



Sonoma County Special Districts Association

Membership Meeting Agenda Thursday, July 27, 2023 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

This meeting was held virtually

Call to Order/Roll Call

Roll Call: Jennifer Bechtold, Ramona Faith, Tamara Chapman-Davis, Lindsey Cain, Andrew Koblick, Jeff Veliquette, Reagan Ballo, Jerry Legg, Che Casul, Colleen Haley, Anneke Turbeville, Jennifer Jason

I. Open Forum/Public Comment – Ramona Faith, President

No public comments.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. April 6, 2023

Motion to accept the minutes of April 6, 2023 made by Tamara Chapman-Davis and seconded by Jennifer Bechtold

III. New Business

A. Vote Anneke Turbeville to Vice President of Executive Committee and Andrew Koblick to Treasurer

(Item was moved from A to B)

Motion moved by Jennifer Bechtold to approve Anneke Turbeville as Vice President of the Sonoma County Special Districts Association and Andrew Koblick as Treasurer and seconded by Tamara Chapman-Davis

B. Discussion and Approval of Chapter Membership for Sonoma Resource Conservation District and Northern Sonoma County Fire District

Discussion was held to approve Chapter membership for Sonoma Resource Conservation District and Northern Sonoma County Fire District. Both agencies have submitted their membership documents to the Chapter.

Motion was made by Jennifer Bechtold to approve Sonoma Resource Conservation District and North Sonoma County Fire District as official members of the Sonoma County Special Districts Association Chapter and seconded by Tamara Chapman-Davis.

C. Discussion and Approval of Partner/Affiliate Membership for Five Star Bank

Motion was made by Jennifer Bechtold to approve the partner/affiliate membership of Five Star Bank and seconded by Tamara Chapman-Davis.

IV. Introduction of Guest Speaker, Assemblymember Damon Connolly – Ramona Faith, President

Jennifer Bechtold introduced Assemblymember Damon Connolly who represents District 12, which covers the southern portion of Sonoma County as well as Marin County. He was elected this past November. Assemblyman Connolly's background includes local government, and he has served as a lawyer for many years. When he began his work as an Assemblyman, he started with 21 Senate bills, and now has 14 that are moving through the process. Assemblyman Connolly currently has staff in both Marin and Sonoma Counties and another staff in Sacramento. He is the Assembly lead on climate change policy and another assembly-select committee was formed at his request regarding wildfire prevention. A meeting was held last week at SSU to assess the wildfire risk in California and review access to homeowners' insurance. Additionally, Assemblyman Connolly serves on several other committees, including the utilities and energies committee and agricultural committee. He is also a budget committee member that deals with energy, transportation and climate change amongst other things.

Legislative highlights:

- AB 99 – restricts the use of pesticides by Caltrans and requires them to abide by local regulations if they are stricter.
- AB 478 – wildfire insurance regulation to help seniors maintain wildfire insurance. If you are doing everything to keep your property safe, you should be rewarded through rates and availability.
- AB 388 – seeks to build upon wildfire resilience and award block grants.

Guest Speaker, Assemblyman Connolly Continued:

- AB 1464 – relates to Richmond San Rafael bridge. Two-year bill calling for Caltrans to open a 3rd westbound lane for vehicular traffic in the morning using a bike barrier.
- AB 92 – relates to use of body armor. This bill prohibits anyone from owning body armor if not legally allowed to own a gun.
- AB 404/405 – organic ag package. These two bills streamline reporting requirements for organic farmers in CA.
- AB 935 – enhanced enforcement of flavored tobacco ban. Enhance ability of Dept. of Public Health and AG to stop tobacco access to kids.
- AB 855 – new voluntary vessel speed reduction to save whales.
- AB 620 – healthcare for metabolic coverage. Require health plans to provide medical therapy.
- New legislation - teens buying sodium nitrite, which is being used to commit suicide. Legislation would ban all sales to youth and ban sales above a certain concentration.
- AB 998 – requires CA Energy Commission to phase out biomass facilities and upgrade to more green sustainable facilities.

Finally, work is being done on the State budget, which is the 2nd largest budget in CA state history.

V. Special District Spotlight – Featuring Healthy Petaluma District and Foundation

Ramona shared a slideshow with the SCSDA Chapter which highlighted information on Healthy Petaluma.

VI. Affiliate Member Spotlight - Featuring Five Star Bank (Guest Speakers Reagan Ballo and Jerry Legg)

Jerry Legg introduced himself and Regan Ballo and said Five Star is a community bank headquartered in Sacramento which specializes in working with special districts. They currently donate \$10K per year to cover registration fees to get districts to attend the annual CSDA conference.

Reagan said while there are no Five Star Bank branches in Sonoma County, you can get set up with a scanner for ease. The account opening process is all done online, and they offer a robust platform for everyday banking. Five Star offers credit cards, financing and checking and savings accounts. There is a dedicated support team to help customers. Any districts looking for assistance or resources, feel free to reach out to Reagan.

VII. CSDA Update: CSDA Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator, Colleen Haley

Colleen expressed an idea to consider joining with the Napa County Chapter. We would need to rename our Chapter and include at least one Executive Committee member from Napa. We can put this on a future agenda for Chapter to discuss.

CSDA's annual conference will be held beginning August 28 in Monterey. There will be a Chapter roundtable at the conference so Colleen is looking for a member to attend who might already be at the conference.

Additionally, the Brown Act bill, AB557, is doing well. This bill allows for the extension of the current emergency provisions, giving districts the ability to meet virtually with a resolution passed every 45 days.

Initiative 21-0042A1 is moving forward and this will limit the amount of taxes local agencies can charge and collect.

VIII. Overview and Update on Membership Process – Jennifer Bechtold, Secretary

Jennifer reminded everyone that in order to become a voting member of the Chapter, you must fill out the membership application and return the Resolution from your Board. Additionally, a yearly certificate of insurance must be turned into the Chapter.

IX. Good of the Order/Future Agenda Topics

October 26th is the next meeting date.

Future Agenda Topics from Chapter Members:

- 1.) Tamara would like to hear more from the fire districts on wildfire mitigation. Perhaps Anneke or Chief Turbeville can speak on this topic.
- 2.) What are the top challenges operationally for special districts and is there help there.
- 3.) Discussion on regional chapter formation with Napa County.
- 4.) Discussion on the bills in the legislative process and their conclusion.

X. Adjournment

The Sonoma County Special Districts meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.