



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, July 8th, 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, Paul Ingle, John Dolcini

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Cora Richard, Sarah Phillips, Gerhard Epke, Sarah Skinker, Elise Suronen, Emilie Winfield

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Greg Richardson (The Nature Conservancy), Regina Pozzi (Marin Co Farm Bureau), Sally Pozzi (Marin Co Farm Bureau), Rick Holland (Agroforestry Network), Chad White (Marin Biomass), Chase Garcia & Allen Curry (NRCS), Derek Acomb (CDFW), Monica Tonty and Michael Miller

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT:

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

MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Terry, Mike, Jerry, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to approve June 2026 Board Minutes.

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

MOTION: David; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David, Melissa & Mike; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve the July 2026 Financial Report.

C. Approval of the Marin RCD Records Retention Policy ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

MOTION: Melissa; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David, Mike & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve the Marin RCD Records Retention Policy.

3. PROGRAMS:

A. Approve the 2026-2030 Nature Conservancy-Marine Resource Conservation District Cooperative and Task Agreements for work in the Point Reyes National Seashore ~ *Nancy Scolari, Marin RCD Executive Director*

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve a cooperative and task agreement with The Nature Conservancy, and to engage the Marin RCD's Seashore Ad Hoc Committee to draft comments specific to the Grazing Request for Proposals for Board approval.

4. INFORMATIONAL:

- **Marin RCD Strategic Implementation Plan** ~ *Elise Suronen, Marin RCD Ops & Impacts Director*

Elise presented Marin RCD's Strategic Implementation Plan, our next step is to make things actionable. This plan is capturing staff's workload that advances the strategic direction. How we are taking that vision and putting it to the ground. It is still in draft form, so we would like to operationalize this come October 2026.

- **Walker Creek Fish Counts** ~ *Mary Olswang, CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife*

Mary shared that the goal this monitoring season was to monitor the proportion of hatchery origin vs natural origin smolts. This year the preliminary final numbers of smolts is almost 12,000 that were handled and released back into the system. 81% of those smolt were natural smolt. The numbers were outstanding this year compared to the past few years.

Partner Updates:

- **The Nature Conservancy**- Greg Richardson, The Nature Conservancy
TNC has been working on building out a targeted grazing plan. They think this is a good first step for their ecological goals. A grazing specialist on TNC's team has been working with the park service along with someone from the Dept of Interior to develop a grazing plan. Greg just received the 16-page draft of this plan. They would like to have livestock out on the seashore next spring (2027). Multiple entities need to review the plan first before it can be implemented.

- **Marin Agricultural Commissioner**- Joe Deviney, Marin County Ag Commissioner
No staff present.

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff
Chase & Allen were present today. Allen shared that NRCS has a new chief, and Chase will email us the list of new priorities from the new chief. They don't have any information yet on how the reorganization will go due to the new farm bill. They shared information about new assistance programs. If you would like to know more you can visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/california>

- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
Scott was not present in person but shared a short update ahead of our meeting: SAP is now available on a rolling basis for MALT easement holders for fiscal year 2027 for projects that address soil and water quality concerns.

- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff
Still very focused on maintenance. They are also working on developing the sites that they will do restoration at in the coming season. They are currently hiring for a few new technician positions, and potentially a project manager position.

- **All Hands Ecology (formerly Audubon Canyon Ranch)** – Jim Jensen
No staff present.

- **Marin Farm Bureau** – Regina Pozzi
Marin Farm Bureau were at lots of events recently: Western Weekend, NASCAR's Farm to Finish, and they will be attending Sonoma County Farm Bureau's Love of the Land event. They are looking forward to the LAMP updates, and everyone is welcome on 7/17 for CDA's Ag Specific Update. Please save the date for the Farm Bureau's VIP lunch- August 31, 2026!

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Richard L Plant Scholarship Fund** – *George Clyde, Marin RCD Associate Director*
There have been 3 applicants. Not sure how much or to whom yet the awards will be.

- **Nicasio Water Expansion**: John Dolcini, Marin RCD Associate Director
No update this month.

- **MRCD Board:** Melissa & Jerry's seats are up for reelection on the MRCD board. The signup period is July 13th to August 7th.
- **Federal Funding:** The new Agricultural Marketing for Producers (AMP) program received 30 applications!
- **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:** We are working on our next newsletter.
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is conducting outreach and pursuing implementation of recommendations in The Marin Biomass Study.
- **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 June, Phillips has been focused on the final preparation and release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for NOAA's Tomales Bay Tires Assessment/Study. Phillips partnered with WSP and Marin Water to offer a restoration day for volunteers at a former Landowner Assistance Program project site. Phillips invited SPAWN to support restoration on a private property in Forest Knolls. She held another well-attended Lagunitas TAC meeting at Marin Water's headquarters as Vice Chair. Finally, she attended a plethora of various meetings and toured Corte Madera Creek project site, as well as assisted numerous partners and landowners with their requests.
- **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. In the National Seashore, design is ~75% for manure pond decommissioning at historic A, B and C ranches. NEPA is underway. Targeting bid process and a tour next month.
- **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: Wildlife Conservation Board creek projects, CalFire Forest Health, CDFA Healthy Soils, NFWF Carbon Farm Plans, DOC Sustainable Ag Lands GHG monitoring, SCC Climate Resilience, Rural Climate Partnerships
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for July 20.
- **District:** ED is exploring new staff positions to handle workload.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 15 individuals requested assistance and were consulted, 80 individuals were educated in the USC Program, and 0 site visits were conducted.
 - Conserving Our Watersheds: 2 or 3 consultations
 - Carbon Farming: 35

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:15 a.m.