



FLOOD CONTROL &  
WATER CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT

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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 3:00 PM**

**YCFC&WCD Offices**

**34274 State Highway 16**

**Woodland, CA 95695**

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**The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District)** was held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at its regular place of business, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, California. The following people were in attendance:

District Board

Shane Tucker, Chair

Tom Barth

Mary Kimball

Jim Mayer

Lee Smith

District Staff

Kristin Sicke, General Manager

Erik Cadaret, Assistant General Manager

Kim Villa, Finance Director

Elise Nunez, Administrative Assistant

Members of the Public

Duane Chamberlain

Maddie Munson

**1. OPEN FORUM**

None.

**2. CONSIDERATION: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda**

There were no items to add to the agenda.

### **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **a. Approval of November 4, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

There was no discussion on this item.

M/S/C approved the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Directors Tucker, Mayer, Smith, and Barth

Noes: None

Absent: Director Kimball

Abstain: None

### **4. PRESENTATION: Willow Slough Watershed Collaboration Assessment**

General Manager Sicke provided background on the District's collaborative effort to develop a shared strategy to restore the ecological functions of the Willow Slough watershed to reduce flood damage, increase groundwater recharge, and restore riparian habitat. The District received a grant from the Moore Foundation to conduct a watershed collaboration assessment in the Willow Slough watershed to work with landowners to consider comprehensive solutions that include stewardship-focused land management, green infrastructure management by public agencies, and coordinated maintenance by public and private entities.

Kearns and West was hired to assist the District in completing the assessment. Interviews were conducted with over 14 landowners/organizations to better understand the current and historical state of the watershed and what could be done in the future. Over eight challenges were identified and a definition of the shared understanding of the problem was drafted.

Sicke shared maps showing historical maps of flood-prone areas and land use changes within the Willow Slough watershed. The Rolling Acres community was identified as in an area that periodically floods. Sicke also shared more on the water and land management priorities that came out of the interviews and the interest to collaboratively develop a solution. The interviewees highlighted criteria for success such as ensuring multi-benefit projects are prioritized to address flood control, groundwater recharge, soil health, and habitat. The interviewees provided feedback on opportunities for the future, which included effective policy and land use planning, urging structural reforms to permitting, funding, and governance that create obstacles to operational capacity, wildlife habitat, and agricultural productivity. Sicke shared next steps and highlighted a future workshop in February.

Director Mayer shared more about the history of the project, possible funding vehicles, and possible expansion of the scope of the project to gain economies of scale by tying it with groundwater recharge and other management activities within the area. Almost every person interviewed echoed that surface water should be used when available, even flood water. There was a lot of appetite for further engagement to find cost-effective solutions. There's a greater sense of

urgency to move this forward. Future funding may go towards implementation and setting this up for Proposition 4 funding. Mayer said there's a lot of potential to look at the data and how these multiple activities and solutions come together to manage surface water more holistically. Mayer asked if Director Kimball and Center for Land-Based Learning would be open to presenting on the history of their projects within the Willow Slough watershed and what progress has been made over the years.

Director Kimball highlighted the importance of the study that was completed in the past and how it was foundational for Yolo RCD projects over the past several decades. Kimball suggested including Yolo RCD in the February workshop would also be beneficial given all their experience in slough maintenance and improvement projects. Kimball asked whether Yolo Habitat Conservancy could partner in this effort as well. Sicke stated that it wasn't clear what County staff were involved in the Yolo Habitat Conservancy, but that she would follow up on that. Kimball seconded Smith's suggestion and observations. We can show time history and benefits from the various projects over the 30 years within the Willow Slough watershed that Yolo RCD and Center for Land-Based Learning worked on.

Chair Tucker inquired about which County staff and Board Supervisors attended the interview with Kearns and West. Sicke shared that the District coordinated with Supervisor Frerichs and Division of Public Works during the assessment and to schedule a future workshop.

Director Barth asked how landowners could help with vegetation management. Sicke shared that the District has been coordinating with the County to see if it's feasible to apply for a programmatic permit to cover a larger area and facilitate the paperwork and permitting process for a landowner to have clearance to maintain slough stretches on their property.

Director Smith suggested that landowners may be interested in supporting cleaning of the sloughs. Smith stated that there are noticeable differences in runoff and flooding issues between lands that use cover cropping and are maintaining vegetation in the sloughs versus not.

##### **5. PRESENTATION: Update on the Winters Canal Siphon and Walnut Canal Headgate Replacement Project**

General Manager Sicke provided updates on the Winters Canal Siphon and Walnut Canal Headgate Replacement Project (Project). The Project will replace a failing 60-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) that goes underneath the Chickahominy Slough. The District will be ensuring all weather road accessibility for the Project. Staff have reviewed the Engineer's 90% design detail, which incorporates water control into the scope of work at an additional cost. The estimated Project cost is approximately \$850k to \$1.25M and the Project is expected to start on February 9 and to be completed by May 1, 2026.

