



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, August 12th, 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 and Melissa Williams

Associate Directors: George Clyde, Guido Frosini and John Dolcini

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Cora Richard, Sarah Phillips, Gerhard Epke, Sarah Skinker, Elise Suronen, Preston Duncan and Fiona O'Neill

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer and Jessie Ditmore (STRAW), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Regina Pozzi (Marin Farm Bureau), Sally Pozzi (Resident), Rick Holland (Agroforestry Network), Kelli (?), Brian Peterson & Julia Berkey (All Hands Ecology) and Rachel Lane (Marin County Parks)

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT:

D. Approval of response to Marin Civil Grand Jury Report, ["Measure A and Voter Choice: Rethinking Parks and Agriculture Funding in Marin"](#) ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

This item was moved up and presented first

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Melissa; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David & Melissa; NOES: None;

ABSENT: Mike; to have Nancy send the MRCD Board's comments to the Grand Jury.

A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, RCD Board & Operations Manager*

MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David & Melissa; NOES: None;

ABSENT: Mike; to approve July 2026 Board Minutes.

B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Cora Richard, RCD Board & Operations Manager*

MOTION: Melissa; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David & Melissa; NOES: None;

ABSENT: Mike; to approve the August 2026 Financial Report.

C. Board approval of the Marin RCD FY26/27 Annual Budget and presentation of Marin RCD vacancies and recruitment ~ *RCD Admin Team*

MOTION: David; SECOND: Melissa; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David & Melissa; NOES: None;

ABSENT: Mike; to approve the Marin RCD FY26/27 Annual Budget.

3. PROGRAMS:

A. Board approval of Marin RCD Landowner Authorization Agreement template to be used in providing technical services to landowners participating in the Sonoma-Marín Ag Support Program. ~ *Sarah Skinker, Marin RCD Carbon Farming Program Manager*
This item is being moved to the September agenda.

4. INFORMATIONAL:

- **All Hands Ecology preserve's Vegetation Treatment Plans. Receive presentation on CEQA and coastal permit coordination.** ~ *Julia Berkey & Brian Peterson, AHE; Gerhard Epke, MRCD Water Quality Programs Manager*

Gerhard introduced AHE & gave us an overview of the project. This presentation is to give background info on the action item the Marin RCD board will be reviewing in September. Brian and Julia shared background on All Hands Ecology (formerly Audubon Canyon Ranch). AHE stewards 5,000 acres spanning 25 properties in Marin and Sonoma counties. Going forward there is a need for more active management of AHE's properties, primarily through prescribed burning and grazing. To be able to get government funding they need to go through CEQA, with Marin RCD as the lead agency.

Partner Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff
No staff present.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
Scott shared that this year's stewardship assistance program opened July 1. MALT has approved 10 applications so far and there is still money available. The small grants program is still open and accepting applications. MALT will be announcing fall events soon (hikes, etc.).
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff
Still in maintenance season. They are looking at doing a project at Mitchell Ranch. A lot of hiring going on for seasonal apprentices.
- **All Hands Ecology (formerly Audubon Canyon Ranch)** – Jim Jensen
Had a presentation earlier in this meeting.
- **Marin Farm Bureau** – Regina Pozzi
The Marin County Farm Bureau VIP meeting is on August 31st at noon at Marin French Cheese. They continue to work on septic revisions.
- **Marin Agricultural Commissioner**- Joe Deviney, Marin County Ag Commissioner
No staff present.
- **The Nature Conservancy**- Greg Richardson, The Nature Conservancy
No staff present. There is a webinar at noon today (Stewarding Pt Reyes' Grasslands: A Framework for Targeted Grazing) that Nancy and staff will be watching in the Farm Bureau conference room following this meeting.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Richard L Plant Scholarship Fund** – *George Clyde, Marin RCD Associate Director*
A recipient was selected for this \$5k grant from Tomales High.
- **Nicasio Water Expansion**: John Dolcini, Marin RCD Associate Director
The ARC pipeline: MMWD approved a \$2.65 million agreement with the Army Corps. The Army Corps is going to design 18k feet (3.5 miles of the total 13 miles) of this pipeline. Overall status is that this project is still in prelim design/environmental review. Total cost is still about \$214 million
Seegar Dam at Nicasio Reservoir: Seegar Dam was recently evaluated and it was determined that it did not meet current standards. DSOD dropped the rating and directed Marin Water to upgrade the dam. No cost estimate on this yet, and construction is looking at 2031.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI)**: FIGR is reviewing a new Tribal Consultation document for MRCD staff and will report back with feedback. The JEDI Committee met this

spring to discuss an RCD DEI statement and will continue the discussion this summer.

- Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Received some feel-good emails about our newsletter!

- Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project and Marin Carbon Project hosted a Compost Working Group meeting to evaluate compost systems across the county.

- Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** Ongoing review of Vegetation Treatment Plan for All Hands Ecology's Preserves: Martin Griffin, Cypress Grove and Tom's Point. Exploring options for updating PCP analysis.

- Urban Streams Program:** During the month of July, Phillips has been focused on reviewing proposal(s) received for NOAA's Tomales Bay Tires Assessment as well as developing the agreement for facilitation of the Tomales Bay Stewardship Network. She joined two tours with partners to collaborate on restoration projects at Devil's Gulch (with State Parks, Trout Unlimited) as well as middle Lagunitas (with potential funders, PCI, and SPAWN on Parks land). Phillips conducted two site visits for streamside landowners and supported many others with watershed stewardship and regulatory assistance. Finally, she attended the BOS meeting in the approval of renewing the USC Program contract for another five (5) years.

- Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW MILC is the most recent Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Board grant. Nine projects were approved by the TAG, six in Stemple Creek and three in the Seashore. The seashore projects involve decommissioning manure ponds. These and two Stemple projects, a culvert repair and a heavy use area protection, are getting close to implementation.

- Carbon Farming Program:** We received over 30 applications for the federal AMP grant on our new website application portal. The team will review and rank applications this month.

- Walker Creek Watershed:** Significant numbers of salmonids were counted at the outmigration smolt trap by CA Dept Fish & Wildlife (late March-early June).

- Funding Opportunities:** RCD staff are working on several grants: CDFA Healthy Soils, SCC Climate Resilience, Rural Climate Partnerships and USDA Conservation Innovation Grants

- Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for August 17. At the last meeting, the committee reviewed the fiscal year budget in preparation for this meeting.

- District:** ED is checking in on West Marin Compost facility agreements and potential next steps.

- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**

 - Urban Streams: 9 individuals requested assistance and were consulted, 8 individuals were educated in the USC Program, and 4 site visits were conducted.

 - Conserving Our Watersheds: 10 consultations, mostly around the new grazing requirements.

 - Carbon Farming: 35

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Rick Holland shared that Super El Nino is here.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:35 a.m.