



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, November 14, 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 9:01 a.m.

Roll call of directors: Peter Martinelli, Mike Moretti & Bob Giacomini.

Honorary Associate Director: Richard Plant

Staff: Elise Suronen, Sarah Phillips, & Darrylin Mollath.

Additional Attendees: Kristen Guy (Marin Agricultural Land Trust), Jeff Creque (CCI), Dave Sherwood (Rancher), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Jonathan Wachter (MALT) and Guido Frosini (True Grass Farms).

2. Administer Oath of Office to Sally Gale, Bob Giacomini and Peter Martinelli.

ACTION ITEMS

3. MINUTES AND FINANCIALS

A. Board approval of Regular Minutes.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve the minutes.

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

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

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

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the RCD financial report and bills to be paid.

C. Board approval of Resolution to Borrow up to \$350,000 in the 18/19 Fiscal Year to make full and timely payments for work completed by improved ranch practices.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to pass board approval of Resolution to Borrow up to \$350,000 in the 18/19 Fiscal Year to make full and timely payments for work completed by improved ranch practices

D. Board approval of letter requesting County financial support of RCD programs in the amount of \$100,000.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to pass board approval of letter requesting County financial support of RCD programs in the amount of \$100,000.

4. CARBON FARMING

A. Board approval of updates to the Landowner Agreement Maintenance and Monitoring Section for Hedgerows, Windbreaks/Shelterbelts and Silvopastures

MOTION: Bob makes the motion with the condition the cage is assessed for removal at three years; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS:

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None, to pass board approval of updates to the Landowner Agreement Maintenance and Monitoring Section for Hedgerows, Windbreaks/Shelterbelts and Silvopastures with the addition of cage assessments. (Peter leaves meeting)

- B. Board approval of windbreak design and construction budget for Toluma Farms
MOTION: Mike makes the motion to go ahead as planned and include livestock fencing; SECOND: Bob; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to pass board approval of windbreak design and construction budget for Toluma Farms, including livestock fencing. Sally states Toluma Farms is the “hope of the future” and requests a follow up report.

5. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS

- A. Board approval of Project Selection Criteria to be used in the evaluation and ranking of applications for the *COW: Updating Dairies and Ranches Sustainably (UDRS)* grant.
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Bob; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to pass board approval of Project Selection Criteria to be used in the evaluation and ranking of applications for the *COW: Updating Dairies and Ranches Sustainably (UDRS)* grant.
- B. Board approval of Notice of Completion for Contract #2018-03.
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Bob; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to pass MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Bob; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to pass board approval of Notice of Completion for Contract #2018-03.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

6. Presentations and Updates:-

- **Carbon Farming Project** – Staff and landowner presented design plans for a windbreak and silvopasture to be considered at the December Board meeting. Compost Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring standards are scheduled to be reviewed and approved at the December Board meeting. Please take a look at the draft standards and the landowner letter. Eleven carbon farm plans are now completed in Marin County; 5 are underway.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC conducted one site visit (Mill Valley), assisted eleven stakeholders and educated a total 103 individuals! USC attended a coupled of presentations on rainwater harvesting, presented to a couple of neighboring universities about urban restoration in Marin, and carried out the final and well-attended native plant propagation class for the year. Finally, the USC attended a week long workshop led by US Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service about ecologically-based watershed restoration.

Partner Updates: –

- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Isaiah Thalmayer, Restoration Manager shares where they are with their planting season that has started on Gallagher Ranch. The planting consists of 160 willow sprigs, a number of willow poles and buckeye seedlings with cages. STRAW is also involved with the Glenn Ranch planting which is twice as large this time versus last time. Isaiah states the first day of this project is on hold due to the heavy amount of smoke in the area. Isaiah also explains they are doing some experimental silvopasture planting which hopefully will serve as a big learning project for the future. Isaiah also presented

information on STRAW's work in updating their Monitoring Protocol. Their goal is to use enhanced monitoring protocols related to vegetation, soils and birds to determine if they are achieving their goals.

- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Elise Suronen reported on behalf of MALT sharing that MALT is helping landowners with pond registration questions, contact Kristen Guy.

RCD Program Updates –

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (Construction Update):** Project #2018-02 (Olema winter storm flow project) is ongoing. Project #2018-01 headcut earthwork is complete except for *Juncus plantings (waiting for rain)*; riparian fence will be installed soon. Projects: #2018-03 (gully fence and water development.), #2017-05 (riparian fence) and #2017-09 (Lagunitas streambank planting) are complete. STRAW is adding onto Project #2017-06 with their own Prop 1 grant.
- **Walker Creek:** Staff has initiated landowner contacts for site visits with Pacific Watershed Associates consultants for road assessments and fisheries surveys. Staff participated in one watershed tour put on by CalTrout to determine if further science could be applied to monitor water quality for fisheries.
- **Americano Creek:** Gold Ridge RCD will host a Healthy Soils Demonstration tour in December at the Bordessa Dairy. GRRCD is also seeking proposals from landscape crews and experimenting with Cocoon boxes and fog harvesting materials for irrigation. GRRCD is having a Board tour on December 20th and we are invited.
- **Stemple Creek:** Creek clean up on Chileno Valley Road is rescheduled until next year due to contract discrepancies with the Conservation Corps North Bay. A new contractor will be identified.
- **Pine Gulch Creek:** Bentonite was applied to Pond 1A; landowner applied the bentonite and Rege Construction sent a sheepsfoot down to compact the bottom. Marin Municipal Water District's interns from the Watershed Stewards Program might want to host a volunteer day to help Marin RCD maintain the Riparian Enhancement Area.
- **Media/Outreach:** Staff presented on carbon farming at the State Office in Sacramento. Staff was interviewed by BBC World News.
- **Grant Opportunities:**
 - \$169K. WCB – Carbon Farm Implementation (site visits, designs, planning, handbooks, outreach). *Pending*
 - \$40,000. CDFA – Technical Assistance for Producer Applications to Alt Manure Management Program and Healthy Soils Program. *Awarded*
 - \$10,000. Seed Fund – Soils testing for 2018 carbon projects. *Pending*
 - \$15,000. Rahr Foundation – Soils Testing for Demonstration projects. *Pending*
- **Finance Committee:** A Finance Committee meeting will be held in December.
- **District:** Darrylin is starting the FY17/18 Audit and working on Instagram postings. Staff attended the UCCE ponds training. Staff provided input on CalCANs Alternative Manure Management Program comment letter. A small board and staff lunch will be served.
- **Landowner's calling for assistance:** 7 agricultural and 10 urban landowners requesting assistance.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 11/14/18. 5-7pm. West Marin School Gym. Open House Meeting. General Management Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement.
- 11/15/18. 5-7pm. Bay Model Visitor Center. Open House Meeting. General Management Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement.
- 11/14-11/16. CA Association of RCDs Conference. San Diego.
- 12/12/18. 1-4pm. Cloverdale Fairgrounds. Rebates for Measuring and Monitoring Devices Water Use Measuring Workshop and Vendor Fair.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- Ltr to Walker Creek landowners asking for access for road and fish surveys
- Ltr to Strategic Growth Council supporting the Seafeeds – Achieving statewide methane reduction with seaweed feed additives for ruminant livestock proposal.
- Ltr from landowner to reconsider livestock exclusion stipulation following compost application
- Ltr to Strategic Growth Council supporting Point Blue carbon proposal for rangelands.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment for any matter not listed on this agenda, provided that no Board action is to be taken. All statements that require a response will be referred to staff to be placed on the next agenda.

Richard updates the Board on Tomales Bay Watershed Council activities. He lays out a brief history including the RCD's role. He explains that as time progressed the Counsel had trouble forming a quorum. Richard feels there is a role now for the RCD to help by sending representation to represent the ranching population. Possible January Agenda item.

10. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:38.