



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, April 8, 2020**

PLACE: Due to COVID-19 the Marin RCD Board Meeting was held remotely.

The MRCD Office was open to the public at: 80 Fourth St, Suite #202, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

1. A regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Sally Gale, President, at 9:07 a.m.

Roll call of directors: Robert Giacomini and Mike Moretti, and Terry Sawyer. Absent: Peter Martinelli. Associate Directors: George Clyde & Richard Plant.

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

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Kristen Guy (MALT), Drew Loganbill (NRCS), David Sherwood (Local Rancher), Point Reyes Light & Drew Meador (STRAW).

2. COVID-19 & the State of the District: Nancy Scolari, Executive Director, explains the MRCD staff has explored how secure funding sources are. She shares there is no sign presently that those funding sources will be affected, but we must be prepared for things to change as it may take a few months to see budget shifts. Nancy explains the RCD invoiced immediately upon the SIP order to be sure to recoup what was due to RCD expeditiously. The RCD is also checking in with the producers to make sure they can come through with their cost share. Nancy states she is grateful that much of the field work had been done this winter, so we are in a good position to move forward with projects.

ACTION ITEMS:

3. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS

- A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Terry; 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: Bob; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the RCD Financial Report and bills to be paid.

- C. Board approval of Marin RCD Annual Audit for FY 19/20

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the Marin RCD Annual Audit for FY 19/20.

- D. Board approval of Notices of Completion for the following contracts: C14-2019 with Guerrero Fence Inc. completed in October 2019, C15-2019 with Yaeger Pump and Well completed in March 2020, and Project #2019-02 with Schaefer Eng. Inc.

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

4. PERMIT COORDINATION PROGRAM

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

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob, to approve CEQA coverage and closing the 30-day public review of 2020 projects into the Marin Coastal

Permit Coordination Program (PCP) on April 10, 2020 contingent upon receiving no public comment.

5. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS

A. Board approval of not proceeding with Project #2019-03: Irrigation System Upgrades at this time, and to cost-share on the project at a later date through the Alternative Manure Management Program or future COW funding rounds.

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve of not proceeding with Project #2019-03: Irrigation System Upgrades at this time, and to cost-share on the project at a later date through the Alternative Manure Management Program or future COW funding rounds.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS –

6. Presentations & Highlights:

Partner Updates –

- **NRCS – Drew Loganbill** explains NRCS is deemed an essential business during our present Shelter in Place order as long as COVID-19 measures are upheld. Although most staff are mainly working from home, they are all in good spirits and very productive. He proceeds to state staff is pushing hard to get projects ready for their first funding cycle (with their new ranking criteria) on May 8th. NRCS's second funding cycle will on June 26th (the last for this fiscal year). Drew reports NRCS has hired a new range specialist who is presently looking for a place to rent in the Petaluma area. They also have a new Soil Conservationist coming from the NRCS Modesto office. Drew is excited they are about to fully staffed for the first time in a long time. He also reports he is receiving a number of calls from small organic farms for emergency funding. Drew recommends going on Farmers.gov to get updates and to speak to their local congressmen so they don't fall through the cracks.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – Kristen Guy, Stewardship Project Mgr and Eric Rubenstahl, Stewardship Project Mgr** MALT is all working from home. Mainly doing blog posts and showing support for the community. They are talking to their landowners and letting the public know if the landowners are set up for direct sales. Malt HR has assured MALT is fully funded and staff will be receiving full paychecks. Kristen is encouraging the SAP projects to continue to move forward, although MALT staff is not able to do any field work, but Kristen is asking for phone calls and photos to be sent to her during this SIP.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed – Isaiah Thalmayer, Restoration Mgr** explains STRAW is TBD taking each day as it comes. They are not doing any field work in an effort to protect staff and the communities they work in. Isaiah expresses his thankfulness for the rain which helps their plantings thrive, although they do not have water in place yet. He also reports STRAW is exploring options how to deem their work as essential. They have been able to do that for their nursery operations because they fall within Ag exemptions. Next on the horizon for STRAW is exploring field work at restoration sights.

RCD Program Updates –

- **Urban Streams Program:** USC provided assistance to a number of residents and stakeholders and conducted a site visit in Fairfax. USC organized and carried out a successful soil

bioengineering workshop in Nicasio that was well-attended despite the weather. The two regional conferences the USC was invited to present at have now been postponed to fall, 2020.

- **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 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. Staff has kicked off the CDFA Healthy Soils Program with materials presented on our website. Staff is compiling information for the County Climate Action Plan.
- **Stemple Creek Project:** This project is complete and closed out.
- **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** Star Route Farms' crew performed some invasive weed management. Marin RCD staff are still planning for the maintenance of trees at Star Route Farms and creating/submitting reports to permitting agencies.
- **Media/Outreach:** None this month
- **Grant Opportunities:** Nancy initiated working on investigating Newt Feasibility Study.
 - ○ \$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, looking likely!
 - ○ BearCorps application to hire intern for outreach/education. Declined
- **Finance Committee:** FC reviewed grants and financial position considering COVID impacts. Staff is directed to investigate precautionary measures.
- **District:**
 - ○ 60th Anniversary Tour for Board of Supervisors and RCD Board- on hold
- **Landowner's calling for assistance:** 4 agricultural and 9 urban landowners requesting assistance.

7. 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.
- Various COVID-19 announcements related to Shelter-in-Place orders.

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 10:49 a.m.