

**DIXON RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (DRCD)
MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

DIRECTORS

DAVID VIGUIE

SPENCER BEI

DANIEL JONES

ALEXIS HARVEY

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

LEO SOUKERIS (VIRTUAL)

JIM CAMPBELL

DIXON RCD STAFF

KELLY HUFF, DISTRICT MANAGER

MARTHA MCKEEN, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

JOANNA YAC, OFFICE MANAGER

OTHER ATTENDEES

**MIKHAEL KAZZI, NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST
(ACTING)**

RICK MARTINEZ, LANDOWNER

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Director Viguie called the February 12, 2025, Board meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. at 1170 North Lincoln Street, Dixon, CA for DRCD staff and Board Members.

Roll call was taken:

Present: Viguie, Bei, Jones, Harvey

Absent: Schene

2. Establish a Quorum

A quorum was established.

3. Approve the Agenda

A motion was made by Director Jones, seconded by Director Bei, to approve the agenda. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Jones Harvey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schene

4. Presentations – None

5. Comments from the Public - None

6. DRCD Consent Calendar

- a. Approval of Minutes from the Board Meeting dated **January 15, 2025**
- b. DRCD- Approval of Expenses from **January 16, 2025, to February 12, 2025**, and review of the 2024-2025 budget
- c. Office Management - Approval of Expenses from **January 1 to January 31, 2025**, and review of the 2024 / 2025 Budget
- d. Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition – **None**

A motion was made by Director Jones, seconded by Director Harvey, to approve the Consent Calendar items 6a-6d. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Jones, Harvey

Nays: None

MEETING MINUTES

Abstain: None

Absent: Schene

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report –

Acting NRCS District Conservationist, Mikhael Kazzi attended in person and gave an update and mentioned they had a total of 412 applications in California with 19 in Solano County considered high ranking. IRA funding is still in question, 149 million dollars in contracts in California. Most having to do with climate smart practices such as mulching, cover crops...etc. The more practices the applicants have the higher they rank. Mikhael also mentioned the importance of having Local Work Group Meetings to know the local perspective of which practices are priority for funding. It was brought to his attention that the Local Work Group that Dixon RCD hosted in June did not have much participation. He said another Local Work Group should be done by August. Lastly, he mentioned March 15th people will know who has been selected for funding and he will be acting District Conservationist until April 30th.

8. Old Business – None

9. New Business-

- a. Legal Services – Discussion and Provide Direction to Staff Regarding Possible Options for Selecting General Counsel or Special Counsel
(ACTION)

Ms. Huff mentioned that Ann Siprelle from Best Best and Kreiger will be retiring soon and has inquired as to whether the District intends to maintain BBK as our General Counsel since we have been working with Downey Brand lately for special legal services. If the District wishes to remain with BBK she will introduce us to our replacement attorney. If not she will close out the contract.

Director Viguie asked how much more expensive is Downey Brand versus BBK. Ms. Huff explained that it depends on which services we are comparing but it could be up to four times more. That amount is based on comparing prices for their specialized legal services but does not include a comparison of the pricing on general counsel services.

MEETING MINUTES

Rick Martinez, Landowner, asked if RD2068 and Maine Prairie Water District still use Downey Brand and recommended checking for any conflict of interest. Ms. Huff answered yes, they still do and when they first started using Downey Brand, both agencies were notified and there was not a concern. Associate member Jim Campbell mentioned another firm to look into which led to Director Viguie mentioning Dixon RCD should get three (3) proposals from different firms (BBK, Downey Brand, and the third firm that Jim mentioned (Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan) and to double check conflict interest. The remaining board agreed with this as well.

A motion was made by Director Viguie, seconded by Director Bei, to approve requesting proposals from the 3 listed firms and to double check conflict of interest. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Jones, Harvey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schene

**b. Regional Drainage – Receive Staff Update, Provide Direction
(ACTION)**

Ms. Huff provided an updated schematic of the drainage plan for the Dixon 257 from Morton & Pitalo which moves the pond across the street from Campbell's. There might be a quick turnaround if the Dixon 257 project Final EIR gets put out for approval with a short comment period. IF that were to happen timing wise it wouldn't be with enough time for the board approval of a comment letter. Ms. Huff asked whether the board would like to have a special meeting. Director Viguie said there was no need to just restate what we have been saying in our previous letters and our concerns. Associate member Jim Campbell agreed as well.

