



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, September 10, 2025**

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

REMOTE OPTION: Members of the public may participate remotely by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87864206727> or by phone: +16699009128,,87864206727# meeting ID: 878 6420 6727. Please contact Elise Suronen at (415) 663-1170 ext. 314, or sarabs@marinrcd.org if you have concerns about accessibility.

(Note that we may move agenda items in this meeting to meet time constraints of participants.)

1. Regular meeting opens at **9:00 a.m.** Roll call, introduction of guests.

ACTION ITEMS: 9:15 - 11 a.m.

2. DISTRICT/ADMIN: (45 min)

- A. Administer Oath of Office to new Director, Melissa Williams ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- B. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
- C. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
- D. Discussion of auditor selection process, highlights of each firm and approval of new auditors. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
- E. Board approval of 2025 Marin RCD Employee Handbook. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director & Dena Grunt, Destination H-R*

3. PROGRAMS: (15 min)

- A. Board approval of contract C09-2025 with Point Blue Conservation Science Teachers and Students Restoring a Watershed for implementation, maintenance and monitoring of 4 riparian restoration projects. ~ *Sarah Skinker, Carbon Farming Program Manager*

4. INFORMATIONAL: 10:30 a.m.

- **Roundtable discussion on a recent report on the Total Economic Contributions of Agriculture in Marin.** *Joe Deviney, Marin County Ag Commissioner*
- **Rooted in the Land: The Legacy of the Marin Resource Conservation District.** *Elise Suronen, Marin RCD Impacts and Operations Director 15 min*

Partner Updates: 5 min each

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)– Petaluma Field Office Staff
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – MALT Stewardship Staff
- Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)– Point Blue Staff
- Audubon Canyon Ranch - Jim Jensen, Tomales Bay Land Steward and Preserve Mgr

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Marin Water Expansion Alternatives - John Dolcini, Associate Director**

- **Federal Funding Freeze:** No update
- **Fire and Forestry:** Marcus' up on the Board's question of liability in the event of a fire
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW MILC, the most recent Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Board grant, is in the design and permitting phase. The Technical Advisory Group has visited and approved sediment and manure management projects at six dairies in the Stemple Creek watershed. The grant will also help the Park Service decommission manure ponds at three outgoing dairies in Drakes Bay watershed of Point Reyes. An application for COW GIRL phase IX was submitted to the Water Board in January and is in review.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The carbon farm team plus Michelle Katuna and STRAW held a visit with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria at Toluma and Straus on May 9th to revisit riparian restoration sites where FIGR collaborated on designs. The team is planning another site visit for early October. David Escobar has shared his review of our implementation process. Sarah is scheduling the next JEDI meeting to take place after the upcoming FIGR site visit.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Jerry, Elise and Nancy working on next quarterly newsletter
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is nearing completion of its integrated study and planning to release it this fall. The team is also planning and working toward implementation of the study's recommendations.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** CEQA and permit coordination is occurring on several RCD and partner projects this fall. A Notice of Exemption will be posted for the RCD's four riparian restoration projects discussed at today's meeting. COW projects in design might be entered into the PCP soon, as initiated by a future board item and 30 day comment period. The Green Gulch Streamflow Enhancement Project is also expected to come before the RCD board next month. A CEQA determination for this item was scheduled for this September meeting but delayed because of some continuing consultation with the water rights division of the State Water Board. Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) has finished a draft of their vegetation management plan for the Martin Griffin Preserve to tier off of the State's CalVTP EIR, and Marin RCD has begun initial review.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah Phillips is on leave with Gerhard and other RCD staff filling in through the end of the year. Activities include landowner consultations, Marin Project Coordination meetings (agency permits), and various partnerships with the County such as the Tomales Bay tire removal project with NOAA, a new Tomales Bay stakeholder group, dissolution of the Inverness Flood Control District Zone 10, and supporting local watershed groups such as Mill Valley Streamkeepers with technical assistance.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed's (STRAW) riparian restoration monitoring and maintenance season is underway. The team has completed 7 carbon farm plans this year.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** The project team will regroup in the near future to discuss the State Coastal Conservancy as a potential funding source to apply for implementation funds.
- **Funding Opportunities:** A revised Federal grant amendment was submitted to USDA and we are awaiting their response to continue our \$2M grant proposal. Staff continues to meet with Emilie and other north coast RCDs to strategize around Prop 4 funding through SCC and WCB.

- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2025. The last Finance Committee meeting was canceled. The finance committee has received 2 proposals for audit services and a recommendation for an auditor is being made.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on financial audit (federal spending), Employee Handbook and new timekeeping-HR software.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 3 individuals and 3 organizations requested assistance and were consulted
 - COW: Only 1 or 2 consultations besides program applicants this month
 - CE: 4

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Don't Forget our Strategic Planning Retreat on Sept 16th at Fibershed!

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment for any matter not listed on this agenda, provided that no Board action is to be taken. All statements that require a response will be referred to staff to be placed on the next agenda.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, August 13th, 2025**

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, Vice President, at 9:10 a.m.

Terry moved action item A down on the agenda to be addressed after action item E

Roll call of Directors: Terry Sawyer, Gerald Meral, David Sherwood and Mike Moretti. Sally Gale was not present after stepping down effective June 16th.

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

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

Additional Attendees: Jim Jensen (Audubon Canyon Ranch), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Jennifer Martin (MALT), Martha Davis (Nicasio resident), David Cowman (Resident), Melissa Williams (potential new board member), Joe Deviney (Marin Co Ag Commissioner)

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT:

B. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve July 2025 Board minutes.

C. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager, Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve the Financial Report.

D. Presentation of Marin RCD vacancies, recruitment, retention and adoption of FY 25-26 annual budget. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager; Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve MRCD's budget for FY 25-26.

E. Board Approval to enter into a \$36,000 Fund Transfer Agreement with Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to administer and implement bank stabilization projects that benefit and protect property owners of Flood Zone 10.

~ *Gerhard Epke, Water Quality Program Manager; Tony Swan, Hannah Lee, Marin County Flood District*

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve entering into a \$36,000 transfer of funds from Marin County to Marin RCD to support Flood Zone 10.

A. Board approval to consider candidates and make an appointment to fill a vacant seat on the Marin RCD Board of Directors. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: Mike; to appoint Melissa Williams to serve out the rest of Sally Gale's term until November 2026.

3. INFORMATIONAL:

2024 Annual Crop Report and Report of Total Economic Contributions of Marin Agriculture

~ Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner

Marin County has just finished their annual crop report for 2024, and the gross value of all agricultural production in Marin County for that year came to \$83.8 million. This number is broken up into 5 categories: livestock, livestock products, field crops, aquaculture & fruit, vegetable and nursery crops. Unfortunately, Marin County's ag has dwindled over the last decade. Back in 2015 the gross value of all ag was about \$125 million. Joe says we will see another loss when the reports come out for 2025.

Joe felt like there were other things being produced that would fall under the agriculture category (like cheese!) and decided to hire an economist team to make a new report: Total Economic Contributions for Agriculture in Marin County (2023 data). This second report also includes the production, processing, employment, multiplier effect (business to business, and consumer spending) and ecosystem services. The total 2023 economic contribution of Marin County's agriculture was \$257.2 million.

If you would like to read these reports more in depth please visit

<https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/awm/crop-livestock-reports>

Partner Updates:

- **Farm Bureau-** Regina Pozzi, Farm Bureau Manager

No Farm Bureau staff present at this meeting.

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

Joe gave us a very thorough presentation on Marin County's Annual Crop Report earlier in this meeting.

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

No NRCD staff present at this meeting

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

Scott said that MALT has earmarked about half of the FY amount for the stewardship program.

