



DIXON RCD NEWS

Annual Report - December 2024

OUR MISSION

Dixon RCD's Mission is to provide leadership and to make available technical, financial, and educational resources to local land users for drainage, water quality, and habitat management through competent, cost-effective services, and partnerships.

Halfway through Dixon RCD's Current 5-Year Long Range Plan

(Adopted March 09, 2022, for period July 2022 – June 2027) For full plan, [click here](#)

This year's newsletter/annual report includes references to the District goals & objectives from the plan.

In pursuit of one of DRCD's Priority 5-YEAR LONG RANGE GOALS: ***To enhance drainage and storm water management services in the Dixon RCD watershed***, and 5-YEAR OBJECTIVE: ***To define the District's role in regional storm water runoff management***, over the last couple of years District staff and board members have been evaluating, discussing and taking inventory of:

1. The pros and cons of Dixon RCD continuing to provide drainage services.
2. The potential alternatives to Dixon RCD providing drainage services.
3. Opportunities for regional multi-benefit projects that support drainage/water quality/water supply.
4. Coordinating with other Solano County agencies that manage water.

Conclusions/results/projections – The following is a combination of internal (board and staff) evaluations as well as feedback from those who receive services from the District.

1. **Strengths:** affordable, responsive, nimble, board that understands District facilities and priorities of District landowners and producers, community outreach & education, in-person services for members.

2. **Weaknesses:** lack authority compared to larger agencies/developers, our authority is not respected, tools/resources are minimal, small group is shouldering the burden (payment for services & board responsibilities), not equipped to respond to a changing landscape.

Quotes from District Landowners and Ditch Members

“First, all of you at the DRCD are doing what you can to protect the members of the district and that’s all that can be expected and appreciated by all the landowners. I recognize that despite everyone’s best efforts the final result may not be the perfect one, due to many things that are out of the District’s control. I also believe that the downstream landowners still benefit greatly from an intact DRCD to protect and operate the drainage system.”

~Rick Martinez, Rick Martinez Farms 02-02-24

“Can we get to a new normal? A place where winter runoff is the exception.

Where we keep the raindrop where it falls?"

~Rich Collins, The Collins Farm 01-26-23

"The District should be measuring flow in the District's drains."

~David Eldridge, District landowner and ditch member

"The importance of the Dixon RCD's work can be seen throughout the district.

There are a lot of activities involved in maintaining an agricultural ditch. For example, cleaning, excavating, treatment and debris removal are only some of the actions required to sustain and support a healthy drainage for agricultural systems. I would encourage as many landowners as possible to attend the Dixon RCD meetings and to get involved in the Board of Directors.

Furthermore, we can learn from one another and need everyone's input. In addition, the opinion of each person is always appreciated. Finally, we all know that this is a great part of our life that sustain us and those around us."

~Leo Soukeris, Associate Director of Dixon RCD, 11-13-24.

What Could Our Future Look Like?

DRCD focuses on maintenance of our existing facilities and leaves regional duties to larger agencies with drainage responsibilities (Solano County, Solano County Water Agency, City of Dixon), including: development project reviews, regional area of benefit studies that incorporate upper watersheds into service areas.

1. Evaluate the future of the Dixon Regional Watershed JPA.
2. Transfer District drainage facilities to larger countywide agency like Solano County Water Agency (SCWA)or Solano County Public Works
3. Explore consolidation with other ag-focused water management agencies (Reclamation District 2068 and/or Maine Prairie Water District)
4. Others????

In the meantime, we will continue to prioritize cost-effective and competent services to our members.

As someone who receives services from Dixon RCD, do you have something to add? Email our District Manager at kelly-huff@dixonrcd.org or join us for one

of our monthly board meetings (2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon).

