

## Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Conservation Committee of the Florin Resource Conservation District Board of Directors

Wednesday, March 17, 2015

### Attendance:

Committee Members:	Tom Nelson, Vice-Chairman Elliot Mulberg, Director Mike Schmitz, Associate Director
FRCD/EGWD Staff:	Mark J. Madison, General Manager Stefani Phillips, Board Secretary Bruce Kamilos, Associate Civil Engineer
Sloughhouse RCD:	Ronald Lowry, Director Jay Schneider, Director Amanda Platt, Board Secretary
Lower Consumnes RCD:	Doug Chan, Director Amanda Platt, Board Secretary
Public:	None

### Public Comment

Jay Schneider, Director Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SHRCD), provided background on a study regarding the Department Water Resource (DWR) basin in Sacramento County. The title of the study, "Feasibility of groundwater banking under various hydrologic conditions in California USA," was published on June 1, 2014 and it was accepted on June 25, 2014 by Saad Merayyan. He stated that the study defines groundwater banking up to 10,000 acre feet and if not greater than 10,000 acre feet, it would not be beneficial. Amanda Platt will send the link of the study to the group who attended this meeting. He also mentioned a grant opportunity for groundwater banking by Omochumne-Hartnell Water District. The grant calculates what goes into the underground. He then recommended that each RCD participate in regional mitigation.

### 1. Joint Funding Agreement Between Florin Resource Conservation District, Lower Consumnes Resource Conservation District, and Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District for Conservation Grant Services

Mark J. Madison, General Manager, provided background information on the joint funding agreement between Florin Resource Conservation District (FRCD), Lower Consumnes Resource Conservation District (LCRCD), and Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SHRCD) for conservation grant services. In summary, there was a discussion held after the March 4, 2015 Conservation Committee meeting using a consultant from Conservation Strategy Group, to seek grant monies and look for various opportunities for all three RCD's jointly or independently combining efforts to promote more conservation in the three districts. Everyone in the room agreed to this idea. EGWD staff proposed the idea to the FRCD Board of Directors to authorize staff to enter the joint funding agreement with the two other districts to fund one-third of the total cost which equates to \$4,000/year per RCD. The FRCD has approved this motion and is waiting for the LCRCD and SHRCD Board to meet. The LCRCD and SHRCD are not scheduled to meet until April 8, 2015.

Comments and inquiries include:

- What should the process be for contract?
- Do we want the consultant contracted with one RCD and the other two RCD's back billed?
- Have the three RCD's in a contract with the consultant
- Would the consultant bill each RCD individually?
- Have the invoice come in with all three RCD's names on it, but have the mailing address listed as the FRCD
- Have a joint agreement amongst all three RCD's
- LCRCD and SHRCD to discuss the option of joint funding with their boards
  - This can be sorted out in time
- Have Amanda Platt, Board Secretary, named as point of contact on the bill since she is the staff person for both LCRCD and SHRCD
- SHRCD would like to have the consultant come out and do a presentation

Ms. Platt will let this group know when the LCRCD board meeting will occur so the FRCD can contact the consultant group for a presentation.

FRCD will email Ms. Platt their documentation on the joint funding agreement that was approved.

Ms. Platt will email the FRCD available dates from LCRCD and SHRCD to see when the consultant from the Conservation Strategy Group could meet.

## 2. Discussion of Potential Conservation Activities

Comments and suggestions include:

- Tri- colored Black Bird
  - A suggestion was made to put in a check dam near the creek that is on the west side of Excelsior and runs to Laguna Creek
  - By adding a check dam it would provide more water to the ground and provide a habitat
  - Nesting areas have been destroyed
  - Is there environmental or permitting challenges that are in existence for the check dam idea?
  - There was a comment made calling this a stock water pond and a suggestion to get a permit through DWR under the stock eater pond title
  - Does this water belong to the nursery? Is it their run off?
  - Ms. Platt stated that the CARCD would support this type of project for collaborative efforts
- Bee Pollinator Habitat
  - Ms. Platt handed out the Watershed Coordinator Grant to provide ideas
- Wildlife Conservation Board
  - California Stream Flow Enhancement Program - \$200M that the Wildlife Conservation Board would like to spend and don't know how. California Stream Flow Enhancement Program will fund projects that will enhance stream flows. In order to receive funding projects, they must be consistent with California Water Action Plan and Wildlife Conservation Board Strategic Plan objectives and benefit fish and wildlife.
  - Two interests points:
    - Further the studies to find out where the groundwater is and where to bank it
    - Improving the flows on the Consumnes River
    - Mr. Madison will verify if the money is coming from Proposition 1

- Mr. Madison brought an idea to the group of water trading. He further explained that the water is sent down the Consumnes River to enhance stream flows for either fishery purposes or to help farmers (In turn the supplies could effectively be offset by recycled water through expansions of the Sacramento Regional supplies back to farmers to let the water go back into the Consumnes River).
  - Mr. Madison would like to have a follow up meeting with Mike Wackman and Ms. Platt to further explore this option
- Explore Ground Water Banking
  - Ms. Platt will verify the grant requirements and the grant application process
- Innovation Grant Opportunity
  - Pre-application is due April 10<sup>th</sup> – something to look into next year since the NRCS does this every year
  - Money comes from NRCS
  - Grants are matched at 50%
  - Pre-proposal should not be greater than 3 pages

Mr. Madison stated he would like to encourage each RCD to brainstorm. Mr. Madison stated he would like to have the Conservation Strategy Group Consultant come out and meet to discuss ideas.

ACTION: See if the other RCD's will meet with their boards to see if we can move forward with the consultant.

ACTION: Jay Schneider will ask Jeremy Wire to write a proposal that complies with guidelines and explanations.

Adjourn to next Conservation Committee meeting to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stefani Phillips*

Stefani Phillips, Board Secretary

SP/CR