



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, March 11, 2020**

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 9:05 a.m.**

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

Associate Directors: George Clyde & Richard Plant.

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

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Kristen Guy (MALT), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Nick Goodman (NRCS), David Sherwood (Local Rancher), Patricia Hickey (CCI), Jackson Valler (Sequoia Ecological Consulting) & Dylan Voeller (PRNS).

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS

A. Board approval of regular meeting minutes.

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

B. Board approval of RCD Financial Report and bills to be paid.

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

3. PERMIT COORDINATION PROGRAM

A. Board approval to open 30-day **review** of 2020 proposed projects into the Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program (PCP) and acceptance of proposed projects on April 10, 2020 contingent upon receiving no public comment.

The Board could not vote on this item; there were not enough voting board members present. It was determined that staff could proceed with public notification and the Board could vote to close public comment at the next meeting.

4. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS

A. Board approval of design and engineer's cost estimate for Project #2020-01: Headcut Repair.

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve design and engineer's cost estimate for Project #2020-01: Headcut Repair along with a recommendation that the TAC provide the board with a statement regarding their judgement about the adjacent ranch road, its effect on the project and road maintenance activities to be completed by the landowner.

B. Board approval of not proceeding with Project #2019-03: Irrigation System Upgrades.

The Board could not vote on this item: there were not enough voting board members present. Bob Giacomini abstained from the conversation due to conflict of interest. Albert Straus was present and explained the difficulty with high cost. He will be working on other projects but not

undertaking this project at this time. There was discussion about whether the RCD could help Albert with a future grant proposal through AMMP or another COW grant.

5. CARBON FARMING

- A. Board approval of contract to provide maintenance support for planting practices: silvopasture and windbreak/hedgerow at Project #2018-04: True Grass Farms.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to Board approve contract to provide maintenance support for planting practices: silvopasture and windbreak/hedgerow at Project #2018-04: True Grass Farms.

6. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND MARIN RCD – 15min

- A. Board approval to execute Cooperative Agreement between the US Department of Interior National Park Service and the Marin RCD to support stewardship activities on ranches within the Point Reyes National Seashore.

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to Board approve to execute Cooperative Agreement between the US Department of Interior National Park Service and the Marin RCD to support stewardship activities on ranches within the Point Reyes National Seashore.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS –

7. Presentations & Highlights:

Straus Family Creamery - Albert Straus and Joseph Button (Sustainability Director)

Albert and Joseph shared the Straus Family Creamery's goal to be carbon neutral by the year 2022 (to sequester more carbon than emitted on the farm). Highlights include: Carbon Farm Plan (sequester soil in the soli), Methane Digester Renewable Energy (digest the manure faster), Trial on Red Seaweed & electric vehicles throughout the ranch (a partnership with BMW).

Alex Portshawver – Drawdown Marin

Alex presents how the County of Marin is addressing Climate Change. Marin County is doing pretty good overall with their Greenhouse Gas Emissions credited mainly to the use of Marin Clean Energy (default program created in 2005, first in California). Although, Marin County has established even more rigorous goals at reduction than even the state of California. Drawdown 2030 goal is 60% below the 2000 levels and the 2050 is below zero. The goal is to reduce and mitigate emissions, but also to implement practices that allow us to sequester more carbon.

Partner Updates –

- **NRCS – Nick Goodman** explains NRCS the EQIP batching period update; first batch is April 17th and the second is June 26th. CSP update; applications deadline is early June with an obligation deadline of late July. New resource concerns were added, they are: soils organism habitat loss or degradation, aggregate instability, groundwater depletion and emissions of airborne reactive nitrogen. There is also a new practice available this year: Wildlife Habitat Planting. NRCS has some big staffing changes.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – Kristen Guy, Stewardship Project Mgr and Eric Rubenstahl, Stewardship Project Mgr** MALT is experiencing some staff changes and is

working to fill the Director of Conservation role. The special events for the year are kicking off so be sure to check out their event information on their website. Monitoring visits are starting early April. MALT and the MRCD are working together on the Healthy Soils assistance program. They are working together to assist landowners that need assistance with their applications. Regarding the Stewardship Program, MALT is developing department goals and expanding the stewardship program. They will be contacting the Board for additional ideas for additional ways they can work with the Marin RCD.

- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed – Isaiah Thalmayer, Restoration Mgr** explains STRAW just wrapping up their restoration season. Regarding the MRCD planting projects, all are complete except Gilardi which will complete March 12th. STRAW is also working with Michelle and the Marin RCD on the Healthy Soils incentive program proposals. Next, they are looking forward to working on the WCB grant with the MRCD staff as they implement Carbon Farm designs.

RCD Program Updates –

- **Urban Streams Program:** USC has been working with two AmeriCorps members to carry out a small hands-on soil bioengineering workshop in Nicasio (3/7). USC has been busy wrapping up the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife-funded Landowner Assistance Program project with monitoring efforts and report writing. Finally, USC attended a Walker Creek salmonid life cycle monitoring workshop led by National Marine Fisheries Service and will continue to provide support in attending those meetings.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** One project completed. Four projects are in the CEQA/permitting phase. 1 project is being reconsidered.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** 3 planting projects are complete: 2 by STRAW and 1 by landowner/MALT. A landowner's in-kind cost-share of a water development is in progress and a pond fence is complete. 1 previously implemented project will be maintained. Staff is working on kicking off the CDFA Healthy Soils Program with materials presented on our website. The County has kicked off efforts to revise the Climate Action Plan; RCD and partners are assisting.
- **Stemple Creek Project:** This project closes out in mid-March. Sarah has completed final reporting requirements and invoices for the project.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Smolt trap installation is planned for lower Walker Creek to monitor salmonids leaving the watershed.
- **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** Marin RCD staff are planning for the maintenance of trees at Star Route Farms and creating/submitting reports to permitting agencies.
- **Media/Outreach:** None this month
- **Grant Opportunities:**
 - \$25,000. Cambria/Jackson Wines for Marin Carbon Project. *Awarded!*
 - \$50,000. Anonymous Foundation for outreach/education. *Pending*
 - \$700,000. Conserving Our Watersheds for TBay/Stemple. *Pending*
 - BearCorps application to hire intern for outreach/education. *Pending*
- **Finance Committee:** FC reviewed new grants, new financial agreements, audit results and salary steps.
- **District:**
 - Let's go on a 60th Anniversary Tour for Board of Supervisors and RCD Board- SPRING
- **Landowner's calling for assistance:** 2 agricultural and 12 urban landowners requesting assistance.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Tomales Bay Conference to be held September 18th, 2020.
- CDFA Healthy Soils Program funding available! Rolling applications accepted until June 26th!
- Art Show at Toby's in January!

9. 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.

10. MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:05 p.m.