



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, January 14th, 2026**

PLACE: **Marin Farm Bureau Conference Room, 520 Mesa Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956**

1. A regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Terry Sawyer, President, at 9 a.m.

Roll call of Directors: Terry Sawyer, Gerald Meral, David Sherwood, Melissa Williams and Mike Moretti

Associate Directors: George Clyde, John Dolcini, Paul Ingle and Guido Frosini

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Cora Richard, Preston Duncan, Gerhard Epke, Lee Farese, Sarah Skinker, Sarah Phillips

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Sara Soderberg (STRAW), Chad White (Marin Biomass Project), Scott Dunbar & Lauren Faccinto (MALT), Martha Davis (Nicasio Land Owners Association), Greg Richardson & Rodd Kelsey (The Nature Conservancy), Chase Garcia & Jenna Houts (NRCS), Burr Heneman (Resident), Paul Kaymark (Nigro & Nigro PC), Larry Minikes & Belle Cole & Bill Carney (Marin Biomass Board), Liebe Patterson (Blue DOT), Rick Holland (CA Agroforestry Network) and Sophia Carter (PR Light)

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT:

- A. Board approval of FY23/24 Marin RCD Audit. ~ *Paul Kaymark, Nigro & Nigro PC*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Melissa; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to approve the FY23/24 Marin RCD Audit
- B. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: David; SECOND: Melissa; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to approve November 2025 Board Minutes with the addition of one guest who was present but not listed.
- C. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: Melissa; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to approve the Financial Report.
- D. Board approval to request \$125,000 from the County of Marin to support Marin RCD programs and to partially offset operational costs not covered by state or federal grants. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to approve the requesting \$125,000 from Marin County.
- E. Board approval to form Ad Hoc Measure A Committee to plan for 2030 Measure A renewal ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to form a Ad Hoc Measure A Committee. Members so far are: Jerry (director), David (director), Nancy (staff), Cora (staff), Sarah S (staff), & Preston (staff)

- F. Board approval of Marin RCD ballot responses in the election of CARCD Board Members, Bylaws and Resolutions ~ *Jerry Meral, Marin RCD Director*
MOTION: Melissa; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to approve Marin RCD's responses to CARCD.

3. INFORMATIONAL:

A. Marin Biomass Update/Presentation ~ *Chad White, Marin Biomass Project Manager*
Chad gave us an amazing presentation on the details of the Marin Biomass Project, and the major update is that the Marin Biomass Report will be released soon.

Partner Updates:

- **The Nature Conservancy**- Greg shared that The Nature Conservancy put out an Request for Proposals in the selection of a contract grazer in the Seashore and received 15 responses. Of the 15, 5 submitted bids. They are currently reviewing the 5 bids and will select one by the end of the month. TNC has also been meeting with local organizations to understand community concerns and to develop partnerships. They would like to partner with MRCD and plan on attending next month's meeting with a formal request to do so.

- **Marin County Agricultural Commissioner**- Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner. Joe was not present at this meeting.

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff Chase shared that all NRCS programs (EQIP, CSP & ACEP) share one deadline this year: January 15- close of business day. They currently have 97 EQIP applications, and 41 CSP applications. Chase expects to get roughly 30 more applications in the next 2 days. NRCS Petaluma is currently administering 262 active contracts. Those 262 contracts cover areas of Marin & Sonoma County. Of the 262, 173 are EQIP, and of the 173, 24 of those EQIP contracts are in Marin. There are currently 72 active CSP contracts, of the 72, 19 are in Marin County.

- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
MALT has a new Director of Conservation – Lauren Faccinto! She was attending via Zoom today to introduce herself. Scott told us that MALT will have partner office hours hosted by Cooperative Extension at the end of this month, with the RCD, NRCS and Zerofoodprint. MALT's small grants program is open; they will be doing up to \$400,000 that will be awarded in this round. All Marin County agriculturalists are eligible.

- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff Jessie gave us an update on where they're at in the restoration season. They are now officially at 99 restoration planting days and had a record 5 in one day! Between Libby and Jessie there are 23 more restoration planting days scheduled this season. This time of year, STRAW starts to look at the next season of implementation and begin planning for that.

