



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, March 11th, 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 Mike Moretti, Vice President, at 9:05 a.m.

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

Associate Directors: George Clyde, Paul Ingle and Guido Frosini

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

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Jim Jensen (All Hands Ecology), Chad White (Marin Biomass Project), Scott Dunbar & Lauren Faccinto (MALT), Martha Davis (Nicasio Land Owners Association), Greg Richardson (The Nature Conservancy), Regina Pozzi (Marin Farm Bureau), Joe Deviney (Marin Ag Commissioner), Robert Steinberg (Resident)

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT:

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to approve February 2026 Board Minutes.
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: David; SECOND: Melissa; AYES: Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to approve the Financial Report.
- C. Board approval of resolution to designate the Executive Director as Paychex Trustee ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to approve the resolution designating the Executive Director as Paychex Trustee
- D. Board approval of resolution to designate the Board & Operations Manager as Paychex Administrator ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to approve the resolution designating the Board & Operations Manager as Paychex Administrator
- E. Board approval of 2026-2031 Marin RCD Strategic Direction ~ *Elise Suronen, Impacts Director*
MOTION: David; SECOND: Melissa; AYES: Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to approve the 2026-2031 MRCD Strategic Direction

- F. Board review and discussion of DRAFT Emergency Rapid Response Funding Policy ~
Nancy Scolari, Executive Director
No action taken

3. PROGRAMS:

- A. Request the Board approve Amendment #3 to Professional Services Agreement #C10-2022 (Orlena Yee) that adds \$63,000 to the contract to provide coordination services for the Marin Carbon Project and to ratify Amendment #2 which added \$60,000 in October 2024 for the same purpose. ~*Nancy Scolari, Executive Director and Orlena Yee, Marin Carbon Project Coordinator*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to approve Amendment #3 and ratify Amendment #2 to Professional Services Agreement #C10-2022

4. INFORMATIONAL:

Partner Updates:

- **The Nature Conservancy-** Greg Richardson, The Nature Conservancy
Greg shared a little about ongoing lawsuits. One was filed by Andrew Giacomini and is related more to the topic of housing. He said that one has been largely dismissed but there is still a window for the plaintiffs to respond. The other ongoing lawsuit was filed by Bill Niman & David Evans. This lawsuit is against the DOI and is challenging the process by which the rezoning of the national park was decided.
TNC now also has a website, google “The Nature Conservancy Point Reyes National Seashore: A Path Forward”. They have been holding regular office hours on Thursdays, and all the slots are filling up. They were only planning on holding them through the end of March but they have added slots in April.
Finally, TNC selected a grazer from their RFP. They picked David Evans, a local rancher.
- **Marin Agricultural Commissioner-** Joe Deviney, Marin County Ag Commissioner
Joe shared lots of upcoming opportunities for community engagement. An economic vitality strategic plan is happening right now, it will take about a year. The first meeting for the Local Area Management Plan was held last week- Sally attended!
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff
All the NRCS staff was under the weather, but Nancy did have a short update. NRCS said they are working with the 3 dairies in the North Bay Project currently. Joe Deviney weighed in and said that all 3 dairies applications look good, and they have passed the first stage of review.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
Lauren & Scott were present today. Scott said that he is working on reviewing the small grant applications they received and will be contacting folks soon with approvals.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff
Point Blue is currently in the process of internship hiring. They will be hiring 10-15 interns. They are also entering maintenance season! 4 more restorations are scheduled with Marin RCD. Last, they are hiring 4 more technicians in the South Bay and Novato area. They aim to hire internally, but will open the applications up to the public if 4 internal hires are not found.
- **All Hands Ecology (formerly Audubon Canyon Ranch)** – Jim Jensen

Jim shared that AHE continues prescribed burn planning, and offers support to landowners who would like to utilize prescribed burning. AHE is hosting MRCD, MALT & Point Blue staff at Cypress grove today to look at some targeted grazing and prescribed burning they have done.

