MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, October 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 9:05 a.m.**
   Roll call of Directors: Terry Sawyer, Gerald Meral, David Sherwood and Melissa Poncia Williams. Mike Moretti was absent.
   Associate Directors: George Clyde, Paul Ingle 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, Jessie Ditmore & Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Scott Dunbar & Tristan Brenner (MALT), Regina Pozzi (Marin Farm Bureau), Greg Richardson (The Nature Conservancy), Michael Miller, Rick Holland (Agroforestry Network), Chris Melancon (presenter), Martha Davis (Nicasio LOA), Dylan Voeller (Parks), Jody Timms (Fairfax Climate Action Committee), Burr Henneman & Joe Deviney (Marin County)

2. A look at our new quarterly staff report! ~ *Elise Suronen, Ops and Impacts Director*

3. **ACTION ITEMS:**
   A. Oath of Office for re-elected directors, Jerry Meral and Melissa Poncia Williams.
      Oath of Office was administered to Jerry Meral and Melissa Poncia Williams.
   B. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, RCD Board & Operations Manager*
      MOTION: Melissa; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve September 2026 Board Minutes.
   C. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Cora Richard, RCD Board & Operations Manager*
      MOTION: David; SECOND: Melissa; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve the October 2026 Financial Report.

4. **PROGRAMS:**
   A. Decision to award contractor bid for Point Reyes National Seashore Pond Decommissioning. ~ *Gerhard Epke, Marin RCD Water Quality Program Manager*
      MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to accept Gerhard's recommendation of awarding the bid to Inland Contracting Inc, as well as approve Item 4B, the landowner authorization agreement with DOI/PRNS.
   B. Approve Landowner Authorization Agreement with the DOI/Point Reyes National Seashore for pond decommissioning projects and to authorize the Executive Director to make minor modifications to the Agreement, subject to approval as to form by District

Council, and to execute the final agreement. ~ *Gerhard Epke, Marin RCD Water Quality Program Manager*
Approved in a joint motion with Item 4A, above.

5. INFORMATIONAL:

- **Marin County 2025 Crop & Livestock Report** ~ *Joe Deviney, Marin County Ag Commissioner*

Joe Deviney presented Marin County's 2025 Crop Report, this year with a focus on the Marin Woolshed. You can view it at this link: https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/awm/crop-livestock-reports

- **Measuring What Lives: A Practical Framework for Biodiversity Monitoring on Marin's Working Lands** ~ *Chris Melancon*

Chris has extensive experience with land stewardship and biodiversity in many states. Currently he is offering technical assistance to land stewards primarily in Sonoma County. He walked us through biodiversity monitoring and local groups supporting biodiversity. If you would like to reach out to Chris you can contact him at chris@what-feeds-you.com

Partner Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff

Chase shared an email update: FY2026 final program total funding of $12486,293 on 17,500 acres. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) funded 41 contracts for $3.8 million. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funded 39 contracts for $8 million. Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funded 2 contracts for $150,500. Approximately 16% of this was for Marin County participants.

- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff

This Friday (10/16) MALT is hosting their Dollars and Donuts event. It will be held between 10:30-2 at the Petaluma NRCS office. 12 different agencies should be attending (including MRCD!). It is a free event to grab some refreshments and information. MALT is also getting ready for round 6 of their small grants program. It will be open over the holidays and through January. $400k will be available for agricultural viability projects.

- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff

STRAW has onboarded their seasonal apprentices! The apprentices will be with them through May 2027. STRAW is kicking off this season of restoration projects. They are looking at 25 sites across different counties. Three projects are planned with Marin RCD.

- **All Hands Ecology (formerly Audubon Canyon Ranch) –** Jim Jensen

No staff present.

- **Marin Farm Bureau** – Regina Pozzi

The Farm Bureau is approaching the end of their membership and fiscal year (Dec 31)> They are trying to reach some membership goals in the next couple months.

- **Marin Agricultural Commissioner-** Joe Deviney, Marin County Ag Commissioner

Joe presented earlier in this meeting.

- **The Nature Conservancy**- Greg Richardson, The Nature Conservancy

TNC will be onboarding a new team member next week. Her name is Kelsey and she will be full time with Greg in PRNS. TNC released their responses to the April 16th open house comments and questions that came in. You can find these responses here: TNC April 16 Responses

Monthly RCD Updates (See quarterly staff report for detailed program updates):
●**Nicasio Water Expansion**: John Dolcini, Marin RCD Associate Director
Marin Water is starting to do maintenance on Nicasio and Howlett Creek. They have a sediment removal plan. For Seagar Dam, the cost estimate for a spillway upgrade project is currently $50 million. For Kent and Soulajule DSOD is conducting investigations for those levies.
●**No till Drill**: No rentals this year, what should we do?
We will talk about this more at the next meeting.
●**Our November meeting lands on Veteran's Day**
We will reschedule November's Board Meeting to the day before, Tuesday November 10.
●**Media/Messaging/Outreach**:
The next newsletter will be mailed in January.
●**Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** No public comment has been received (as of today) for the restoration and planting projects going through the PCP this year, so they will move forward under our PCP. Ongoing review of Vegetation Treatment Plan for All Hands Ecology's Cypress Grove and Tom's Point, so CEQA action is again bumped to next month.
●**Finance Committee**: The next FC meeting is scheduled for October 19th. September's meeting was cancelled.
●**District**: We have received 100 applications for the Operations Coordinator position!

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE**
   - None

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   - Gerhard and Paul Ingle will both be attending the State of the Bay conference at Marconi Center on Friday, Oct 30.

8. **MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:00 p.m.**