- **All Hands Ecology (formerly Audubon Canyon Ranch)** – Jim Jensen
Jim was not present at this meeting.

- **Marin Water Expansion** – John Dulcini (Marin RCD Associate Director)
John let us know that MMWD still has a goal of gaining 8,500-acre feet per year, therefore even though the Nicasio Reservoir modifications are not going forward they are still seeking more water. The plan moving forward is:

The ARC pipeline (still in progress) - construction would be several years out. This pipeline would connect the Russian River to Nicasio Reservoir. Sonoma and Marin Counties did agree to

a 15-year agreement. There is a \$12.5 million dollar contract. It commits them to purchase at least 5,300-acre feet, but no more than 14,300-acre feet.

Electrifying the Soulajule Reservoir pump station – MMWD would like to install permanent electric pumps. This would involve installing a pipeline system, from Soulajule to Nicasio Reservoirs.

Kent Lake Expansion – MMWD is still looking at this, they are currently doing a feasibility study.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Federal Funding Unfrozen:** The County of Sonoma has been provided with a USDA Contract Amendment. The Marin RCD will be a subcontractor to the County. The project funds will be provided directly to producers this year.
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project has completed a draft final report titled “The Marin Biomass Study: Pathways to Improved Biomass Utilization and a More Regenerative Economy.” It has been shared with the multi-stakeholder Marin Biomass Collaborative and is undergoing their review. Public release is planned for next month. Upon release of the Study, the team will launch outreach focused on key findings and recommendations.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW MILC is the most recent Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Board grant. Projects at dairies in the Stemple Creek watershed have been ranked by the Technical Advisory Group and design work is underway. The grant also funds practices in Drakes Bay watershed of the National Seashore and those projects are expected to constitute manure pond decommissioning at those outgoing dairies. An application for COW GIRL phase IX was resubmitted to the Water Board in December.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Welcome Back! Sarah Phillips is back as of Dec. 8th. Activities for December, upon return, have included lots of catching up on the USC Prgm with Gerhard, reviewing and responding to six (6) months of emails and calls, coordinating meetings to get back in the flow on various projects and proposed contract agreements (Zone 10 and Tomales Bay). Sarah started to plan the Lagunitas TAC’s annual field trip and is providing support to Marin Water in conducting spawner surveys in San Geronimo Creek.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** The team is working on an update to the Project Application Portal on the RCD website to accommodate for upcoming project funding. STRAW Implementation season is underway, and the team is gearing up to visit and support at least 1 restoration day with students this winter.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** Several projects including the RCD’s Conserving Our Watershed Program and Carbon Farming as well as Green Gulch Farm’s Streamflow Enhancement projects completed CEQA this fall. Staff is currently reviewing a Vegetation Treatment Plan for Martin Griffin Preserve before a CEQA determination is presented to the board in 2026.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** JEDI Committee met 12/2 to discuss updates in JEDI work, the direction of the group, and the inclusion of JEDI focused language in the Strategic Plan. Michelle, Sarah and Nancy then met with Amy Stork to discuss incorporating this feedback into the Plan. The group will continue to meet regularly.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** We are working on a new newsletter for January. The RCD

was also mentioned in the Point Reyes Light both in the Editors Note and in an article entitled, *"Dairy ponds refashioned as ranchers depart park"* - this is referenced on our website.

- **Funding Opportunities:** RCD staff is in communications with CalTrans regarding mitigation funds to fix one of the Pine Gulch Creek Instream Flow Enhancement ponds. RCD staff is also looking into a design proposal to be submitted to CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife for Lagunitas Creek. Gerhard submitted a water quality proposal to the State Water Resources Control Board to continue the Conserving Our Watersheds Program.
- **Finance Committee:** The Committee met in December to review the audit which is presented at this meeting.
- **District:** FY24 financial audit was completed (thank you Cora!). A Draft Strategic Plan was completed but will be delayed due to further editing. A holiday party was hosted (thank you Fiona!). Software migration is in the works for timekeeping and HR services.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
Urban Streams: 20 individuals requested assistance and were consulted, 5 educated, 0 site visits.
COW: 0
CE: 2

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

6. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:42 a.m.