



MINUTES

Dedicated to Renee Cole Clyde

DATE: **Wednesday, December, 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 9:02am

Roll call of directors: Mike Moretti, Peter Martinelli, & Bob Giacomini, Associate Director: George Clyde. Unofficial Associate Director: Richard Plant. Staff: Nancy Scolari, Elise Suronen, Darrylin Mollath, Lynette Niebrugge, & 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), Drew Loganbill (NRCS), and Ariel De Lara (USDA-NRCS).

ACTION ITEMS

2. MINUTES AND FINANCIALS

A. Board approval of Regular and Special Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none to approve the minutes.

B. Board approval of RCD financial reports and bills to be paid.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none, to approve RCD financial reports and bills to be paid.

3. MARIN COASTAL PERMIT COORDINATION PROGRAM

A. Board approval to close public comment period on December 16 and authorize San Geronimo Creek: Restoring Coho Habitat Project (#2017-07) into the 2017 Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none, to approve the close of the public comment period on December 16 and authorize San Geronimo Creek Restoring Coho Habitat Project into the 2017 Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program contingent on receiving no further public comment.

B. Board approval of CEQA Notice of Exemption for Nicasio Planting Project.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none, to approve the CEQA Notice of Exemption for Nicasio Planting Project

C. Board approval of Scope of Work and CEQA Notice of Exemption for Gallagher/Lagunitas Creek Restoration.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none, to approve Notice of Exemption for Gallagher/Lagunitas Creek Restoration.

4. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS

A. Board approval of resolution authorizing entering into funding agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board and authorizing a designated representative for the Upgrading Dairies and Ranches Sustainably in TMDL Watersheds grant

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none, to approve the resolution authorizing entering into funding agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board and authorizing a designated representative for the Upgrading Dairies and Ranches Sustainably in TMDL Watersheds grant.

B. Board approval of Technical Advisory Committee recommended projects for COW Phase-V Program

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none, to approve Technical Advisory Committee recommended projects for COW Phase-V Program to go into the “design phase” with the caveat that the TAC is permitted to revisit the barn stormwater project and adjust funding allocations for the proposed gutters and berms as necessary.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. Partner Presentations & Updates -

- **2017 STRAW Monitoring Results for Restoration Projects** – Isaiah Thalmayer, STRAW Project Manager, explained in detail the successes and mortality of STRAW plantings which includes details on owl boxes, above and below ground rodent damage, and styles of protective cages provided for plants.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Nancy took a moment to acknowledge Drew Loganbill for receiving the Conservation Planner of the Year Award with special recognition for his help with the Tubbs Fire Victims. Drew explained the NRCS Petaluma office has completed the worst of the fire devastation property reviews. He stated the office was running with an expanded team over the last two months and reviewed at least 200 burn sights. The office is slow now but ready to review the usual EQIP funding.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Michelle Cooper shared that she is leaving MALT to work at Audubon Canyon Ranch in Healdsburg. She added that MALT is still anticipating hiring a conservation planner as well as filling her position (Stewardship Manager). Jim Jensen mentioned MALT is close to finishing the Furlong project.
- **Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Isaiah Thalmayer shared that STRAW has been active in planting (195 plants) at the Raiser Ranch with students from Tomales High School.

RCD Program Updates –

- **Fire Recovery Efforts:** Staff met with the Fire Battalion Chief to inform her of RCD assistance options and to learn about Marin’s Fire Safe program.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC conducted two site visits and assisted twelve stakeholders without the need to conduct a site visit. Between the site visits, providing a lively presentation in San Rafael and teaching Lagunitas School kids about restoration, a total of 139 individuals were educated in the USC Program for the month. A total of 104 plants consisting of 25 native species were planted along Larsen Creek with Lagunitas School’s Open Classroom students. Invasives were removed and erosion control methods were employed in advance of the planting day by the CA Conservation Corps. USC will be meeting with State Coastal Conservancy in December to review the project site that has been recommended for \$200K in funding so stay tuned for that!
- **Carbon Farming Program** – 8 carbon farm plans are complete. 3 are underway. All will be complete in 2017. 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:** One alternative water development is complete while another is nearly complete. Two planting projects for this season.
- **Dairy Waiver:** The deadline to submit paperwork under the Dairy Waiver is December 30th.
- **Americano Creek Watershed** – No report.
- **Media/Outreach:** “Soil Power: The Dirty Way to a Green Planet” Jacques Leslie, New York Times. “Taking Climate-Friendly Farming To Scale” John J Berger, HuffPost
- **Grant Opportunities:** Marin RCD provided assistance to four individual producers with Carbon Farm Plans who wished to apply to the State’s Healthy Soils Initiative. All four were awarded funding! RCD staff also assisted two dairy producers in applications to the State’s Alternative Manure Management Program. Award results are pending.
 - \$40k. CalRecycle – Farm & Ranch Clean Up Program. *Awarded!*
 - \$195k. CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife – USC, San Geronimo. *Pending*
 - \$152k. CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife – Walker Roads. *Pending*
 - \$10k. The Seed Fund – Permitting and Planning. *Awarded & doubled!*
 - \$100k. County of Marin – Operating. *Awarded!*
 - \$200k. State Coastal Conservancy – USC, San Geronimo. *Pending*
- **Finance Committee:** A meeting was not held.
- **District:** Our audit is schedule to take place in January. Staff attended the CA RCD conference in Sacramento.
- **Landowner’s calling for assistance:** 0 agricultural and 14 urban landowners requesting assistance.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- February 6 & 8. Glenn Ranch Revegetation by STRAW.
- Our own Drew Loganbill was selected as Conservation Planner of the Year by CA NRCS!
- Our Urban Streams Program Manager was elected to serve as the Chair to the Lagunitas TAC, 2018-2020 term.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- RCD comment letter on the PRNS General Management Plan Amendment.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

9. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:57 p.m.