



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, November 8, 2017**

PLACE: Marin County Farm Bureau 520 Mesa Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

1. A regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Sally Gale President at 9:00am

Roll call of directors: Mike Moretti, Peter Martinelli, Bob Giacomini, & Terry Sawyer, Associate Director: George Clyde. Unofficial Associate Director: Richard Plant. Staff: Nancy Scolari, Elise Suronen, Darrylin Mollath & Sarah Phillips. Additional Attendees: Zach Mendes (Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Stewardship Project Manager), Eric Rubenstahl (Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Stewardship Project Manager), Michelle Cooper (Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Stewardship Project Manager), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Heather Furmidge (PRS resident), Carrie Lukacic (Prunuske Chatham), and Jennifer Walsh (NRCS).

ACTION ITEMS

2. MINUTES AND FINANCIALS

- A. Board approval of Regular and Special Meeting Minutes.
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none to approve the minutes.
- B. Board approval of RCD financial reports and bills to be paid.
MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none, to approve RCD financial reports and bills to be paid.
- C. Board selection of Marin RCD Vice President.
MOTION: Mike Moretti nominates Bob Giacomini to be Marin RCD Vice President, SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none, to approve Bob Giacomini to be Marin RCD Vice President.

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS

- A. Board approval to execute contract with Point Blue Conservation Science's STRAW program to install the planting project in the San Antonio Creek watershed.
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none, to approve the execution of a contract with Point Blue Conservation Science's STRAW program to install the planting project in the San Antonio Creek watershed
- B. Board decision on Gallagher/Lagunitas Creek Restoration Project Scope of Work to be delayed until site visit by Board members and RCD staff.
- C. Board approval of Technical Advisory Committee recommended projects for COW Phase-V Program delayed as of this Board meeting. Update given by Elise Suronen.

4. MARIN COASTAL PERMIT COORDINATION PROGRAM

- A. Board approval to authorize San Geronimo Creek: Restoring Coho Habitat Project (#2017-07) into the 2017 Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program and to open the public comment period for a period of 30 days.

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none, to approve to approve authorization of San Geronimo Creek: Restoring Coho Habitat Project (#2017-07) into the 2017 Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program and to open the public comment period for a period of 30 days.

5. POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

A. Board approval of recommendations to the General Management Plan Amendment.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none, to approve the recommendations to the General Management Plan Amendment.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. Partner Presentations & Updates -

• **RCD STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION:**

A DRAFT Marin RCD Strategic Plan is now complete. Please review it and provide comment.

Partner Updates -

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Jennifer Walsh shares that she has just returned Kentucky to assist in site visits for the Tubbs fire recovery. The NRCS has tripled their staff to assist the land owners in assessing their situation and accessing the help they need. She also mentioned the NRCS has an abundance of information to serve fire victims on their website:
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ca/newsroom/features/?cid=nrcseprd407898>
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Michelle Cooper shares that MALT has a new position open for a Conservation Planner.
- **Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Isaiah Thalmayer shares that STRAW has been active in participating with Cal Fire and thinking ahead to create a General Fire Plan that would be implemented throughout the state. One of their main roles was to a presence in these discussions for the agriculture community.

RCD Program Updates –

- **Fire Recovery Efforts:** Three staff attended fire recovery training provided by USDA NRCS in partnership with UC Cooperative Extension Service, Sonoma and Gold Ridge RCDs and Sonoma Farm Bureau. NRCS is receiving calls from Marin residents wanting assistance in completing property assessments to create defensible space. We have a collection of “After the Fire” fact sheets.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC conducted five site visits and assisted twenty-six stakeholders without a site visit being required. A presentation was given to the Mayor of San Rafael at the Gallinas Watershed Council board meeting in partnership with Marin County Flood Control District regarding the balance of creek cleaning with ecological integrity. USC provided a tour to a group of Sonoma State Restoration Ecology students with Trout Unlimited and MMWD regarding fisheries projects in Lagunitas Creek. Two creek clean-up events were successfully executed in the Sleepy Hollow Creek and Murphy Creek watersheds. USC has been educating and overseeing CA Conservation Corps members conducting restoration work on Larsen Creek for Lagunitas School District and SGV Community Center. The last monthly native plant propagation class took place in October which was well attended and included a potluck. A total of 159 individuals were educated over the last two months in the USC Program!

