



## MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, May 13, 2020**

PLACE: Due to COVID-19 the Marin RCD Board Meeting was held using remote meeting technology. The MRCD Office was accessible to the public during the meeting 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 9:08 a.m.**

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

Associate Directors: George Clyde & Richard Plant.

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

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Kristen Guy (MALT), Nick Goodman (NRCS), David Sherwood (Local Rancher), Gail Seymor (Newt Brigade), Jim Jensen (MALT), Richard Parmer (Newt Brigade), Ed Nute (Newt Brigade), Triana Anderson (Newt Brigade), John Taylor (Bivalve Dairy) & Kristan Norman (NRCS).

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS**

**A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.**

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

**3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS**

**A. Board approval to enter subgrant agreement with Bivalve Dairy for Project #2019-01: Manure Scrape/Compost.**

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob, to approve entering subgrant agreement with Bivalve Dairy for Project #2019-01: Manure Scrape/Compost.

**C. Board approval to provide Bivalve Dairy with 50% down payment for the in-vessel composter and scraper components of Project #2019-01: Manure Scrape/Compost.**

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob, to provide Bivalve Dairy with 50% down payment for the in-vessel composter and scraper components of Project #2019-01: Manure Scrape/Compost.

Board approved loan of \$30K to Bivalve with the condition that interest and timetable be worked out by Nancy.

**4. CARBON FARMING**

- A. Board approval to execute \$20,000 contract #C07-2020 with Point Blue Conservation Science Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed to design carbon farming projects.

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve to execute \$20,000 contract #C07-2020 with Point Blue Conservation Science Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed to design carbon farming projects.

5. GRANTS

A. Board approval to administer newt-crossing feasibility grant proposal as proposed by Newt Brigade. MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Sally, to recommend the Newt Brigade host a meeting with Chileno Valley landowners to present Newt Brigade's concerns about newt mortalities and subsequently, bring landowner concerns to the RCD before a newt-crossing feasibility grant proposal is approved by the RCD. Note that the Newt Brigade reserves the right to present this to proposal to another organization.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS –**

6. Presentations & Highlights:

Partner Updates –

- **NRCS – Nick Goodman** explains NRCS has a few staff changes: Nick Goodman has become the Senior Soil Conservationist, Rangeland Management Specialist (Sebastian), Soil Conservationist (Chris), Soil Conservationist (Jenna), a Pathways Intern being shared with Vermont NRCS and a Point Blue Partner Biologist. EQIP ranking deadline just passed on May 8<sup>th</sup> with the next round ending on June 26<sup>th</sup>. For the first round NRCS ranked 20 applications for about \$900,000. Nick closed by sharing the USDA is hosting a webinar, Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. This webinar is for producers interested in applying for direct payments through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program which will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to deliver relief to America's farmers and ranchers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – Kristen Guy, Stewardship Project Mgr and Jim Jensen, Stewardship Mgr** Jim shared that MALT continues to work remotely during the Shelter-in-Place order. They are picking up on their easement work, although monitoring has been delayed until new COVID protocols are developed. Jim shares the good news that they have hired (promoted) a new Director of Conservation, Kathryn Lyddan. MALT and MRCD will be updating their agreement this month for the new fiscal year.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed – Isaiah Thalmayer, Restoration Mgr** –Isaiah reports the encouraging news that Point Blue has acquired a PPP Grant, Paycheck Protection Program, which is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. Good news in this difficult time! Point Blue still working to understand how we can/cannot use the funds. The grant, as well as numerous "essential" projects, puts Point Blue in a stable financial position in these uncertain times.

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RCD Program Updates:

- **Urban Streams Program:** USC continues to aid residents and partners during the Shelter in Place Orders via non-site visit support. USC focused on closing out the Dept of Fish &

Wildlife's Landowner Assistance Program project with Darrylin's assistance. As well, USC was invited to write and submit an article to the Society of Ecological Restoration's newsletter. Upon request, USC provided a scope of work and proposed budget to SPAWN to partner on a project on lower Lagunitas Creek. Finally, USC completed a training for Quality Stormwater Developer/Practitioner and took the required exam (and passed). See Staff Report for further details.

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Two projects completed. Three projects are in the CEQA/permitting phase. One project is cancelled.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** 4 carbon projects are now complete! RCD and MALT staff have assisted 14 producers with Healthy Soils applications. Staff completed compiling information for the County Climate Action Plan.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah is communicating with the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife staff on ensuring she has permit coverage to support/carry out smolt monitoring efforts in 2021.
- **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** No activity
- **Media/Outreach:** No Activity
- **Grant Opportunities:** Nancy met with Newt Brigade investigating Feasibility Study. Staff will need to brainstorm ideas for shovel-ready projects. Let us know if you have ideas!
  - \$45,000. Anonymous Foundation for outreach/education. *Awarded!*
  - \$722,385. Conserving Our Watersheds for TBay/Stemple. *Awarded!*
  - BearCorps application to hire an intern for outreach/education. *Awarded!*
  - \$75,000. Wildlife Conservation Board for technical assistance. *Pending.*
- **Finance Committee:** FC reviewed and approved the FY 18/19 audit. Staff is directed to investigate contingency measures.
- **District:**
  - 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour for Board of Supervisors and RCD Board- Oh hold
- **Landowner's calling for assistance:** 14 agricultural (Healthy Soils Program) and 3 urban landowners requesting assistance.

#### 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Tomales Bay Conference to be held September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- CDFA Healthy Soils Program funding available!
- 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 11:35 a.m.