

SJCDWQC Steering Committee Minutes – Monday, February 13, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mike Wackman. The agenda was accepted and minutes with a correction were approved by consent.

In attendance: Tim Pelican (SJC Ag Commissioner), Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC), Mike Johnson (MLJ,LLC), Melissa Turner (MLJ,LLC), Julianne Phillips (SJFB), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), Amy Blagg (LDGGA), Sarah Lucchetti (SJCDWQC), Joe Valente (NSJWCD), Cristine Vana (MVA), Rachelle Antonetti (MVA), Spencer Voss (MVA), Phil Balmat (SJCRCDD), Richard Rodriguez (SJCRCDD), Dave Forkel (MWD), Walt Luihn (SSJID), Michelle Leinfelder-Miles (UC Ext), Terry Prichard (UC Ext)

Financial Report – Reports were available for review, Mike W. discussed the budget. We are under budget in MLJ, LLC fees. We have had a reduction in toxicity hits in our water samples collected, which in turn has reduced the overall costs of lab/analytical costs.

Membership Report –Ruth M. reported that FE/NMP grower packets were mailed in January. Many telephone calls have been received to ask questions, or seek assistance in completing the grower surveys. While it is raining growers are catching up on paperwork, and this has increase the amount of time spent assisting members. The Coalition continues to hold annual grower meetings, grower assistance workshops, and assists with the Nitrogen Management Plan Self Certification classes.

Program Managers Report & WDR Implementation Report– Mike J. reported his findings from the 1/5/17 monitoring. The first ever exceedance for atrazine occurred at Terminus Tract on Bacon Island. This monitoring location was on the list to be removed, and now it will have to remain as a monitoring site for several more years. It is unknown why the atrazine was found as it is an insecticide. Diuron was found at unnamed drain at Temple Creek. Sampling will next occur on 2/21/17. HydroFocus has had a response of 99 volunteers who have agreed to have their ag wells monitored on an ongoing basis as required by the Groundwater Trend Monitoring Program. SECP proximity postcards have been mailed to Coalition members who are near a waterway and may require an SECP based upon their location and farming practices. A Revised Field Sampling guide has been submitted to the RB. MLJ, LLC has requested that sampling sites be a contiguous water way and be deep enough to conduct a sample. In dry years, MLJ, LLC has been required to sample non contiguous puddles that occur in waterways. A revised list of chemicals to sample is being compiled. Every watershed is to determine which Ag chemicals are used within that watershed. Then those chemicals are to be prioritized and ranked by most likely to get into a waterway and most commonly used. Neonicotinoids may be the focus of this revision. The Geisler Report was submitted to the SB. A thirty day comment period is currently open. The Nitrogen removed on specific corps is relatively low in this report, and thus has generated controversy within commodity groups. How the RB will use this report is yet to be determined.

Mike W. reported that the RB is looking at the Regional Monitoring Program for Trend Monitoring he is unsure the direction in which this program will end up. Mike W. will update us at the next meeting. All growers in the Duck Creek watershed must complete a Farm Evaluation due to the current Management Plan that is in place within that watershed. Even parcels that are not highly vulnerably will have to complete an annual Farm Evaluation due to the repeated toxicity. Mike W. reported that growers in the ESJ Coalition have received Nitrogen Outlier letters. The ESJ is conducting one on one meetings with their Coalition members to discuss the

reasons the Nitrogen usage is above the norm within that township. Discussion occurred of how our Coalition would handle our outliers. Mike W. stated that a decision has not been made at this time, but he will be meeting with MLJ, LLC staff later today. The final NMP Self Certification class will be held 2/22/17 at the Cabral Ag Center. Terry Prichard reported that he is developing the Continuing Education class through a FREP grant from CDFA. He recently trained seven more CCA's who will be able to act as instructors for the NMP Self Certification classes.

Old Business- Mike W. reported that the Regional Monitoring Program is slowly moving forward, he is on the finance committee.

New Business – None.

Public Comments – Michelle Leinfelder-Miles reported that there is a position open for the 4-H advisor within Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties and a position is open at the Delta College Research Farm.

Adjourn 10:43 a.m. the next meeting of the SJCDWQC is March 13, 2017, 9:00 a.m. at the San Joaquin Farm Bureau.