



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, September 9th, 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 9:20 a.m. (technical difficulties delayed the start)

Roll call of Directors: Terry Sawyer, Gerald Meral, David Sherwood and Melissa Williams. Mike Moretti arrived at 9:30, before any action items.

Associate Directors: George Clyde, Guido Frosini 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), Tristan Brenner (MALT), Regina Pozzi (Marin Farm Bureau), Sally Pozzi (Resident), Greg Richardson (The Nature Conservancy), Michelle Katuna (MRCD Tribal Liaison), Matthew Johnson (FIGR), Christine Kuehn (Sonoma RCD), Brittany Jensen (Gold Ridge RCD), Michael Miller, Rick Holland (Agroforestry Network), Scott Jennings (All Hands Ecology), Rachel Lane (Marin County Parks), Michael & Vivian Straus (Resident) and Carrie Lukacic (PCI)

Item moved up

3. PROGRAMS:

- A. Board approval of Marin RCD Landowner Authorization Agreement template to be used in providing technical services to landowners participating in the Sonoma-Marín Ag Support Program. ~ *Sarah Skinker, Marin RCD Carbon Farming Program Manager*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: Mike & Melissa; to approve the Marin RCD Landowner Authorization Agreement template for use in the Sonoma-Marín Ag Support Program.
After approval Sarah Skinker and Fiona O'Neill gave a short presentation on the status of the projects and awards for this program.

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT:

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, RCD Board & Operations Manager*
MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David, Mike & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve August 2026 Board Minutes.
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Cora Richard, RCD Board & Operations Manager*
MOTION: Melissa; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David, Mike & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve the September 2026 Financial Report.

3. PROGRAMS:

- B. Board approval to provide CEQA coverage for 4 projects and to close the 30-day public review of projects into the Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program (PCP) on October 10, 2026 contingent upon receiving no public comment. ~ *Sarah Skinker, Marin RCD Carbon Farming Program Manager*

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David, Mike & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to provide CEQA coverage for all 4 projects and to close the 30-day public review of projects into the Marin Coastal PCP on October 10, 2026 contingent upon receiving no public comment.

4. INFORMATIONAL:

- **Tribal Collaboration Update** ~ *Michelle Katuna, MRCD Tribal Liaison and Matthew Johnson, Cultural Programs Manager and citizen, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR)*

Matthew & Michelle gave us a thorough presentation on the journey of Graton Rancheria getting federally recognized, and Marin RCD's collaboration history with them. The Marin RCD Board requested more frequent updates on the tribal relationship with Marin RCD.

Partner Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff told us they have 13 CSP/EQIP applications that had eligibility issues they are trying to work through to complete 2026 obligations. The planned application deadline for 2027 programs is November 6th.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
MALT has approved 10 SAP projects this year. They have also saved money in the SAP budget for potential El Nino projects (prep, storm & emergency related projects).
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff
STRAW is almost done monitoring for this season. There will be 8 new apprentices at the end of September, and they will be here from September 2026 through May 2027.
- **All Hands Ecology (formerly Audubon Canyon Ranch)** – Jim Jensen
No staff present.
- **Marin Farm Bureau** – Regina Pozzi
No update this month.
- **Marin Agricultural Commissioner**- Joe Deviney, Marin County Ag Commissioner
No staff present.
- **The Nature Conservancy**- Greg Richardson, The Nature Conservancy
TNC submitted a proposal for implementation grant to the Wildlife Conservation Board. They are also working on a grazing framework right now, each year it will be revisited and adapted. They will be releasing a request for proposal soon, the estimate is mid-October.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Water Expansion:** John Dolcini, Marin RCD Associate Director
- **Advancing Markets for Producers:** Selections for the new Agricultural Marketing for Producers (AMP) program are complete for the first round.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** No report
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Newsletter will now be distributed bi-annually.

- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is conducting outreach, seeking grant funding and pursuing implementation of recommendations in The Marin Biomass Study.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** See Item 3b. Also, following last month's presentation of the Vegetation Treatment Plan for All Hands Ecology's Martin Griffin, Cypress Grove and Tom's Point preserves, the CEQA action is expected to be agendized next month.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Phillips has tended to concerned streamside landowners in advance of the Super El Nino approaching. She attended the monthly regulatory meeting, several meetings to coordinate samples of tires from Tomales Bay, and a Lag TAC subcommittee meeting. She conducted several site visits and met with Marin Water's program manager to discuss roles and availability in place of Eric Ettlinger. Finally, Phillips attended the annual Coho Confab, to review coho recovery restoration projects.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW MILC is the most recent Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Board grant. Six projects at dairies were selected in the Stemple Creek watershed and three in the National Seashore. Designs are mostly complete. Coordination with the Tribe is occurring. At historic A, B and C ranches in the Seashore the construction is currently out to bid, and a tour is scheduled for today. See agenda Item 7.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** We received 34 applications for the federal AMP grant, which are currently being ranked for implementation this fall.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Nothing to report other than amazing fish counts!
- **Funding Opportunities:** Marin Waste Management has awarded UCCE funding for a compost page!
- **Finance Committee:** Salaries were reviewed at the last meeting along with health care plans. The next FC meeting is scheduled for Sept 21st.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on FY25 financial audit which will not be a Federal audit this year! New health insurance is now provided for staff.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 7 individuals requested assistance and were consulted, 7 individuals were educated in the USC Program, and 3 site visits were conducted.
 - Conserving Our Watersheds: 2 or 3 consultations
 - Carbon Farming: 30

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

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