



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, August 12, 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 9:03 a.m.

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

Associate Directors: George Clyde & Richard Plant. Staff: Nancy Scolari, Michelle Katuna, Sarah Phillips, Elise Suronen & Darrylin Mollath. Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Nick Goodman (NRCS), David Sherwood (Local Rancher), Jim Jensen (MALT), Tom Hicks (Hicks Law), Point Reyes Light & Grace Mannell (Sequoia Ecological Consulting).

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS

A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.

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

C. Board Approval of Civil Grand Jury Response.

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the letter to be sent in regards to the Civil Grand Jury Response.

3. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

A. Board approval of CEQA Notices of Exemption for SPAWN projects: RediMix planting project and Hicks Mtn Ranch planting project.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve CEQA Notices of Exemption for SPAWN projects: RediMix planting project and Hicks Mtn Ranch planting project.

4. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS

A. Board approval of implementation cost estimate for Site #2020-03: Fence and Water Facility project by PRNS lessee under MRCD subgrant agreement procurement procedures.

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob, to approve the of implementation cost estimate for Site #2020-03: Fence and Water Facility project by PRNS lessee under MRCD subgrant agreement procurement procedures.

- B. Bivalve approval of design and cost estimate for of Site #2019-01: Manure Scrape and Compost project.
MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob, to approve design and cost estimate for of Site #2019-01: Manure Scrape and Compost project.
- C. Board approval to pay landowner the full MRCD cost-share, prior to the completion of all 3 project phases for Site #2019-01.
MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob, to authorize to pay landowner the full MRCD cost-share, prior to the completion of all 3 project phases for Site #2019-01.
5. CARBON FARMING
- A. Board decision on the selection process for the allocation of Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) design funds.
MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Notice to be sent out to all Board Members and Associate Directors for the first meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS –

4. Presentations & Highlights:

Partner Updates –

- **NRCS – Nick Goodman.** Nick informs the Board of staff changes at NRCS: 1) their Pathways intern (Natale) has her last day on Friday August 14th. Also, the Point Blue Partner Biologist has been selected and is scheduled to start on August 31st. For NRCS's first batching period (May 8th) 18 of the 20 were selected for funding and the second batching (June 26th) 14 applicants (\$400,000) were selected. Additional funds were requested, and 13 more applications were selected for about \$530,000. In regard to the CSP \$10 million has been allocated statewide. Seven applications were funded. Over \$300,000 was awarded to Sonoma and Marin Counties.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – Jim Jensen, Stewardship Mgr** Jim shares that MALT is continuing to work on easement projects which includes applying to SALC funding for a couple of projects. Jim shares that MALT has a new Director of Conservation, Kathryn Lyddan and Director of Acquisitions, Bradey Moss and he hopes they will be able to attend the next meeting for introductions. MALT is presently not making site visits but, Land Trust Alliance will accept aerial monitoring, so MALT is utilizing that tool for the time. MALT staff is also continuing to make phone interviews with landowners during COVID. Lastly, he mentions they are continuing to work on Stewardship Assistance Projects, both individual and partnership projects.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed – Isaiah Thalmayer, Restoration Mgr** –Isaiah reports Point Blue is planning for the coming season but will not be working with students until the end of this calendar year (because most schools are working remotely). He also states this has become as strange year with no interns as they have no way to provide housing. Projects coming up: Erosion Control south of Tomales, remedial planting at Blake's Landing, planting project at Parks Ranch, and Strauss Home Ranch.

RCD Program Updates:

- **New COVID grant:** An application and selection criteria were developed. A notice has been sent to producers and partner organizations.
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC has been instrumental in assisting two streamside residents in Marin over the last month including regulatory compliance and implementing Best

Management Practices. As well, 15 landowners/stakeholders were assisted during the month of July that did not require site visits. USC supported MMWD in carrying out juvenile salmonid monitoring in absence of Greg Andrew. See Staff Report for more information.

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Two sites completed. Two sites are preparing for construction and need final permits. One site is held up by the County Coastal Permit process, and another site is awaiting NEPA approval. Staff expect construction season to begin mid-Aug - Sept 2020. One project is cancelled.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Preliminary results for the Marin County Climate Action Plan: Ag Chapter were presented at the Marin Conservation League Ag and Land Use Committee meeting. Several follow up presentations will be held for producer groups. Project design and budget underway for Straus hedgerow planting. Board to decide on how to allocate WCB design funds.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Road surveys are continuing in this watershed.
- **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** No activity
- **Media/Outreach:** No activity
- **Grant Opportunities:** Sarah is working on a potential grant proposal to remove pyrophytic plants.
 - \$109,000. National Association of RCDs. North Coast Soil Health Coordinator. *Awarded*
 - \$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:** A meeting was not held.
- **District:**
 - GrizzlyCorps person starts in September.
 - Darrylin is working on a Federal Indirect Cost Rate and closing out the FY.
- **Landowners assisted:** 3 agricultural and 15 urban landowners requesting assistance, additionally 2 site visits were conducted in the USC Program.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Tomales Bay Conference to be held September 18th, 2020.
- Art Show at Toby's has been postponed. We are currently focusing on creating a calendar to share with our partners and landowners.
- Marin Conservation League: Ag and Land Use Meeting - August 28, 2020
- An additional Social Media post was added to attempt to reach out to more landowners to apply for the COVID assistance.

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.

Tom Hicks – Hicks Law: Tom would like to introduce a potential project WCB project that would enhance stream flow in San Antonio Creek. 1500 acres on the Marin side of the watershed. Landowners have requested anonymity. Asking the MRCD to be the fiscal agent on a feasibility study.

9. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:30 a.m.