Yolo County Resource Conservation District
221 West Court Street, Suite 1
Woodland, CA 95695
phone: (530) 661-1688
www.yolorcd.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 **Time:** 5:05 pm
Location: Yolo County RCD Office, 221 Court Street, Suite 1, Woodland CA
Directors present: Mark Cady (President), Anya Perron-Burdick (Secretary), Eric Willson (Director), Miranda Driver (Director),
Directors Absent: Mike Turkovich (Vice President), Jake Campos (Associate Director)
Others Present: Heather Nichols, Michele Talbot, Nancy Musick, Jeanette Wrysinski, Matt Toney

1. **Call Meeting to Order and Introductions –** President Cady called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm

2. **Approve Agenda and Business Meeting Minutes:** (Gov. Code 54954.2(B))
   ACTION: Approve the May agenda and the minutes of the April meeting as presented. MOTION: Willson; SECOND: Perron-Burdick; AYES: Unanimous (Cady, Perron-Burdick, Willson, Driver).

3. **Public Comment:** There were no comments from the public.

4. **Staff Presentation:** Ms. Nichols provided background on when and why the RCD is managing agricultural leases on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA). She described characteristics of the YBWA and showed slides with maps indicating water flow, cropping, and land use. Mr. Toney provided additional descriptions of key Project Manager activities, challenges with communication, sharing of infrastructure, working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as duck club owner/operators, and land management in what is primarily a floodway. Both discussed the imminent release of new, five-year requests for proposals (RFP) for both the rice and grazing leases. Board questions and discussion covered grazing lease parameters, power bills, infrastructure repairs and RCD projects on the YBWA.

5. **Ratify/Approve Expenditures (List of Checks) and Wire Transfer of Funds:** Ms. Nichols reviewed the Check Detail sheet. ACTION: Ratify $34,554.28 in expenses (pre-approved), approve payments of $15,161.84, a wire transfer of $26,555.82, and pre-approve $5,963.46. MOTION: Perron-Burdick; SECOND: Willson; AYES: Unanimous (Cady, Perron-Burdick, Willson, Driver).

6. **Regular Reports:**
   a. RCD Executive Director's Report: Ms. Nichols highlighted items from her written report. She added that the RCD will be losing Project Manager Greg Pelaez, who has accepted another position; staff are working on determining what is needed for the fuels management program; lots of program and project re-assignments are going on. Several trained staff members responded to a fire today on Hwy 16 near the headquarters of Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. NRCS has requested that the District conduct a Local Work

Group meeting. A virtual meeting will be held July 9th, with a more timely, pre-planned one this winter. She was unable to attend the CARCD Area meeting today.

b. Financial Report: Ms. Nichols highlighted several items from her written report, referring to materials in the meeting packet. There was brief discussion.
c. Board member reports and comments: Mr. Willson reported that the Farm Bureau (FB) met last night on several important local topics. There were presentations on the 218 "Fire Tax" – a proposed per-acre tax for farmers; Solano Irrigation District described a new state water deal purported to fill reservoirs while still keeping historic flows and low temperatures in the waterways (FB trying to figure out what position to take) but with underlying options to transfer water south in the future; a Yolo County farmer is being sued by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for air quality violations produced by tub grinders, and the operation is citing a "right-to-farm" ordinance. Mr. Cady said that he and Ms. Driver will be meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Karen Ross tomorrow as part of the meeting of the Western Region of Certified Crop Advisors. Mr. Cady, as a member of the CARCD Board, will also be observing vote counts tomorrow for CARCD Board officers. He also reminded RCD Board members that during next month's meeting they will be conducting an annual review of the Executive Director.

7. New Business:

a. **Approve Resolution 2024-03 Section 218 Application and Agreement. Ms. Nichols reviewed background information from the action taken at the April meeting and the connection to this action, per her written report. ACTION: Approve Resolution 2024-03 Section 218 Application and Agreement. MOTION: Perron-Burdick; SECOND: Willson; AYES: Unanimous (Cady, Perron-Burdick, Willson, Driver).

8. Discussion:

a. Ms. Nichols reviewed the draft budget provided in the meeting packet, which is substantially complete. It includes an increase in employee benefits such as more health care options and a revised billable rate, among other things. There were a few questions and a brief discussion. The final budget will be submitted for approval at the June meeting.
b. Ms. Nichols referred to the Strategic Planning Proposal included in the packet materials. Some of the initial steps have already been completed, such as a review of the mission statement and the formation of an ad-hoc committee. She reviewed the process described in the proposal, describing potential benefits of consultant services this time, in particular due to recent organizational growth and changes. After discussion, the Board felt that the cost could be reduced by approximately $5,000 given initial steps already completed and by seeking out fewer external partners. That said, they were supportive overall of consultant services.

9. Confirm Next Meeting Date and Location: The next regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, June 19th, conflicts with the national holiday, Juneteenth. The meeting was rescheduled for the following day, Thursday, June 20th at 5:05 PM.

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Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Anya Perron-Burdick, Board Secretary, and Heather Nichols, Executive Director. Approved on June 20, 2024 by the Yolo County Resource Conservation District Board.

By: _____

Secretary, Anya Perron-Burdick