



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, June 19th, 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 9:10 a.m.

Roll call of directors: Bob Giacomini and Peter Martinelli

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

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

Additional Attendees: Eric Rubenstahl (Marin Agricultural Land Trust), Dave Sherwood (Rancher), Kristen Norman (NRCS), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Kristen Guy (MALT), Suzie Winquist (point Blue/NRCS), Jeff Creque (CCI), Ed Nute (owner) and Kallie Kull (MCDPW).

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS – 15 min.

A. Board approval of regular meeting minutes.

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

C. Board approval to hire grant writer MOTION: No action was necessary for this item.

3. CARBON FARMING- 30 min.

A. Board approval of Project #2019-07 design for critical planting area, fencing and water development construction estimated at \$79,218.00. MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Bob; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve Project #2019-07 design for critical planting area, fencing and water development construction estimated at \$79,218.00.

B. Board approval of Project #2019-06 design for hedgerow and water development construction estimated at \$68,489.00.

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve Project #2019-06 design for hedgerow with electric fencing and water development, excluding sprinklers, construction estimated at \$68,489.00.

C. Board approval to contribute additional funding to Project #2018-04, a hedgerow installation. MOTION TO TABLE: Bob; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to table Project#2018-04 and ask staff to develop a different solution.

4. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS- 15 min.

Board approval of Project #2019-03 design for waste transfer construction estimated at \$118,548.90. MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve Project #2019-03 design for waste transfer construction estimated at \$118,548.90.

5. SAN GERONIMO LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – 20 min.

- A. Board approval to award a construction contract for the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife-funded SGV Landowner Assistance Program Project #2017103. MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Bob; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve to award a construction contract for the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife-funded SGV Landowner Assistance Program Project #2017103.
- B. Board approval to award a construction contract for the State Coastal Conservancy-funded SGV Landowner Assistance Program Project #2017-07. MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Bob; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve to award a construction contract for the State Coastal Conservancy-funded SGV Landowner Assistance Program Project #2017-07.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – 11:30 a.m.

6. Presentations & Highlights:

Monarch Butterflies – Ed Nute and Richard Plant share their love for Western Monarch butterflies by encouraging all attending to plant narrow leafed milkweed and winter flowering nectar plants. The entire group shares their concern for the diminishing Monarch population and are interested in doing their part. Ed is interested in volunteering on a ranch or providing assistance in writing a grant to expand monarch butterfly habitats. Nancy explained that the Wildlife Conservation Board has applied for a block grant that will be distributed amongst priority RCDs, if awarded.

Partner Updates – 15 min

NRCS – Suzie Winquist reports:

- **Round 3 of EQIP Funding** –NRCS is encouraging participation. Deadline end of December. She reports that they have received requests for the County of Marin totaling \$780,000.

MALT – Kristen Guy and Eric Rubenstahl report MALT has approximately one third of their monitoring completed. They anticipate more SAP projects coming this year.

Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed – Isaiah Thalmayer reports the big push for maintenance is complete. They are now looking towards the next season with a focus on Millerton, Gilardi Ranches. STRAW is analyzing how they can cover the most ground with the least amount of dollars spent. They are also considering hiring a Restoration Technician. Isaiah also reported they are developing a mycorrhizal tea to assist in their plantings.

RCD Program Updates – 15 min.

- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC assisted 13 residents/stakeholders in Marin whereas two landowners received site visits. USC attended a series of MKAT (Marin Knotweed Action Team) meetings to determine the best next steps in moving forward in San Geronimo Valley regarding the eradication of invasive Japanese knotweed vegetation. Progress is continuing with the Landowner Assistance Program; plant and archaeological surveys have been conducted and the bid tour/job walk was carried out for both projects. Cost proposals were due on Thursday, June 13th. West Marin Compost is helping the

project with storage of materials and acceptance of vegetative materials. Marin County Open Space is helping out by taking spoils from the project.

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (Construction Update):** Two projects are lining up for construction; one is hung up in the permitting phase. An old COW project is threatened by a new headcut; remaining COW V funds are paying for a design-fix.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Staff is participating in County's Drawdown Marin program. The carbon sequestration group has now convened to inform the County Drawdown effort. Two project designs are ready for approval at this month's meeting, making for a total of three projects that will be implemented this year. One previously implemented project will be maintained. Soil samples will be collected prior to implementation of projects.
- **Stemple Creek:** Stemple Creek Cleanup project will be gearing up.
- **Pine Gulch Creek:** One pond is seeping; therefore, Marin RCD is assisting with Division of Water Rights Time Extension Request to delay appropriate water licensing.
- **Media/Outreach:** Nancy presented to the Supervisors on Measure A accomplishments.
- **Grant Opportunities:** Working on possible Monarch butterfly opportunity.
 - \$169K. WCB – Carbon Farm Implementation (site visits, designs, planning, handbooks, outreach). *Awarded!*
 - \$50,000. Anonymous. Regenerating Landscapes. *Pending*
 - North Coast Forest Watershed Coordinator Position. *Awarded!*
 - \$350,782. Walker Creek Estuary Study. Dept Fish and Wildlife. *Pending*
 - \$10K. Workshops at Farmers Markets for beginning farmers. *Pending*
- **Finance Committee:** No meeting was held.
- **District:**
 - Let's go on a 60th Anniversary Tour for Board of Supervisors - FALL
 - Staff will be meeting at a couple flooded road locations with landowners and the county of Marin in July.
 - CARCD is enforcing dues which means increasing our contribution.
 - CARCD Board structure is changing. District managers will replace representation of Directors.
 - North Coast RCD Area Spring Meeting was held in Petaluma.
- **Landowner's calling for assistance:** 1 agricultural and 13 urban landowners requesting assistance. We are receiving quite a few carbon farming requests from around the world.

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Six Marin County farmers are awarded CDFA Healthy Soils funding!

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sally Gale stated that she is putting together a group of people to help move newts across Chileno Valley Road. Date and time to be determined. Sarah Phillips and Isaiah Thalmayer stated they would like to be notified.

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.

3. MEETING ADJOURNED: 12:05