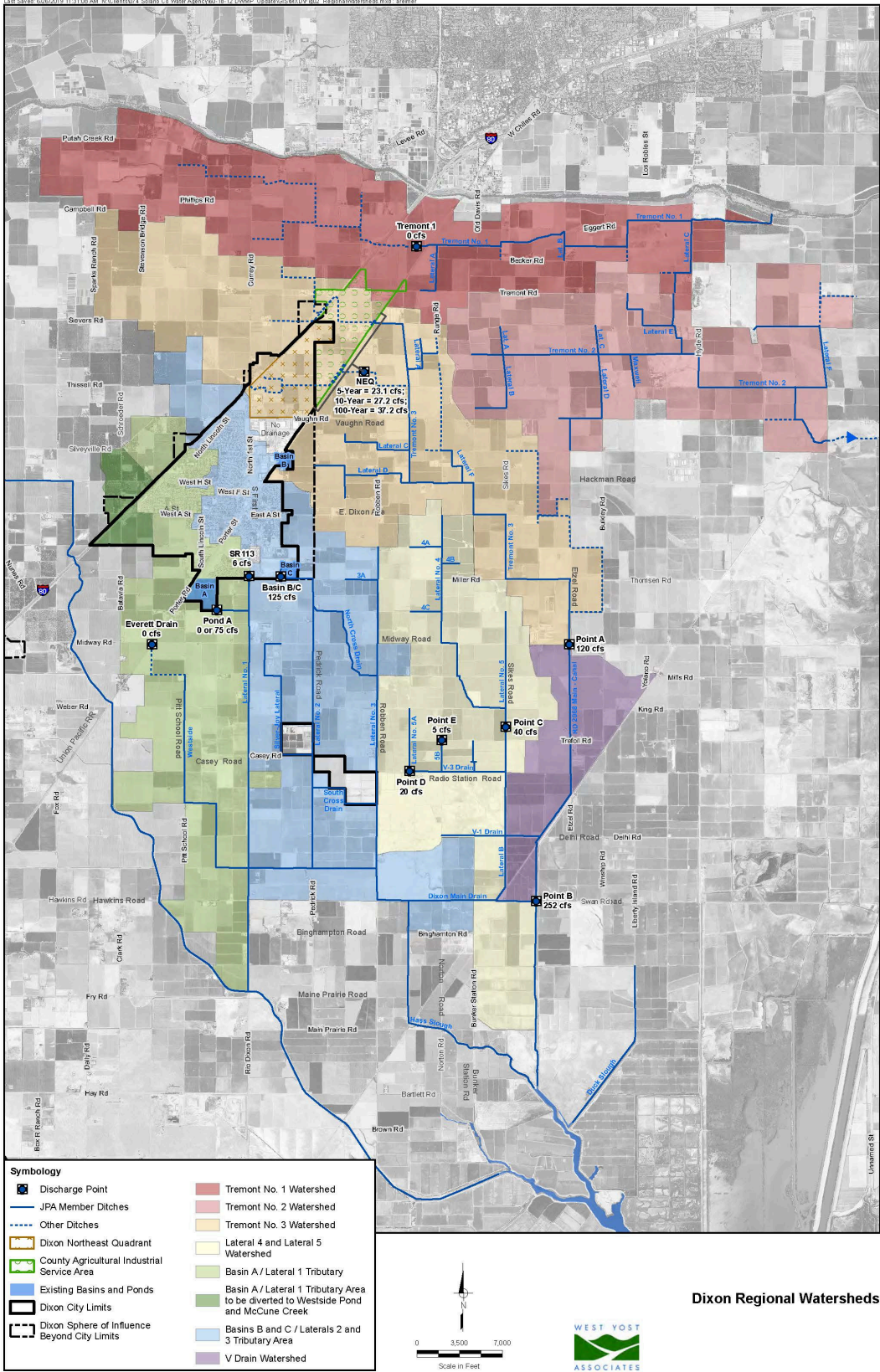
Regional Drainage and Groundwater

Can We Divert Flood Flows for Beneficial Uses?

