

Fall River Resource Conservation District

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Special Meeting Minutes Fall River RCD, March 3rd, 2022
M.C.T.O. at 7:05 pm

Board Members Present: Bill Buckman [X], Clay Jacobson [X], Chuck Macfarlane [X]
Don Martin [X], Chris Christofferson [X], Pat Oilar [], Dan Klatt [X]

Staff: Sharmie Stevenson [X], Todd Sloat [], Julie Allen [X]

Public Comment: None

Guests in attendance: None
Via phone: None

New Business:

FRPU and Swamp Properties Discussion:

Julie gave a presentation on potential projects that were identified on each property, starting with the Fall River Planning Unit 1 (PU1). Some of the potential projects identified on PU1 were repair of fencing, spring grazing lease for cattle, wildlife habitat restoration, hunting blinds, and additional hunting programs. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the current fencing condition on the property, need for repair and any additional fencing, and neighboring property owners. There was also discussion on future plans for the property regarding hunting opportunities, grazing leases, and wildlife habitat enhancements/restoration. M/S/C Don/Clay to repair fence line running north-west in order to allow for spring grazing. Julie will talk to the neighboring land owners regarding the repair of fencing. Julie then presented the Fall River Planning Unit 2 (PU2) to the board and the steps that would be needed to move forward with farming the property vs. not farming the property. There was a lengthy discussion regarding limited access, limited water, neighboring property uses, and wildlife habitat and associated hunting opportunities. Julie will look to see whether the RCD has the ability to maintain the access road. Julie will also look into mitigation around vernal pools, credit banks, and further research into wildlife enhancements/restorations.

Julie then moved on to the Swamp property and discussed the DU wetland enhancement project (DU Well). There was discussion on what the requirements of the DU Well are – specifically how long water is required to be put on the ground for the purpose of wetland enhancement and spring migration for waterfowl – as well as other ways the DU Well may be used once outside of the migratory season. There was then discussion on the proposed power line location, staked by PGE, which led to discussion on a meeting that was held on February 25th between Julie, Amelia Raquel and Luke Opperman with DU, several representatives from PG&E, and Craig McArthur. Julie reported her meeting with DU, PG&E and Craig McArthur regarding the proposed power lines along McArthur Canal Road. Julie notified the board of two concerns brought forward by Craig McArthur, whether the pole location allowed enough clearance to clean out the canal and that the poles posed a safety issue to young drivers. PG&E suggested moving the poles 15 ft off the road edge along the western side. Craig objected that this would be a hazard for drivers and warned that RCD and PG&E could be responsible for the death of someone colliding with a power pole. There was discussion among the Directors regarding this

liability. It was pointed out that someone might hit a pole or swerve to avoid a pole and careen into the canal and drown. The issue of who would be liable – the RCD or the canal owner/manager - was discussed. General consensus was that the canal could be considered a greater liability. It was suggested that possibly a guard rail should be built along the full length of the canal but it was agreed this is not RCD responsibility. Further discussion on this matter is expected during the regular meeting, which Julie had suggested to Craig McArthur that he should be in attendance.

Further discussion regarding the Swamp continued with potential seeding, extension of power for irrigating/farming opportunities, and grazing. Julie will get in contact with PG&E to see whether power can be taken to the East side of the Swamp at the bridge on Rat Farm Road. There was discussion specific to the Pump House field in regards to development of an ag well, farming/crops, and a walking trail/bird watching opportunity. Sharmie will take Duane Connor out to find a location for a well.

Finally, there was discussion on the Gun Club Property. Julie reported that there's not much to be done other than some potential fencing and signage along the highway. Julie will look into several different options and buy signs to post along Hwy 299.

Adjourned at 9:35 p.m. by Chairman Buckman

Next Regular Meeting Date – Tuesday – February 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM