

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

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

Attendance:

Committee Members: Tom Nelson, Vice Chairman
Elliot Mulberg, Director
Jeanne Sabin, Director
Mike Schmitz, Associate
Staff: Mark J. Madison, General Manager
Stefani Phillips, Board Secretary
Public: None

This was a posted meeting and no members of the public were present.

1. Potential Conservation Activities and Funding Opportunities for the Florin Resource Conservation District

Mark J. Madison, General Manager provided background of the Board's direction for potential conservation activities and funding opportunities for the Florin Resource Conservation District.

Mr. Madison attended a meeting on August 17, 2016 regarding the American River Stormwater Integrated Resource Plan and provided information from that meeting to the board. Mr. Madison explained the timeline and stated that in-kind services will be from September 2016 to October 2017. He stated this timeframe would allow time to prepare for the Stormwater Plan which will be proposed to the state. He then stated in January 2018 grant funding can be collected, but there is no guarantee.

Vice-Chairman Tom Nelson provided background on Dry Well Tours held on August 17, 2016. He stated that the District has had conversations with the City of Elk Grove (City) and the City is interested in Dry Wells.

Mr. Madison specified that the Dry Wells project has been an expensive project for the City and that the City received a \$500,000 grant.

Mr. Madison commented that the Elk Grove Florin Street Scape Improvement Project grant monies will not be available for 2 more years.

Director Jeanne Sabin inquired where the City obtained their grant money. Mr. Madison responded stating that he thinks the City received their grant money from California Environment Protection Agency (CalEPA) but he will verify and get back to the board.

Vice-Chairman Nelson provided background on the Districts meeting with Supervisor Don Notolli on August 22, 2016.

Mr. Madison provided additional details regarding proposed projects with Mather Air Force Base (Mather). He stated that details came from the general plan amendment regarding the lack of environmental aspects to the related Mather projects and developments.

Mr. Madison gathered a list of proposed projects from Supervisor Notolli and they are listed as follows: Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Jackson Corridor Projects (Mather South Community Master Plan, NewBridge Specific Plan, Jackson Township Specific Plan, and West Jackson Highway Master Plan), and a potential park off Florin Road and Excelsior Road.

Mr. Madison provided information to the board regarding his phone discussion he had with Leighann Moffitt (Planning Director with Sacramento County) on Monday, August 29, 2016. During the phone conversation, Ms. Moffitt implied there is no need for another governmental agency to intercede with the HCP. Ms. Moffitt recommended Mr. Madison to speak with Todd Smith (Principal Planner with Sacramento County) to discuss further.

Mr. Madison provided information to the committee regarding his phone discussion with Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith stated that the county is already contracted with the Center for Lands Management, which is a nonprofit agency, to work on the preservation of the Mather land and potentially other land within the District boundaries. Other discussions that were had was the Southgate and Cordova Districts relating to park trails and maintenance. Southgate is interested in helping to maintain their trail system, but Cordova is not. Mr. Madison does not know where the Cordova boundaries are but thinks it is interlinked with HCP developments.

Supervisor Notolli stated the funding for preservation is not easy to come by.

Mr. Madison indicated that one identified need is to control stinkwort.

Mr. Madison commented to the committee that the best option for the FRCD would be groundwater recharge.

A discussion regarding used water for groundwater recharge occurred.

Director Elliot Mulberg inquired who would benefit from recharged water. Vice-Chairman Nelson responded stating that the county and developers would benefit from recharged water. Mr. Madison responded stating every resident in the region would.

Mr. Madison commented that the District is partnered with RWA to form a water bank or Aquafer Storage and Recovery (ASR) program. He then stated that land base assessments could be in place under the notion everyone derives benefit from a health and stable groundwater basin. Mr. Madison stated that this would be a 10 year project.

Mr. Madison provided background to the board regarding his discussion with Dwane Coffey that was held on August 30, 2016. Two sources of funding that were discussed was Environmental Quality Improvement Plan (EQUIP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). EQUIP is desirable because there is no matching requirement. RCPP has a 50/50 match but Mr. Madison stated that the District can use in-kind services to make up the match.

Mr. Madison provided background to the board regarding his discussion with Amanda Platt. He stated, two topics that were discussed: The National Center for Appropriate Technology

and baseline funding from the state. Mr. Madison talked about a potential partnership with the Sloughhouse RCD.

Mr. Madison stated he still needs to talk to the Building Industry Association (BIA). Director Mulberg inquired if there are any projects that the District can participate in. He then recommended the District look at other types of funding.

Vice-Chairman Nelson commented that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has monies for activities for wetlands.

Director Mulberg inquired if there are any reclamation districts in our area. Vice-Chairman Nelson responded stating yes. A discussion occurred regarding reclamation activities and the possibility of partnership. Mr. Madison commented that he likes this idea of partnering with reclamation districts and then provided examples of how the FRCD could participate with this idea. Director Mulberg listed off possible reclamation districts for the FRCD to look into (#744, #755, #813, and #551).

Director Mulberg commented, "Looking farther down the road, if we don't find anything, and there's nothing out there, I think the board needs to have a discussion on whether or not they will continue to fund the FRCD or if they want to continue at all."

Director Sabin commented that there is a combined Stormwater collection system for Downtown Sacramento. She suggested to decrease the load to the waste water treatment plant for the large group plan.

Next Conservation Committee Meeting to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Stefani Phillips

Stefani Phillips, Secretary

SP/CR