



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, February 12, 2020**

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 9:06 a.m.

Roll call of directors: Peter Martinelli and Mike Moretti, and Terry Sawyer. Absent: Robert Giacomini.

Associate Directors: George Clyde & Richard Plant.

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Erica Mikesh, Michelle Katuna, Sarah Phillips & Darrylin Mollath.

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Kristen Guy (MALT), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Drew Loganbill (NRCS), David Sherwood (Local Rancher) & Trisha Taniguchi (CDFW).

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS

A. Board approval of regular meeting minutes.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: 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.

C. Board approval of Memorandum of Agreement between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Marin Resource Conservation District, State of California and the CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve Memorandum of Agreement between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Marin Resource Conservation District, State of California and the CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts.

3. LOWER WALKER CREEK FLOODPLAIN ASSESSMENT & DESIGN

A. Board approval of Resolution 01-2020 approving and authorizing execution of a contract with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Lower Walker Creek Floodplain Assessment and Design project.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve Resolution 01-2020 approving and authorizing execution of a contract with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Lower Walker Creek Floodplain Assessment and Design project.

4. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS

A. Board approval of landowner match waiver for Project #2013-06 to apply to Project #2020-01.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve landowner match waiver for Project #2013-06 to apply to Project #2020-01.

- B. Board approval to amend Contract #C01-2019 with Prunuske Chatham Inc. to add technical services for construction oversight of Project #2020-01, and biological services for two projects requiring CEQA review.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve to amend Contract #C01-2019 with Prunuske Chatham Inc. to add technical services for construction oversight of Project #2020-01, and biological services for two projects requiring CEQA review.

- C. Board approval of consulting archeologist to provide services for two projects: #2020-01 and #2020-02.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve consulting archeologist to provide services for two projects: #2020-01 and #2020-02.

5. SAN GERONIMO LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- A. Board decision to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$5,057 for Stillwater Sciences Contract #04-2019.

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$5,057 for Stillwater Sciences Contract #04-2019.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS –

6. Presentations & Highlights:

- Nancy presents new programs the RCD is participating in:
 - Drawdown Marin Campaign – A consortium of different County entities committed to sequestering carbon and reducing climate change. All ag organizations are now strategizing on how to create the Agricultural chapter in the Climate Action Plan.
 - Healthy Soils Program – The program supports RCD staff in assisting producers as they apply for Healthy Soils funding.
 - Wildlife Conservation Board Grant – Supports wildlife friendly practices and the completion of two Carbon Farm Plans. 15-20 wildlife friendly carbon farming designs and budgets will be completed along with a hedgerow pamphlet and 2 workshops.
 - Restore California – A new program sponsored by the State which is working in conjunction with restaurants. A restaurant may opt in to collect 1% charge on a diner's bill (diner also may opt in/out). The proceeds in turn, will support Carbon Farming projects. A farmer would apply to the program to receive funds.

Partner Updates –

- **NRCS – Drew Loganbill** explains NRCS has had a number of staff changes with staff openings for Range Management and a Soil Conservationist. Drew was eager to introduce their new pilot mentoring program. This opportunity will offer hands-on ranching education to new staff not necessarily with ranching background. Drew invited our Board Members to mentor a new staff member.

- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – Kristen Guy, Stewardship Project Mgr and Eric Rubenstahl, Stewardship Project Mgr** MALT is taking a break in their monitoring until March due to lack of rainfall. They are continuing their strategic planning work and are excited about their new site evaluation tool. They stated that “Climate chatter is prominent right now and MALT, working with the RCD and other partners, are eager to see how they can help landowners with their needs in this area”.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed – Isaiah Thalmayer, Restoration Mgr** explains STRAW has presently been tackling a number of planting projects; 3-6 a week right now. Following planting will be the irrigation phase. They are excited to work with the RCD on the Wildlife Conservation Board grant and the Healthy Soils project.

RCD Program Updates –

- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah led planting efforts at both of the Landowner Assistance Program project sites, bringing the project sites to a close for 2019. USC attended several meetings to wrap up the year. In January, Sarah attended a wildland fire fighting training to work toward certifications needed to assist in prescribed burns and/or assisting on potential wildfires in Marin.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** One project completed; one project job walk held Feb 4 for 2020 construction; one project was winterized to prevent the expansion of the headcut because the design is already complete, four projects are in the CEQA/permitting phase.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** 3 planting projects are underway; 2 by STRAW and 1 by landowner/MALT. A landowner’s in-kind cost-share of a water development and a pond fence are underway this month. 1 previously implemented project will be maintained.
- **Stemple Creek Project:** Stemple Creek Cleanup had another dumping before the signs and cameras were put in. Signs are now up and cameras will be up soon.
- **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** Marin RCD staff offered to assist the other two farms with Petition for Extension of Time to the Division of Water Rights if they wanted to delay the appropriate water licensing process.
- **Media/Outreach:** Thanks to George’s Walker Creek Press Release, the following articles were published.
 - Front page photo of David Sherwood modeling along Walker Creek, PReyes Light
 - “West Marin coalition aims to boost Walker Creek fish habitat” Marin IJ, WHouston
 - “Marin officials report spike in illegal dumping” Marin IJ, WHouston
- **Grant Opportunities:** Elise has been working on a new “Restore California” program with ranches and CA RCDs. A 1% surcharge is applied to diner’s bill that is directed toward carbon farming projects. Nancy is starting to meet with MCOS and MALT re new Measure A opportunities.
 - \$350,782. Walker Creek Estuary Study. Dept Fish and Wildlife. *Awarded!*
 - \$700,000. Conserving Our Watersheds for TBay/Stemple. *Pending*
- **Finance Committee:** Meeting is scheduled for 2/20/2020
- **District:**
 - Let’s go on a 60th Anniversary Tour for Board of Supervisors and RCD Board- SPRING
 - Darrylin has closed FY18-19 and survived another audit. Audit will be presented next month.
- **Landowner’s calling for assistance:** 2 agricultural and 17 urban landowners requesting assistance.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- None

3. 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.

4. MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:00 p.m.