



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, January 9th, 2019**
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 9:03 a.m. wishing Director Bob Giacomini a speedy recovery.

Roll call of directors: Peter Martinelli, Mike Moretti , Terry Sawyer and Bob Giacomini

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

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

Additional Attendees: Kristen Guy & Jonathan Wachter (Marin Agricultural Land Trust), Dave Sherwood (Rancher), John Parodi (STRAW), Jeff Creque (CCI), Drew Loganbill & Nick Goodman (NRCS), Leslie Ferguson (RWQCB), Eric Ettlinger (MMWD), and Randi Black (UCCE).

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

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS (COW) – 30 min.
 - A. Board approval of Technical Advisory Committee recommendation to approve Projects #01-2019 and 02-2019 of the COW: Updating Dairies and Ranches Sustainably grant into the design phase.
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to execute Technical Advisory Committee recommendations for Projects #01-2019 and 02-2019 of the COW: Updating Dairies and Ranches Sustainably grant into the design phase.

4. CARBON FARMING – 30 min.
 - A. Board approval of Landowner Agreement Maintenance and Monitoring Section for the Compost Application practice.
MOTION TO DEFER: Terry; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to defer 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 included: compost application nurturing 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 is ideal); 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 management 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 grassed might be an important consideration in making management decisions.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – 10:15 a.m.

5. Presentations & Highlights:

- **Walker Creek Fish Survey Results** – Eric Ettlinger, MMWD Aquatic Ecologist shared survey results performed on Walker Creek. Eric asked the RCD to help them communicate the results of the survey to landowners. Nancy and Sally agree the RCD can help send out letters. Eric also presented an update on Lagunitas Creek.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Things slowed down in the USC Program for the final month of 2018. In December, 2 stakeholders were assisted without the need for a site visit and 20 individuals were educated with regard to restoration and endangered salmonids in Marin. USC has continued ongoing support to Lagunitas School with its Larsen Creek restoration efforts, trail improvements and interpretive signage project. As well, USC assisted Marin Municipal Water District with a spawner survey on mainstem Lagunitas Creek in mid-December and attended a community-based fire resilience group meeting for the North Bay area. Finally, in the new year of 2019, USC will be focused on the Landowner Assistance Program projects and moving them forward toward construction, which will take place in the late summer.

Partner Updates – 15 min.

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Drew Loganbill shared that their office is up and running despite the “government shut-down”. They have enough to cover two more pay periods with hopes that this government crisis will end soon. Drew also mentioned the Farm Bill has passed but they are still not sure what the details are, thus projects are on hold until the new budget comes out. Drew also introduced Nick Goodman as the new soil conservationist at the Petaluma office.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Kristin Guy and Jonathan Wachter stated there are no new updates to report.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – John Parodi reported that STRAW focused a big push on the Glenn Ranch this past month. He also mentioned that STRAW is revisiting how they monitor projects specifically tree counts and how much carbon is sequestered.

RCD Program Updates – 15 min:

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (Construction Update):** Project #2018-02 (Olema winter storm flow project) is ongoing.

- **Carbon Farming Program:** Progressive Pastures planting hedgerow Jan 12, funded by HSI
- **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 held a Healthy Soils Demonstration tour in December at the Jarrid Bordessa Dairy.
- **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:** Next meeting is 01/22/19
- **District:** Darrylin is continuing with the FY17/18 Audit, working on maintenance postcards for the ranchers and Instagram postings.
- **Landowner’s calling for assistance:** 3 agricultural and 2 urban landowners requesting assistance.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 03/08/19. Landowner applications are due to CDFA Healthy Soils Program.
- 04/03/19. Landowner applications due to CDFA Dairy Digester Program.
- 04/03/19. Landowner applications due to CDFA Alternative Manure Mgmt Program.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- None

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 11:12am.