



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, December 11th, 2019**

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

1. A regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Bob Giacomini, Vice President, at 9:08 a.m.

Roll call of directors: Peter Martinelli and Mike Moretti, and Terry Sawyer. Absent: Sally Gale.

Associate Directors: George Clyde & Richard Plant.

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

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Kristen Guy (MALT), Drew Loganbill (NRCS), & Randi Black (UCCE).

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS

A. Board approval of regular meeting minutes.

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

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

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the RCD financial report and bills to be paid. Terry Sawyer requests we set a Finance Committee Meeting in January 2020.

C. Board approval of Marin RCD Cost Share Policy.

MOTION TO Review Rates: Terry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to for staff to come back with more information. Specifically fencing and other rates from NRCS.

D. Board decision to approve the Marin RCD Project Evaluation, Ranking and Selection process.

Nancy reviewed past challenges and process. The discussion was opened up for the Board to discuss. The decision was to keep the selection structure the same, but staff will consistently engage (i.e. invite to site visits and verbal project updates/check-ins) with designated Board Member(s) in the selection and development process.

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS

A. Board review and approval of projects funded by the COW: Updating Dairies and Ranches Sustainably program as recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee.

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Mike to AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob, to approve the project to go to design phase.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – 11:15 a.m.

2. Presentations & Highlights: 30 min

San Geronimo Valley – Sarah Phillips Ombudsman, Marin RCD

Sarah presented the two projects she implemented this year on San Geronimo Creek. The projects were previously designed by Marin County nine years ago, funded by State Coastal Conservancy and California Dept of Fish and Wildlife.

Partner Updates –

- **NRCS – Drew Loganbill** presents NRCS focus for the New Year: Soil Health. Drew reports their office has been reviewing EQIP funding criteria and expect to roll out a new batch in February/March. NRCS has not received the new Farm Bill Rules which has delayed them as well. He also states his office is down in staff numbers and they have been busy with Kincaide Fire concerns.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – Kristen Guy, Stewardship Project Mgr** informs the Board that MALT has completed their monitoring season, plus they are on-track to acquire several more easements in the new fiscal year. Their staff has almost completed the revamp on their site evaluation plan. Also, they are pleased to mention they have hired Kathryn Lyddan to replace Stephanie as Associate Director of Conservation, Acquisitions.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed – Isaiah Thalmayer, Restoration Mgr** explains STRAW has been busy now that the rainy season is here. He reports that planting on the Millerton Ranch will be happening in January. Also, on the Gilardi property STRAW is working with the Carbon Farm Plan to create a windbreak, while collecting seeds on site. Isaiah states with all sincerity, “STRAW is interested in helping landowners accomplish what they have committed to”.

RCD Program Updates – 15 min:

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** One project is under construction, one project will be re-bid; one is in the permitting phase and is awaiting AMMP proposal announcements.
- **Urban Streams Program:** MKAT meetings continue, Landowner’s Assistance Program project funded by CDFW began on August 26th.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Three projects will start construction soon. One previously implemented project will be maintained.
- **Stemple Creek Project:** Stemple Creek Cleanup activities are complete! Cameras will be placed soon.
- **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** Marin RCD staff drafted Petition for Extension of Time to the Division of Water Rights to delay appropriate water licensing.
- **Media/Outreach:**
 - “Ranchers criticize park’s plan for ag, urges changes” PReyes Light
 - “Big benefits from fences on Olema Creek” PReyes Light
 - “Two projects enhance endangered salmon...” PReyes Light, George Clyde
 - Marin Carbon Project, KWMMR Broadcast
- **Grant Opportunities:** Elise has been working on a new “Restore California” program with ranches. A 1% surcharge is applied to diner’s bill that is directed toward carbon farming projects. Sarah is looking into shared project with Trout Unlimited.
 - \$350,782. Walker Creek Estuary Study. Dept Fish and Wildlife. *Pending*
 - \$10,000. Drawdown Marin. Campbell. *Declined*.
 - \$60,000. CDFA Healthy Soils Tech Assistance. *Awarded!*

- **Finance Committee:** No meeting was held
 - **District:**
 - Let's go on a 60th Anniversary Tour for Board of Supervisors - SPRING
 - Darrylin is closing FY18-19 and scheduling for CPA and Audit.
 - **Landowner's calling for assistance:** 2 agricultural and 26 urban landowners requesting assistance.
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE
- The UDRS grant is soliciting for new proposals in September; landowners will work directly with staff to submit an application by Oct. 17th.
4. 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.
5. MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:p.m.