The second thing Ms. Huff wanted to mention was that Rob White, representative from the Harvest at Dixon proposed development spoke at the January JPA meeting and stated during the meeting that based on the 1965 agreement between the City of Dixon, Dixon RCD and the Sork et. Al landowners, they have unlimited drainage rights into Lateral 2. Director Bei mentioned that he believes Harvest will do what is right.

MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Huff asked if there should be a response to that statement since it was stated in a public meeting? Director Viguie said yes we should let them know that it's not unlimited drainage rights and Director Bei suggested starting with a conversation with Rob White first. Director Viguie mentioned it was put on record therefore our response should be too. It was recommended for Ms. Huff to 1) If needed to comment on the Dixon 257 project to reiterate our prior comments and 2) Reach out to Rob White and set up a conversation with some directors and possibly draft up a letter for the next JPA meeting.

A motion was made by Director Viguie, seconded by Director Bei, to approve the recommendations on the Dixon 257 Project comments and proposed Harvest conversation. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Jones, Harvey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schene

c. Approval of DRAFT Letter to Dixon RCD Ditch Members **(ACTION)**

Ms. Huff mentioned per the Boards request at the last board meeting she drafted up a letter to the landowners receiving drainage services. This letter is to inform them of the District's recent decisions to focus on drainage services and to begin a rate study. Mr. Huff asked if the board had any updates or changes they wanted to make or if she should go forward and send it out. She also mentioned it could wait until next month. Director Bei explained he liked it and that it was straight forward. Director Viguie explained that he knows that we said the District wasn't going to spend more time or money and we were just going to move forward and do a rate study, but other problems are arising. Rick Martinez, Landowner recommended moving forward with the rate study.

Director Viguie mentioned if more issues were to arise the District would go back to LAFCO as of now we should move forward and send the letter to all the ditch members in February, the remaining members agreed.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Director Harvey, seconded by Director Spencer, to approve the letter to be sent to all Dixon RCD Ditch Members in February. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Jones, Harvey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schene

- d. Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget – Review and consider budget adjustments for Dixon RCD Fund 024 (**ACTION**)

Ms. Huff explained a budget adjustment was needed to be made this month in order to purchase a new computer for Martha. Solano RCD IT staff and contracted IT tried to salvage her computer, but no luck. With an increase of \$3,500 in expenses there was a decrease in expenses of \$3,500 resulting in no change in the overall 2024/2025 budget. Director Viguie agreed that we need to move forward with the budget adjustment with no questions, the other board members did as well.

A motion was made by Director Viguie, seconded by Director Harvey, to approve the budget adjustments for Dixon RCD Fund 024. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Jones, Harvey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Schene

10. DRCD Staff Reports:

- a. District Manager's Report- Ms. Huff mentioned that contractor Rico Ielmorini went out this past weekend to do some debris removal and will be back out after this storm. No other discussion was had. See District Manager's Report for more details.

MEETING MINUTES

- b. **Water Quality Coalition Update-** Ms. Mckeen mentioned the Groundwater workshop went well and the Farm tour with the Regional Board was good as well. Ms. Mckeen provided information on the water column pyrethroid exceedance at the Ulatis Creek/Brown Road Monitoring from December 17, 2024. Dixon/Solano's management plan for sediment toxicity is still active and this exceedance may or may not extend this plan. We are still waiting to hear back on what the Regional Board decides. See Program Coordinator's Report for more details.

11. Director's Report –None

12. Communications – None

13. Upcoming Events –None

14. Announcements –

The next Dixon RCD Board Meeting is Wednesday March 12, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

15. Adjourn Meeting

A motion was made by Director Bei, seconded by Director Jones, to close the meeting. The motion passed as follows:

Yeas: Viguie, Bei, Jones, Harvey
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Schene

The Dixon RCD Board meeting adjourned at the hour of 1:06 p.m.



**Kelly Huff, District Manager
Dixon Resource Conservation District**