



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, December 12th, 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. wishing Director Bob Giacomini a speedy recovery.

Roll call of directors: Peter Martinelli, Mike Moretti

Associate Director: George Clyde, Honorary Associate Director: Richard Plant

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

Additional Attendees: Kristen Guy & Jonathan Wachter (Marin Agricultural Land Trust), Dave Sherwood (Rancher), John Parodi (STRAW)

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS – 15 min.

A. Board approval of regular meeting minutes.

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

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

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

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS (COW) – 15 min.

A. Board approval to execute Contract #C10-2018 with Sonoma Resource Conservation District to provide technical services and select a highest-priority pathogen-reduction project in Sonoma Creek for the COW: Updating Dairies and Ranches Sustainably grant.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to execute Contract #C10-2018 with Sonoma Resource Conservation District to provide technical services in selecting the highest priority pathogen reduction projects in their district. Leslie Ferguson and Laurie Tall are the Contract Managers/Regional Water Board representatives for this project and will also provide project approvals.

B. Board approval of Notices of Completion for Contract #C08-2018, Contract #C03-2018, and Contract #9-9-15.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve Notices of Completion for Contract #C08-2018, Contract #C03-2018, and Contract #9-9-15.

4. CARBON FARMING – 45 min.

A. Board approval of Landowner Agreement Maintenance and Monitoring Section for the Compost Application practice.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve Landowner Agreement Maintenance and Monitoring Section for compost

project #P05-2018 at this time and to continue the compost application policy discussion at next month's meeting. Points of discussion thus far include: compost application that nurtures an existing seed bank vs a new one; some animal impact may be good for incorporation of compost into soils; intentional grazing is an important tool; good management related to grazing is important (4-6 inches in plant growth); plants need rest to grow deeper roots; avoiding one field impacts other fields in a negative way; need to know how many animals, type of livestock and how many when making decisions; if we make this too hard for landowners, they will not participate; we need to look at long term benefits of the practice which may take years; need to be careful so that nutrients don't wash away; animals may eat the compost; timing of application is important – fall; properly composted material is very stable; the amount of compost applied is just a sprinkle; should be spread in the morning on a non-windy day; perennial vs annual might be an important consideration. Due to urgency of one project is was recommended that MALT and RCD staff come up with a solution for Project #PXX-2018 and continue the general policy discussion next meeting.

- B. Board approval of silvopasture and windbreak designs and budgets for Project #P05-2018.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve silvopasture and windbreak designs and budget for Project #P05-2018.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – 10:15 a.m.

5. Presentations & Highlights:

- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC conducted 2 (two) site visits and assisted 12 (twelve) stakeholders with various tasks. USC attended a plethora of meetings, chaired the quarterly Lagunitas TAC meeting, and coordinated a regulatory site visit for the agencies. USC met with resource agencies at Devil's Gulch to brainstorm projects and is gearing up to start working on the Landowner Assistance Program projects to be constructed in summer, 2019. Finally, USC teamed up with UCCE for another round of interviews for the Japanese Knotweed Coordinator position. We are hopeful of having that position filled by January, 2019 to help MKAT (Marin Knotweed Action Team) continue its education and outreach needs in San Geronimo Valley. USC reported participating in the willow planting project with Trout Unlimited and STRAW yesterday.

Partner Updates – 15 min.

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Drew Loganbill is the new District Conservationist!
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Kristin Guy reported on last monitoring visit and wrapping up the MALT strategic planning effort. SAP is usually funding water developments and fencing.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – John Parodi reported that STRAW projects are growing across the state. In Marin, close to finishing the Glen project (500 trees). Also using funds for silvopasture projects and experimenting with plant protectors. Float tests can tell you if a seed is good or bad. We should do a tour of the Glen Ranch!

RCD Program Updates – 15 min:

- **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 minor fence modifications; riparian fence installation in process.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Nancy is participating on the County's Executive Steering Committee for Drawdown Marin, a comprehensive effort to select and implement climate change solutions in the County. We need a volunteer program for healthy soil projects!
- **Walker Creek:** Landowners are being contacted for potential opportunity to participate in the roads assessment. RCD staff is potentially looking into restoration grant opportunities.
- **Americano Creek:** Gold Ridge RCD will host a Healthy Soils Demonstration tour in December at the Jarrid Bordessa Dairy (see below). GRRCD is having a Board tour on December 20th and we are invited.
- **Stemple Creek:** On hold until spring.
- **Pine Gulch Creek:** No update
- **Media/Outreach:** None
- **Grant Opportunities:**
 - \$169K. WCB – Carbon Farm Implementation (site visits, designs, planning, handbooks, outreach). *Pending*
 - \$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 was held on 12/04/18. Last/current/future FY budgets were discussed. Billing rates were reviewed.
- **District:** Darrylin is starting the FY17/18 Audit and working on Instagram postings.
- **Landowner's calling for assistance:** 1 agricultural and 14 urban landowners requesting assistance.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 12/12/18. 1-4pm. Cloverdale Fairgrounds. Rebates for Measuring and Monitoring Devices Water Use Measuring Workshop and Vendor Fair.
- 12/18/18. 10-12. Valley Ford. Healthy Soils for Small Coastal Dairies.
- Due 01/04/19. Sand Point Groundwater Basin modification public comments due.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- Ltr to Point Reyes National Seashore, providing comments on General Management Plan Amendment.

8. 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.

9. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:00am.