



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, May 9, 2018**

PLACE: Marin County Farm Bureau 520 Mesa Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

1. A regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Sally Gale President at 9:05 a.m.

Roll call of directors: Terry Sawyer, Bob Giacomini, & Peter Martinelli.

Unofficial Associate Director: Richard Plant.

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Elise Suronen, Darrylin Mollath, Sarah Phillips & Lynette Niebrugge.

Additional Attendees: Eric Rubenstahl, (Marin Agricultural Land Trust), Kristen Guy (Marin Agricultural Land Trust), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Dylan Voeller (Point Reyes National Seashore), Zach Mendes (Marin Agricultural Land Trust), Heather Furmidge (Point Reyes resident), Lee Erickson (Erickson Engineering), Brooke Pippi (NRCS), Rebecca Burgess (Fibershed) and David Sherwood (Landowner - Tomales).

ACTION ITEMS

2. MINUTES AND FINANCIALS

A. Board approval of Regular Minutes and Special Minutes.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve both sets of minutes.

B. Board approval of RCD financial reports and bills to be paid.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: None, to approve RCD financial reports and bills to be paid.

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHED (COW)

A. Board approval of riparian fence design for Project #2017-05 on a tributary to Nicasio Reservoir.

MOTION TO TABLE: Bob; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to table Board approval of riparian fence design for Project #2017-05 on a tributary to Nicasio Reservoir. Bob suggested the RCD go back and consult with the landowner to determine if a five strand fence is acceptable. Possibly the landowner adds her own extra strand to make the fence six strands.

B. Board approval of design and cost for Project #2018-02 in Olema Valley.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: Bob; ABSTENTIONS: None, to pass Board approval of design and cost for Project #2018-02 in Olema Valley.

C. Board approval of design and cost for Project #2018-01 in San Geronimo Valley.

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: Bob; ABSTENTIONS: None, to pass Board approval of design and cost for Project #2018-01 in San Geronimo Valley.

4. CARBON FARMING PROGRAM

A. Board approval of Technical Advisory Committee to rank proposed 2018 carbon farming projects. MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Terry; NOES: None; AYES: Unanimous; ABSTENTIONS: None to pass Board approval of Technical Advisory Committee for purposes of ranking the proposed 2018 carbon farming projects.

B. Board approval of an educational outreach effort to promote Carbon Farm thinking in the West Marin community using behavior design. MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Peter;

NOES: None; AYES: Unanimous; ABSTENTIONS: None to pass Board approval of an educational outreach effort to promote Carbon Farm thinking in the West Marin community using behavior design. Suggestions included repeated campaigns in Point Reyes Light, Marin Ag News, mailing postcards and Instagram.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

5. Presentations -

- **The Fibershed Project** –Rebecca Burgess shared the history of Fibershed. An experiment she embarked on questioning if she could wear clothing that is sourced within 150 miles of where she lives. The connection to the RCD is that one of their goals, as an organization, is to limit their climate impact as they serve their community.
- **COW Tour** –slide show. Elise presented a slide show summarizing the tour taken of three past RCD projects. The tour stopped at the Brazil Ranch, Crayne Ranch and Bloom Ranch.

Partner Updates -

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**-Brooke Pippi mentioned that NRCS still has opportunity available for EQIP funding. Any applicant needs to apply by the end of May. She also stated she has reached her ten year anniversary with NRCS and she extended her gratitude to the RCD for all of their help.
- **Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Isaiah Thalmayer briefly filled us in stating that STRAW is past their rainy season tending to previously planted plants. They are planning a willow repair at Gallagher Ranch. Isaiah also mentioned STRAW is involved in assisting with a planting project funded by a WCB grant
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** –Eric Rubenstahl shared that MALT would be closing on Bivalve and (Jim) McIssac Ranches soon. He mentioned they are in full swing monitoring all 85 ranches they have easements on. The staff has presently visited 18 with six more visits scheduled in May. Eric also stated that MALT is assisting with Carbon Farm planning.

RCD Program Updates –

- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC was appointed as lead for tackling the Japanese knotweed issue in San Geronimo Valley and has been leading meetings which include a plethora of land managers in Marin County. USC attended the annual Salmonid Restoration Conference and was able to pursue funding for studies of Coho salmon use on Tomales Bay which is currently moving forward. The USC supported the Marin Municipal Water District in a smelt survey on Lagunitas Creek and provided a presentation at one of Supervisor Rodoni's meetings in San Geronimo Valley. USC is currently working with Trout Unlimited and CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife on the question of installing more large wood structures for salmonids in Devil's Gulch.
- **Pine Gulch Ponds & Instream Flow Enhancement Project:** Licenses must be prepared to follow up on permits. Changes of Petitions are required.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** To date 10 CFP have been completed; 5 are underway and 1 is in the waiting room. A total of 6 plans will be written in 2018. The Seashore will not permit planning to occur on the ranches prior to the completion of their environmental review process, however carbon farming practices may occur on a site specific basis. Staff assisted with organizing soil samples for processing and coordinating lab delivery. Another farm was awarded funding from Healthy Soil Initiative!
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Six projects are in the design phase.

- **Americano Creek Watershed:** Gold Ridge RCD is working with Carbon Cycle Institute and Organic Valley on a Carbon Farm Plan in Valley Ford. The Valley Ford Cheese Co. rainwater catchment project will be constructed soon.
- **Media/Outreach:** Carbon Project was in the New York Times, “Can Dirt Save the Earth”.
- **Grant Opportunities:** Staff will be assisting dairy producers with grant applications alongside UCCE staff. CEQA coverage may be required for each producer’s application. The County is considering continuation of Urban Streams for one year. Staff is considering 3 applications to Wildlife Conservation Board and possibly one to State Coastal Conservancy for climate resiliency projects (due in May).
 - \$13K. NRCS Conservation Innovation – Rangeland Soils Monitoring. *Pending*
 - \$152K. CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife – Walker Roads. *Awarded!*
 - \$50K. Anonymous Foundation – Walker Creek Outreach and Seashore. *Pending*
 - \$25K. USDA NRCS – Biological and Permitting Services. *Pending*
 - \$5K. CDFA – Assistance to Alternative Manure Management Applicants. *Awarded*
- **Finance Committee:** A rebate program description was created and submitted to an attorney to prepare for a Department of Industrial Relations formal determination to exempt prevailing wage requirements when using a rebate program.
- **District:** Darrylin is working on our Annual Report.
- **Landowner’s calling for assistance:** 4 agricultural (1 willow thinning, 3 Healthy Soils and Alternative Manure Applications) and 6 urban landowners requesting assistance.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May 11. Sonoma Marin Ag Roundtable. Petaluma Veteran’s Memorial Hall. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/marinsonoma-agriculture-roundtable-tickets-44893248916>
- May 18. WCB deadline for proposals.
- May 24. North Coast Area RCD Meeting. Ferndale

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- Marin RCD letter submitted to Assemblyman Levine in support of ranching in the Park.
- CCd on Letters of Support for Urban Streams Position to County Administrator: Marin Conservation League, Friends of Corte Madera Creek, Trout Unlimited

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

- “I have never felt so uncomfortable in my own underwear”, Joe Public’s response to the Fibershed presentation.

9. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:20 p.m.