5-YEAR OBJECTIVE: Participate in the Solano Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency to represent the current and future groundwater user's interest. Include storm water capture and groundwater recharge in the regional flood control projects.

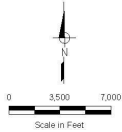
This is an area that the District and the Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition have been very involved in partnership with SCWA, Solano RCD and other local water agencies. If you have any related interest or ideas, please let us know!

Regional Watersheds map



Symbology

Discharge Point	Tremont No. 1 Watershed
JPA Member Ditches	Tremont No. 2 Watershed
Other Ditches	Tremont No. 3 Watershed
Dixon Northeast Quadrant	Lateral 4 and Lateral 5 Watershed
County Agricultural Industrial Service Area	Basin A / Lateral 1 Tributary
Existing Basins and Ponds	Basin A / Lateral 1 Tributary Area to be diverted to Westside Pond and McCune Creek
Dixon City Limits	Basins B and C / Laterals 2 and 3 Tributary Area
Dixon Sphere of Influence Beyond City Limits	V Drain Watershed



Dixon Regional Watersheds

[Click here to see enlarged map](#)

A Look of What Happened in 2023-2024

5-YEAR OBJECTIVE: *Partner with the County and the Dixon Regional Watershed JPA to design and implement flood control measures for new development to protect the Tremont 3 watershed from new flooding issues and reduce the existing flooding issues whenever and wherever possible.*

Since the spring of 2023, the District has been working with the City of Dixon to continue to honor our decades-long partnership to improve Regional Drainage as they move forward with development in the Northeast Quadrant – NEQ (west of Pedrick and east of Highway 80, north of Vaughn). In the early 2000s, the partnership brought us the City Pond A – Lateral 1 Expansion and the Pond C – Lateral 2 Upgrades that have simultaneously benefitted local agriculture as well as City development. To achieve something similar in the NEQ – Tremont 3 watershed, it will require coordination, support and resources from countywide partners including Solano County and Solano County Water Agency. Over a number of years, the District has expended significant staff, board and consultant resources in hopes of a regional drainage solution. We remain hopeful that the City of Dixon and Solano County agencies will ensure that a regional drainage solution is prioritized for this area.

5-YEAR OBJECTIVE: *Explore joint maintenance possibilities with other local districts to improve the quality and quantity of maintenance activities in a cost-effective manner. Consider staff and resource-sharing agreements or joint management opportunities with other local agencies*

- We are increasingly conducting joint maintenance with and relying on the outstanding services of Reclamation District 2068
- Solano County Water Agency assisted with the re-grading of a critical stretch of Lateral 1 (Hwy 113)
- During the 2024 irrigation season Laterals 1 & 3 experienced high levels of algae from Solano Irrigation District (SID) operational spills. Thank you to Robben Ranch and RD2068 for providing emergency services to clear related plugs. We are working with SID to avoid a similar situation next year.

Friendly Reminder:

PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK MAINTENANCE RIGHT OF WAYS!

This fall we had a number of orchards that stacked orchard prunings on the ditch maintenance right of ways, making access difficult.

Please help the District minimize additional maintenance costs due to access.

Annual Financial Report 2023-2024

2023/2024 Fiscal Year	Governmental Services		Professional Service		Combined District Operations
	Ditch Operations	General District Services *	Water Quality Coalition	Dixon Regional Watershed JPA	
Total Revenues	\$ 156,336	\$ 322,135	\$ 117,727	\$ 15,254	\$ 611,452
Staff Expenses	\$ 17,629	\$ 165,969	\$ 78,054	\$ 7,576	\$ 269,228
Ditch Maintenance Exp.	\$ 158,947	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,754	\$ 163,702
Overhead & Direct Exp.	\$ 49,036	\$ 105,482	\$ 30,035	\$ 1,457	\$ 186,011
Capital Improvements	\$ 6,467	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 225,612	\$ 271,451	\$ 108,089	\$ 13,788	\$ 618,941
Net Position 2023-2024	\$ (69,276)	\$ 50,684	\$ 9,638	\$ 1,466	\$ (-7,489)
District Cash Position 06/30/24	\$577,680				

