



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, July 22, 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 9:05 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 Mikesh & Darrylin Mollath. Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Drew Loganbill (NRCS), David Sherwood (Local Rancher), Jim Jensen (MALT), Sebastian Tsochanos (NRCS), Leslie Ferguson (SFRWQCB), & Liz Lopez (Sequoia Ecological Consulting).

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS
 - A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve the regular meeting Minutes.
 - B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid.
MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the Financial Report and bills to be paid.
 - C. Board approval of Resolution #03-2020 Approving and Authorizing Execution of a Contract with the CA Department of Conservation. MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Bob; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve Resolution #03-2020 Approving and Authorizing Execution of a Contract with the CA Department of Conservation. The Board would like additional information on this project. There is a concern about the proposed fence.

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS
 - A. Board approval of Contract #C2019-01 Amendment #2 to add essential construction services tasks at Site #2020-01: Headcut Repair and increase budget by \$10,955.00 for Prunuske Chatham, Incorporated.
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob, to approve Contract #C2019-01 Amendment #2 to add essential construction services tasks at Site #2020-01: Headcut Repair and increase budget by \$10,955.00 for Prunuske Chatham, Incorporated.

- B. Board approval of a contractor bid for Site #2020-01: Headcut Repair earthwork. MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob, to approve the contractor bid for Site #2020-01: Headcut Repair earthwork.
- C. Board authorizes execution of a \$24,939 Point Blue Student and Teachers Restoring a Watershed Contract #C09-2020 for Site #2020-01: Headcut Repair planting. MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob, to authorize the execution of a \$24,939 Point Blue Student and Teachers Restoring a Watershed Contract #C09-2020 for Site #2020-01: Headcut Repair planting.
- D. Board approval of Landowner Agreement, Section Maintenance and Monitoring Responsibilities regarding road maintenance for Site #2020-01: Parks Ranch. MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob, to approve the Landowner Agreement, Section Maintenance and Monitoring Responsibilities regarding road maintenance for Site #2020-01: Parks Ranch.
- E. Board approval of a contractor bid for Site #2020-02: Catchment Basin. MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob, to approve a contractor bid for Site #2020-02: Catchment Basin

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS –

4. Presentations & Highlights:

Partner Updates –

- **SFRWQCB – Leslie Ferguson** shares that she is retiring yet so incredibly grateful to have been able to work alongside the Marin RCD. She is anticipating volunteering for the Water Board in the future which will allow her to come alongside projects with the Marin RCD. Following her statements many staff, Board Members and partners join in heart-felt summary of their years working with Leslie and how she has set an exemplary standard of a partner and friend.
- **NRCS – Drew Loganbill and Sebastian Tsocanos.** Drew introduces Sebastian Toscanos who has recently joined the Petaluma NRCS office as the Rangeland Mgmt Specialist. Sebastian obtained his undergrad degree from Colorado and grad school in Reno. He has worked on cattle ranches in Lompoc, CA, Montana, and Wyoming with a special interest in Riparian grazing. Staffing wise NRCS is also replacing their Point Blue Partner Biologist, area soil scientist and area biologist. Drew also states their last batch was significantly smaller than previous batches (about 80%). In addition, Drew states seventeen new intern practice standards are to be adopted in the FY2021 with a highlight on Soil Carbon Amendment (Compost Biochar). Drew also shares NRCS has created 29 Conservation videos describing different practices and is planning on sharing them with MRCD.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – Eric Rubenstahl, Stewardship Project Mgr and Jim Jensen, Stewardship Mgr** Jim shares that MALT is also experiencing staff turnover but confident that MALT is aligned for a busy Fall with several applications for easements already in the works. With Kristen leaving, Eric is picking up the SAP projects which are partnering with NRCS and MRCD. Jim shares MALT is preparing for budget transitions in the new fiscal year due to COVID. MALT has also hired a new Director of Acquisition and Director of Conservation and Jim is hoping they will be able to come to the next Board Meeting. Eric shares that MALT staff are not monitoring in person during the Pandemic, but is utilizing aerial monitoring for their projects.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed – Isaiah Thalmayer, Restoration Mgr** –Isaiah reports Point Blue is focusing on maintaining all their planting sights despite their trimmed crews. In addition, they are experiencing new challenges with how they work with volunteers

regarding limitations on field trips. STRAW is considering not working with volunteers for the fall and filling in with staff members.

RCD Program Updates:

- **Urban Streams Program:** USC continues to work with the Lag-TAC Chair and Secretary and carried out a successful virtual meeting that took place on June 12th. USC gathered sentiments from the Lag-TAC to fill out and sent a retirement card to Greg Andrew who recently retired from MMWD after 20 years. USC aided Friends of Corte Madera Creek for a willow/concrete channel removal project, attended the Marin Permit Coordination meeting and is now beginning to work on the Stream Conservation Area ordinance.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Two projects completed. Four projects are in the CEQA/permitting phase. Staff expect construction season to begin in September 2020. One project is cancelled.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Staff prepared and presented CFP practice data for the County (to inform the Climate Action Plan). Staff is developing selection criteria for allocating WCB Carbon Design funds. Two producers were funded by the Healthy Soils Program.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Road surveys are continuing in this watershed.
- **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** No activity
- **Media/Outreach:** No activity
- **Grant Opportunities:** Staff have identified several riparian projects which will need design plans before submitting them for funding proposals. Sarah is working on a potential grant proposal to remove pyrophytic plants.
 - \$109,000. National Association of RCDs. North Coast Soil Health Coordinator. *Pending*
 - \$25,000. USDA Conservation Innovation Grant for training and education. *Pending*
 - \$55,000. CA Wildlife Conservation Board for technical assistance. *Pending*
 - \$430,000 DOC Stemple Creek Riparian Corridor Restoration. *Pending*
- **Finance Committee:** FC met and reviewed the COVID contingency budget and recommends the RCD proceed to develop a streamlined FY 20/21 budget option for Board approval.
- **District:**
 - Nancy is participating in the Wildfire Prevention Authority: Ecologically Sound Practices Partnership.
 - GrizzlyCorps person starts in September.
 - Darrylin is working on a Federal Indirect Cost Rate and closing out the FY.
- **Landowners assisted:** 2 agricultural and 17 urban landowners requesting assistance.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Tomales Bay Conference to be held September 18th, 2020.
- Art Show at Toby's in January.

6. 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.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 11:38 a.m.