparian forest that existed on Cache Creek prior to mining activities. Yolo County's Off-Channel Mining Plan (OCMP) presents a comprehensive and integrated planning framework for regulating and protecting the Cache Creek area, and currently allows for agricultural production, wetland restoration, and groundwater recharge and storage as restoration activities. Barrett has an interest in investigating the benefit of restoring the off-channel mining pits to wetlands and revising the OCMP to allow for that as a higher priority reclamation activity, if agricultural production is no longer viable.

Director Kimball noted that restoration efforts may be a viable option since there has not been one case of successful reclamation to agricultural production to-date. Chair Mayer thanked Barrett for his time in presenting to the Board and commented on looking forward to additional updates from Barrett on his collaboration with Yolo County to update the 2026 OCMP progresses.

7. PRESENTATION: YSGA Update

General Manager Sicke and Assistant General Manager Cadaret presented updates on the YSGA that included an explanation on the new Governor's EO that removed the requirement for well permitting verification from the GSA and coordination with the County on a potential temporary urgency ordinance. Additionally, there was an update provided on the Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group and plans for the October 2, 2024 meeting.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Directors Mayer and Vink have proactively conducted outreach related to the *Healthy Rivers and Landscapes* initiative. Director Mayer will be attending NCWA and DWR meetings in October. Directors Tucker and Barth attended the Farmers' Council meeting at the end of September and participated in meetings to discuss the Geysers water supply agreement. Director Barth met with Supervisor Barajas and Director Vink met with Supervisor Villegas to discuss the *Healthy Rivers and Landscapes* initiative. Director Tucker hosted a farm tour for the incoming County Supervisor Sheila Allen. Director Kimball participated in the District's strategic planning committee meeting where the committee discussed ways to increase survey response rates from agency partners. Kimball also mentioned that two more meetings are planned for making progress on the Strategic Plan.

9. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Sicke provided reports on the following:

- a) Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions – An update on the 2024 water conditions and September water sales.

- b) Financial Report Summary – Highlights from the September 2024 Financial Statements Report were briefly reviewed.
- c) Capital Improvement Program – A brief update on the planning activities related to capital projects was provided.
- d) General Activities – A list of outreach activities and projects (in-house and coordinated with other agencies) was reviewed.
- e) The following upcoming events were announced:
 1. California Irrigation Institute Board Meeting (October 2)
 2. YSGA: Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group Meeting (October 2)
 3. Coordination Meeting with Lake County Special Districts Management (October 3)
 4. Meeting with Yolo County and Teichert to Discuss Storz Recharge Potential (Oct. 4)
 5. Meeting with Supervisor Frerichs (October 4)
 6. GRA's Western Groundwater Congress (October 7-9)
 7. Yolo County Drought Task Force Meeting (October 8)
 8. Coordination Meeting with Lake County Staff (October 10)
 9. YSGA: South Colusa and North Yolo Coordination Meeting (October 15)
 10. YSGA: Binning Tract Neighborhood Meeting (October 15)
 11. NCWA's Sacramento Valley Celebration (October 17)
 12. YSGA Executive Committee Meeting (October 21)
 13. YSGA: TNC SGMA Implementation Coordination Meeting (October 22)
 14. YSGA: California Water Action Collaborative Tour (October 23)
 15. YSGA: DWR Coordination on Interconnected Surface Waters (October 23)
 16. Rollings Acres H&H Feasibility Study Kick-off Meeting (October 24)
 17. District Strategic Plan Board Workshop (November 19)
 18. NCWA's Subsidence Forum (November 20)
 19. ACWA's Fall Conference (December 3-5)

10. GENERAL DISCUSSION

None.

24.38 11. CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills

M/S/C approved the following claims for payment – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Checks # 63974-63986.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

12. CLOSED SESSION: Long-Term Water Supply Agreements

Closed session conference with real property negotiators pursuant to Government Code § 54956.8

Property: Long-Term Water Supply Agreements under District's Clear Lake Water Right

Agency negotiators: Tom Barth, Shane Tucker, Kristin Sicke

Negotiating parties: Lake County Sanitation District and Calpine

Under negotiation: Price and terms of agreement

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

13. 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.

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

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:



Kristin Sicke, Secretary



Jim Mayer, Chair