- **Marin Permit Coordination Program:** Staff has conducted two public meetings in the eastern Marin thanks to North Bay Watershed Association. Staff has also consulted with the water board and other local partners.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** 8 carbon farm plans are complete. 4 are underway (Moore Ranch, Vivian Strauss, Progressive Pastures and Giacomini Ranch). All will be complete in 2017. Over 400 Solicitation notices were sent out, 10 applications have been received. MCP selected 5 new carbon farm plans for 2018. RCD staff will work with the Seashore in the development of practices for carbon farm plans within the Park.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** A fence was completed and an alternative water development nearly complete. One planting project for this season.
- **Dairy CARES Program:** Staff completed 13 maps for dairy producers to assist with compliance with the Dairy General Order/Conditional Waiver. Two producers have called for help after closing date, MALT has assisted 1.
- **Americano Creek Watershed:** Gold Ridge RCD is partnering with CCI and Organic Valley on a Carbon Farm Plan for Ocean Breeze Dairy. Construction of the rainwater harvesting system at Valley Ford Cheese Co. has been delayed until permitting is completed – a building permit and a coastal permit. Permitting was delayed by fire recovery. Furlong will be the contractor on the project which will begin Spring of 2018. Gold Ridge received a request from DFW to confirm the presence of the CA Threatened and Unresolved at the Federal level status listing of the Longfin Smelt in the Estero. It appears that the Longfin Smelt will be added to the CNDDDB listing.
- **Media/Outreach:** None
- **Grant Opportunities:** Marin RCD provided assistance to five individual producers with Carbon Farm Plans who wished to apply to the State's Healthy Soils Initiative. RCD staff has also been assisting two dairy producers in applications to the State's Alternative Manure Management Program.
 - \$240k. State Coastal Conservancy – San Geronimo. *Awarded!*
 - \$40k. CalRecycle – Farm & Ranch Clean Up Program. *Awarded*
 - \$195k. CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife - San Geronimo. *Pending*
 - \$152k. CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife – Walker Roads. *Pending*
 - \$10k The Seed Fund – Permitting and Planning. *Pending.*
- **Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee met to discuss a cost share policy, review our last fiscal year financials for audit, and discuss grants and proposals for next fiscal year, and how we might help neighboring districts with fire recovery.
- **District:** The CPA has reviewed and approved our June 30, 2017 Balance Sheet and the fiscal year audit has been scheduled. In lieu of the Sonoma County wildfires our staff discussed creating emergency contact cards for each of the employee. Updated website with Stemple Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan and working on resolving PayPal donation button.
- **Landowner's calling for assistance:** 6 agricultural and 31 urban landowners requesting assistance.
- **Halleck Creek Ranch** was brought to Nancy's attention as a possible land owner to assist. Halleck Creek is a non-profit horse riding facility, providing therapeutic horse riding to handicapped individuals. They are interested in being a demonstration ranch used to illustrate the implementation of practices used to reduce nonpoint source pollution. Nancy shares there is a renewed interest in these practices as the

water board and the County of Marin are revamping regulations on horse boarding facilities.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- BOS will vote on purchase of the Golf Course in SGV on Nov. 14th
- Nov 15-18 CA Association of RCDs Conference. Sacramento CA
- November 15th. Last day to respond to PRNS General Management Plan Amendment Alternatives.
- Holiday Gathering discussed. Terry suggested Tony's, but capacity was a concern. A suggestion was to invite landowners who have partnered with the RCD this year. A possible location to be explored is Stemple Creek Ranch or the Tomales Town Hall.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- Supervisor Rodoni Letter of Support for proposed State Coastal Conservancy funded San Geronimo Restoration project.
- Thank you card from Main Street Moms for presentation on RCD.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:06 p.m.