- **Marin Farm Bureau** – Regina Pozzi

The Marin County Farm Bureau just hosted their annual dinner that honored many local people. Upcoming events: they will be co-hosting Marin County Farm Day on March 26 and on the first full weekend in June they will be at Western Weekend. Regina also mentioned the young farmers and ranchers committee they have in conjunction with Sonoma County. If any young folks want to join it is a great ag networking group! They will be having a fundraiser on May 9th at Wing & Barrel Ranch.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **PR National Seashore-Nature Conservancy Ad Hoc Committee:** Nancy Scolari, Marin RCD Executive Director.

Held its first meeting last Friday with only MRCD members. In this meeting they came up with a list of questions for TNC. There is a second meeting scheduled for this Friday (3/13) which will include TNC and a couple of folks from the seashore, to ask them MRCD's list of questions.

- **Measure A Ad Hoc Committee:** Nancy Scolari, Marin RCD Executive Director

Held first ad hoc committee in February, another meeting is upcoming.

- **Water Expansion:** John Dolcini, Marin RCD Associate Director

John was not present, so Martha shared. Martha thinks MMWD needs to do more homework regarding the Arc project, because they would need to run the pipeline for 2-3 straight months for it to serve its purpose.

- **Federal Funding:** The new Agricultural Marketing for Producers (AMP) program is now entering the planning phase. Announcements for applicants are expected in the Summer.

- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** FIGR is interested in providing feedback on MRCD's Strategic Direction, with an extended feedback window beyond this month's board meeting. Feedback will be brought to the board.

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** None

- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is finalizing its integrated Study. Upon release of the Study, the team will start undertaking outreach and will emphasize next steps to implement Study's recommendations.

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

- **Urban Streams Program:** This Program is up for contract renewal so Phillips. has been collecting letters of support (see attached). Phillips gave a presentation of the Program's 11.5 years to Marin Conservation League that was well-received. The County grant for Tomales Bay support is now approved. Phillips has been providing support on a Redwood Creek bridge replacement project with Mill Valley StreamKeepers, and providing support to Gallinas Watershed Council. Many site visits were requested by landowners and the county flood control department with regard to fallen trees in the creeks of west Marin after recent storm events. This has resulted in ongoing communications with county departments where their codes are in conflict with each other; therefore Phillips is simplifying the code for landowners wishing to undertake creek care post-storm events. Phillips also attended a People's Watershed Collective (new group in San Geronimo Valley) to assist in restoration activities on Roy's Riffles and is working with AmeriCorps to collaborate on a volunteer

restoration day in San Geronimo. Finally, Phillips recently created new connections in Sausalito's DPW to obtain access for willow sources to support restoration efforts in southern Marin.

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW MILC is the most recent Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Board grant. Of the six projects at dairies selected in the Stemple Creek watershed, three are in the design and permitting phase and three are entering implementation. The grant also funds practices in Drakes Bay watershed of the National Seashore. Design is 60% and NEPA review with NPS is underway for manure pond decommissioning at historic A, B and C ranches. An application for COW GIRL phase IX was resubmitted to the Water Board in December and a field trip for the EPA and State Board staff is being planned for March 26th.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** The team is revamping the funding application portal for farmers in preparation for the new federal AMP grant. RCD was awarded a microgrant from CA Native Plant Society for the CF team to conduct a spring field day to build staff skills in native forb and grass identification on rangelands.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** No report
- **Funding Opportunities:** RCD staff are working with the North Coast RCDs in applying for a \$1.5M USDA Community Projects Earmark through Huffman's office where Marin RCD's share would be \$300K.
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for March 16th.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on FY25 financial audit. A Draft Strategic Plan was completed. Staff are getting used to new timekeeping and HR services.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 11 individuals requested assistance and were consulted, 43 individuals were educated in the USC Program, and 7 site visits were conducted.
 - Conserving Our Watersheds: 2 or 3 consultations
 - Carbon Farming: 4

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

7. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:55 a.m.