They have approved about 5 projects so far. They are working on prep for the next round of small grants and hope to announce that over the wintertime. They currently have 98 easements and growing.

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

Isaiah said STRAW is primarily focusing on maintenance right now and their next season of projects. They have 4 large sized projects upcoming. They have started staffing up for next season, received 187 applications.

- **Audubon Canyon Ranch** – Jim Jensen

Jim shared that ACR continues to work with Fire Forward and that there will be a Marin prescribed burn meeting August 29th.

- **Marin Water Expansion** – John Dolcini (Marin RCD Associate Director)

John shared that the main concern with the Nicasio spillway is still the potential of flooding. He has noticed increased support and momentum, including media coverage from CBS, ATVU and others. Surveying is on hold due to potential trespassing. John wanted to point out that in 1980

a similar plan was brought up and shot down for the same concerns people are bringing up now- mainly flooding. MMWD has extended the public comment period to December 31st. Martha Davis has created a website you can visit: <http://nicasio.net/flood>.

*UPDATE AS OF 8/21/25: MMWD is no longer actively pursuing the Nicasio spillway modification project.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Federal Funding Freeze:** USDA is reviewing our proposed amendment to fit the new Advancing Markets for Producers grant program.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW MILC, the most recent Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Board grant, has begun. The agreement for \$1,000,000 is executed and projects at dairies in the Stemple Creek watershed have been solicited and ranked by the Technical Advisory Group. 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. Design work began this summer with biology and topography surveys . An application for COW GIRL phase IX was submitted to the Water Board in early January and is in review.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The carbon farm team plus Michelle Katuna and STRAW held a visit with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria at Toluma and Straus on May 9th to revisit riparian restoration sites where FIGR collaborated on designs. The team is planning another day of site visits in September. David Escobar is working on tangible recommendations for JEDI improvements to complete before the grant ends in December.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Second newsletter was sent out! North Coast Soil Hub newsletter highlighted Healthy Soils Projects in the region: <https://conta.cc/4igHa4a>
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is preparing a complete version of its Study by revising all technical reports submitted by consultants and incorporating them as chapters in an integrated Study. All deliverables under OPR Agreement No 21121 have now been completed, and all invoices have been submitted. The Marin Biomass Project is now operating under OPR (now LCI) Agreement No. SPPD23176. This second contract focuses on dissemination of Study findings and implementation of Study recommendations.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** The RCD's COW and Carbon Farming 2025 program projects will be put through the PCP in the coming months. There are two upcoming partner projects. Green Gulch Streamflow Enhancement Project was informational at the July meeting and will be coming back for a Board action at the September meeting. Staff are reviewing vegetation management plans for ACR reserves and expect to bring an action to the board also in the coming months.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah Phillips is on leave with Gerhard, and other RCD staff, filling in through the end of the year. Activities include landowner consultations, Marin Project Coordination meetings (agency permits), and various partnerships with the County such as the Tomales Bay tire removal project with NOAA, a new Tomales Bay TAC/Working Group, dissolution of the Inverness Flood Control District Zone 10, and support in Stinson Beach Zone 5.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed's (STRAW) riparian restoration monitoring and maintenance season is underway. The team recently

finished 7 carbon farm plans and has scheduled follow up meetings with those producers to discuss next steps.

- **Walker Creek Watershed:** No report
- **Funding Opportunities:** Staff continues to meet with Emilie and other north coast RCDs to strategize around Prop 4 funding through SCC and WCB. Sarah is working on a preproposal for WCB's upcoming grant.
- **Finance Committee:** No report
- **District:** Nancy completed the Request for Proposals to secure an auditor.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
Urban Streams: 3 or 4 individuals requested assistance and were consulted this month
COW: Only 1 or 2 consultations besides program applicants this month
CF: 3

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Associate director Paul Ingle recently visited Green Gulch and says they would be a good partner to have and encouraged folks to visit their site.

6. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:50 a.m.