[Download to view details](#)

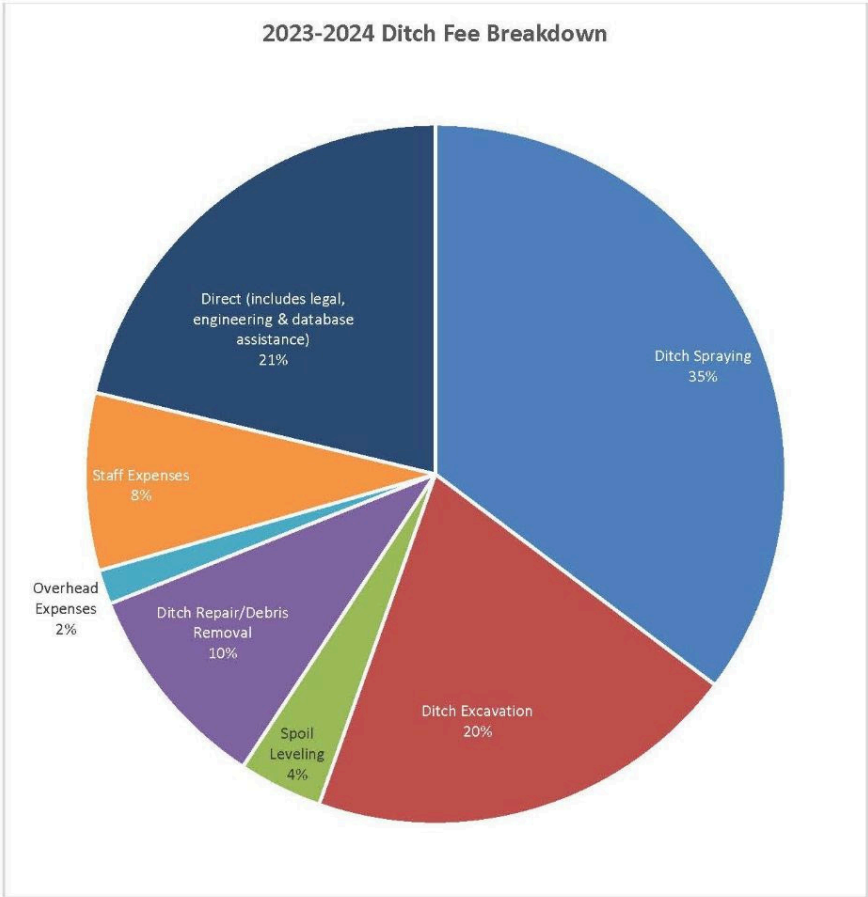
2023-2024: The District's actual net position on June 30, 2024 was significantly higher than budgeted, due to delayed maintenance activities pushed to 2024-2025 fiscal year and less than anticipated services and supplies.

2024-2025: The current year budget projects a negative net position of (\$142,395) which assumes \$110,000 in ditch improvement projects.

* General District Services: Revenue is from property taxes, shared services agreements with partner agencies and grants. Expenses include staff and direct costs to fund the District's non-ditch core services (focused on the priority natural resource concerns). Reduced expenses and additional revenues in governmental and professional services continue to offset the negative net position in ditch operations.

If you have any questions about the Dixon RCD budget, contact Kelly Huff.

How Your Ditch Fees were Spent in 2023-2024



[Download to view details](#)

Your Ditch Fees at Work in 2023-2024 & 2024-2025



*Delhi Road – V-Drain Crossing Replacement – November 2024
A joint effort between RD2068 / Solano County / Dixon RCD*



RD2068 Cleaning of Tremont 2 – Summer 2024



RD2068 Re-shaping Lateral 1 – Fall 2023



Solano RCDs, Kevin Young-Lai, assistance with the removal of an animal trap lodged in a culvert.