Director Smith asked more about the potential for this project to lead to adding more connections to surface water customers. Sicke stated that there is additional capacity available downstream of the Project and that there is potential to incorporate additional customers that are currently solely using groundwater. Smith asked about contractors who can do this work. Sicke listed potential candidates, and reviewed the bid advertising process, which includes posting to the Valley Contractor's Exchange.

Directors Mayer and Tucker both asked about how rain may impact the project construction window. Sicke shared more about the total working days that may be needed to complete the project and how rain may impact the project completion timeline.

#### **6. PRESENTATION: YSGA Update**

General Manager Sicke and Assistant General Manager Cadaret shared updates on YSGA administration and GSP implementation progress through the SGMA Implementation Grant.

Sicke reviewed updates on Board of Supervisors meetings related to the County's agricultural well moratorium.

The following upcoming meetings were discussed:

- December 11: YSGA Executive Committee Meeting
- December 12: YSGA Finance Committee Meeting
- January 8: County Well Moratorium Working Group Meeting
- January 12: YSGA Board of Directors Meeting
- January 28, 29, and February 11: Irrigated Lands Workshops
- February TBD: Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group Meeting

Cadaret reviewed milestones and next steps for the Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group, YSGA fee study, and GSP Periodic Evaluation; reviewed updates on District recharge program; and reviewed updates on Yolo-Zamora Recharge Pilot Project.

#### **7. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

Director Tucker attended *County Well Moratorium Working Group* meetings. Director Kimball had no updates. Director Barth attended the *YSGA Executive Committee* meeting, *YSGA Board Meeting*, *YSGA Fee Study* related meetings, *YSGA Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group* meeting, and *Cobram-Hungry Hollow Landowner* meeting. Director Smith attended *YSGA Executive Committee* meeting, *YSGA Board* meeting, *YSGA Fee Study* related meetings, and an interview for the *Willow Slough Watershed Collaboration Project*. Director Mayer attended *Willow Slough Watershed Collaboration Project* meetings.

## **8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

General Manager Sicke provided reports on the following:

- a) Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions: Sicke provided an overview of current water conditions as of December 9, 2025:
  - Clear Lake is currently at 2.91 feet Rumsey. Leakage of approximately 4 cfs at Cache Creek Dam. Irrigation season entitlement starts at 3.22 feet.
  - Indian Valley Reservoir is currently at 194,800 AF storage. Environmental releases of 10 cfs will continue through the winter. Total capacity in reservoir cannot exceed 260,760 AF prior to March 15.
  - The draft summary of the 2025 irrigation season was provided
    - Total Reservoir Releases ~ 197,000 AF
      - Clear Lake ~111,000 AF
      - Indian Valley Reservoir ~ 86,000 AF
    - IVR Hydropower ~11,200 MWh
    - Total Capay Dam Diversions ~ 160,000 AF
    - April – October Sales ~ 118,000 AF (including Capay Valley deliveries)
- b) Financial Report Summary – Finance Director Villa provided an update on irrigation season water sales and FY budget to date was provided. Capital improvement funds are at ~\$2.10M
- c) Capital Improvement Program – Sicke reviewed major CIP projects for the off-season: winters canal liner improvements, automated gate installations, Winters Canal Siphon and Walnut Headworks Replacement Project, and multi-phased electrical upgrade at Indian Valley Reservoir.
- 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. On-Farm Recharge Landowner Coordination Meetings (December 10 and 18)
  2. YSGA Executive Committee Meeting (December 11)
  3. YSGA Finance Committee Meeting (December 12)
  4. NCWA Bay-Delta Task Force Meeting (December 15)
  5. NCWA/DWR Sac Valley Flood Diversion Recharge Events Meeting (December 17)
  6. Yolo County Ag Well Moratorium Focus Areas Working Group Meeting (January 8)
  7. YSGA Board of Directors Meeting (January 12)
  8. Yolo County Farm Bureau Agriculturalist of the Year (January 22)
  9. California Irrigation Institute Conference (January 26-27)
  10. Yolo Subwatershed Coalition for Irrigated Lands Reg. Program (Jan. 28-29, Feb. 11)
  11. ACWA Board of Directors Meeting (January 29-30)

## **9. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Chair Tucker requested that the District have a future agenda item regarding Yolo County's incorporation into the Delta Conservancy boundary. Director Mayer provided context for the legislative process underway for revising the Delta Conservancy boundary and offered to work with staff to provide a future Board report.

## **10. CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills**

M/S/C approved the following claims for payment – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Checks #63940-63954 and E-142-148.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

## **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.

*Closed Session Report:* Chair Tucker reported that the Directors, General Manager Sicke, and Assistant General Manager Cadaret 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.

  
Shane Tucker, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Kristin Sicke, Secretary