



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, November 12th, 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, President, at 9 a.m.

Roll call of Directors: Terry Sawyer, Gerald Meral, David Sherwood, Mike Moretti and Melissa Williams. Jerry attended remotely for just cause per Gov Code Section 54953.

Associate Directors: George Clyde, John Dolcini and Paul Ingle

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

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Nick & Trevor (STRAW Technicians), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Martha Davis (Nicasio resident), Jim Jensen (All Hands Ecology), Tristan Brenner, Rodd Kelsey (The Nature Conservancy), Chad White (OPR Biomass), Amy Stork (Amy Stork Consulting), Michael Neumann, Claire Herminjard (Marin Sun Farms), Robert Stenberg (Measure A Oversight Committee, Resident)

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT:

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: David; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to approve October 2025 Board Minutes
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: Melissa; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to approve the Financial Report.

3. INFORMATIONAL:

- A. Marin RCD Strategic Plan ~ *Amy Stork, Amy Stork Consulting*
Amy facilitated group discussion mostly between MRCD board and staff (with partner input) about the MRCD Draft 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

Partner Updates:

- **The Nature Conservancy-** The new Point Reyes Project Director for The Nature Conservancy, Greg Richardson, introduced himself. He has been on the job for 7 weeks so far. He said there is a lot going on with the PRNS settlement agreements. The current focus is developing transition plans in the areas of science & monitoring, restoration, targeted grazing and infrastructure.
- **Marin County Agricultural Commissioner-** Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner
Joe was not present at this meeting.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff

NRCS Petaluma staff are currently furloughed because of the federal government shut down.

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

Scott shared MALT is currently hiring for a Director of Conservation Programs. 86 of 98 easements are being monitored. MALT's small grants program will be open January 7th to February 13th. This year \$400k is available.

- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff STRAW brought 2 of their new techs with them to the meeting, Nick & Trevor. They are on week 3 of restoration, all teachers have been contacted for restoration projects. There will be 25 restorations with students at Libby and Jessie's sites. Over 100 restorations total in the bay area. Currently there is a lot of seed and acorn collection happening to plant in restoration sites. Inoculum supported restoration, a new project where they are experimenting with inoculating plants, is going full throttle.

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

All Hands Ecology has a new Director of Prescribed Fire, Julia Berkey. They will be having another Marin Prescribed Burn meeting this winter. AHE will also be part of the Measure A oversight presentation tomorrow (Nov 13). Jim let us know that MALT will be hosting an "Ag Coffee" gathering on Nov 21st at Thornton Ranch.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Nicasio/Water Expansion:** Martha Davis met staff from Marin Water on October 29th to figure out how they work together moving forward

- **Federal Funding Freeze:** The proposal is at the highest USDA office and waiting approvals but there is now a government shutdown

- **Fire and Forestry Liability:** All Hands Ecology re-worked the language in the Contract and clarified release of liability forms, contract is in our hands for signing.

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW MILC, the most recent Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Board grant, is in design phase. 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. Design work began this summer and the CEQA comment period is closing after this meeting. 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. 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):** No report

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Our next newsletter will be delivered this month.

- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is finalizing its integrated Study and expects to release it in the next month. Upon release of the Study, the team will emphasize work to implement Study's recommendations.

- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** Several projects including the RCD's Conserving Our Watershed Program and Carbon Farming as well as Green Gulch Farm's Streamflow Enhancement projects completed CEQA this fall. Staff is currently reviewing a Vegetation Treatment Plan for Martin Griffin Preserve and a CEQA determination for that might come before the board in 2026.

- **Urban Streams Program:** No report. Sarah Phillips is on leave with Gerhard/other RCD staff filling in through November. Other activities include 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 and support in Stinson Beach Flood Zone 5.

- **Carbon Farming Program:** No report
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** No report
- **Funding Opportunities:** Staff are looking into several funding opportunities related to monitoring and project implementation on ag lands.
- **Finance Committee:** The previous meeting focused on providing updates related to fulfilling RCD financial obligations through existing staff and hired consultants in the absence of a Fiscal Manager. Cora's hours will increase and a consultant contract will be amended to complete the work of assisting with our audit. The next FC meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2025. An agenda will be posted this week.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on financial audit, personnel reviews and re-organizing staff roles with limited staff. Fiona has been organizing our RCD Holiday Party in December!
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: two individuals and two agencies requested assistance and were consulted
 - COW: Only 1 or 2 consultations besides program applicants this month
 - CF: none reported

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

6. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:45 a.m.