Lateral 3 (Robben Road) – Late Fall 2024

Dixon RCD Tasks and Grants for 2024-2025

Tasks for 2024-2025

- Develop a landowner guide that defines the nature and level of drainage services in preparation for LAFCO Municipal Service Review (in 2025-2026), begin a new rate study and/or area of benefit study.
- Update Summary of Agreements with other agencies (including RD2068, City, SID, MPWD) and explore new agreements with SCWA, Solano County.
- Develop a technical review of and protocol for installing and managing native vegetation in District ditches / Refine the design and cost analysis for existing and future grass waterway projects.
- Begin flow measuring on District facilities to calibrate modeling work for designs and to better understand opportunities for best use of water and multi benefit projects.

Grants: Dixon RCD continues to be quite selective when deciding whether to participate in grant opportunities. Before we apply for or accept a grant opportunity we want to be sure that the program or services matches with our core mission and objectives and that it is something we can sustain into the

future. Current grant funding is helping the District offset the costs of participating in regional drainage and groundwater efforts, of exploring options for ditch maintenance, of extending outreach to new landowners and growers and of water quality program outreach events.

Dixon RCD Summary of Current Grants – updated 11/13/24

The following grants have been awarded to other agencies as the lead grant recipients, with Dixon RCD as a partner/subcontractor. For the future we plan to continue to look for grant opportunities that will support installation of long-term flow measuring throughout the District.

CA Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) Program Up to \$13,200 (November 2023 to October 2026)
Lead Recipient = Napa RCD

- Planning of three irrigation related education events with Irrigation & Nitrogen Management CEUs (2 in English and one in Spanish).

CA Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) SGMA Implementation Grant - \$161,000 (July 2023 through June 30, 2026) Lead Grant Recipient = Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

- Participate in Regional Water Planning (One Water, GSA, Regional Drainage, County Ag and Water Committees etc.)
- Pilot project planning in Tremont 3 Watershed (Multi-Benefit Upper Watershed Project Planning)
- Assist with GSA data collection and ground truthing through ILRP reporting
- Groundwater related outreach & educational events.

National Association of Resource Conservation Districts (NACD) Grant to Solano, Dixon, Napa & Yolo RCDs Up to \$18,000 (July 2024 to September 2025)

- Promote NRCS EQIP and CSP cost-share programs and assist individual landowners and growers with conservation planning
- Outreach events and materials in Spanish

- Gather input from local farmers and landowners on priorities, assistance needed from USDA Programs

CA Wildlife Conservation Board - \$250,000 (February 2023 through February 2027) Lead Grant Recipient = California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, Purpose: Support Riparian & Pollinator Habitat along local waterways.

- Rehabilitation of Casey Road Vegetated Ditch Demonstration Project along Dixon RCD's Silvey Joy Drain (Casey Rd). - Solano RCD lead
- Monarch Demonstration Garden and Community Outreach Events at City of Dixon Pond C Entrance (see SRCD article for more details). - Solano RCD lead
- Coordination with local water agencies to evaluate alternative maintenance options. - Dixon RCD lead



*City of Dixon staff, elected officials & their families (23 volunteers total) removal
280 lbs of trash from Pond C before it enters District's Lateral 2 – Sept 2024*

Outreach Events

Groundwater Workshop

Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025

Time: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Location: American Legion Hall 1305 N. 1st. Street Dixon, CA 95620

[Register here](#)

[Agenda](#)

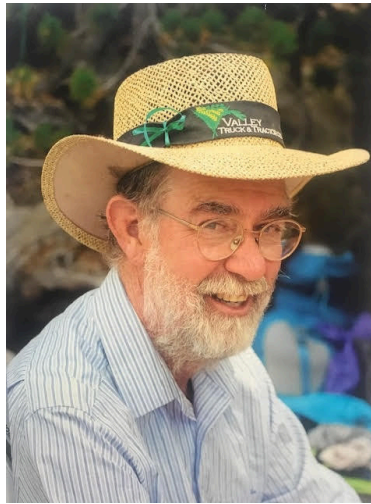
Contact Martha McKeen for more information at
707-678-1655 x103 or martha-mckeen@dixonrccd.org

Third Tuesdays at the Pond C Monarch Butterfly Garden in Dixon

Next event: Tuesday, December 17, 10:00 am – noon

Solano RCD will be holding regular “Friends of Pond C” volunteer events on the third Tuesday of every month at the newly installed Monarch Butterfly Garden at Pond C in Dixon. At our last event on November 19, we weeded, mulched, and prepped the garden for the winter.

We also learned how to collect milkweed seeds from Lyla Schoenig, Solano RCD Restoration Project Coordinator. To register for workdays, please RSVP Katherine Holmes at katherine.holmes@solanorcd.org.



Twenty-five Years on the Board and Still Serving!

THANK YOU, to our chairman David Viguie!

This year marked 25 years of service for David Viguie on the District's Board of Directors. David began serving on the board in 1999 and he continues to provide invaluable perspective and knowledge of the District's history, drainage system and the lands and people that we serve. Thank you for your commitment to the District, David!

Newest Director on the Board

Alexis Harvey is our newest director, joining the Dixon RCD Board in January 2024 when Sam Beukelman resigned. Thank you, Sam for your 12 years of service to the District and Alexis, for stepping up to serve!

Alexis believes that in the agricultural industry, one of the most important resources is water. Which is why water quality and sustainability are of the utmost importance of this global industry. She is honored to serve on the DRCD board that works diligently to maintain this valuable resource for the district. Alexis looks forward to continuing to learn about our district's current drainage systems, as well as learning from individuals who have many years of experience in the water industry. As a Certified Crop Advisor and Pest Control Advisor, she hopes to bring new insight and a new perspective to the Dixon Resource Conservation District.

Associate Directors and Landowners

We are grateful as well to have Jim Campbell and Leo Soukeris who continue

to serve as associate directors. Dixon RCD is always accepting applications for additional associate directors who provide valuable input, perspectives and guidance to the board and staff.

Thank you also to Rick Martinez – former board member and David Eldridge – district landowner and grower, who both regularly attend board meetings and continue to provide valuable input.



*Dixon RCD board of directors, back row L to R: Eric Schene, Sam Beukelman (past director), David Viguie, Daniel Jones, and Spencer Bei
Dixon RCD staff, front row L to R: Martha McKeen, Joanna Yac, and Kelly Huff*



The newest Dixon RCD director, Alexis Harvey

DIXON RCD BOARD

OF DIRECTORS

David Viguie
Spencer Bei
Daniel Jones
Eric Schene
Alexis Harvey
Jim Campbell, Associate
Leo Soukeris, Associate

Board Meetings are on the 2nd
Wednesday of each month

DIXON RCD STAFF

Kelly Huff, District Manager
707-678-1655 x102
kelly-huff@dixonrkd.org

Joanna Yac, Office Manager
707-678-1655 x100
joanna-yac@dixonrkd.org

Martha McKeen,
Program Coordinator
707-678-1655 x103
martha-mckeen@dixonrkd.org

Dixon RCD has a New Office Entrance

NOTE: There is a new entrance to Dixon Resource Conservation District. The new offices are on the southeast side of the building with the entrance on the south side. See the image below for reference.

Same mailing address:

[1170 N Lincoln Street, Suite 110](#)

Dixon, CA 95620



 [Dixon RCD Website](#)

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Dixon Resource Conservation District Ditch Member and/or stakeholders

Our mailing address is:

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Dixon, CA 95620

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