



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, November 11th, 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, President, at 9:06 a.m.

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

Associate Directors: George Clyde, Richard Plant, Guido Frosini & David Sherwood.

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Darrylin Mollath, Michelle Katuna, Oia Walker Van-Aalst & Elise Suronen.

Additional Attendees :, Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Taj Hittenburger (NRCS/Point Blue), Regina Pozzi (Marin County Farm Bureau), Jonathan Wachter (MALT) & Jim Jensen (MALT).

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS

A. Board approval of regular meeting minutes.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve the minutes with the addition of Mike Moretti being in attendance.

B. Board approval of RCD financial report and bills to be paid.

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

C. Board approval of FY 20/21 Annual Budget

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the FY 20/21 Annual Budget. Sally would like us to create an attachment to the Budget that documents our MATCH contributions.

D. Board approval to request \$125,000 from Marin County Board of Supervisors.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve to request \$125,000 from Marin County Board of Supervisors.

3. CARBON FARMING

A. Board approval of the selection process for 15-20 Carbon Farm Designs on 10 Carbon Farms.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the selection process for 15-20 Carbon Farm Designs on 10 Carbon Farms.

B. Board Approval of Technical Advisory Committee (Design-TAC) members for the selection of Carbon Farm Plan projects receiving design assistance.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the Technical Advisory Committee (Design-TAC) members for the selection of Carbon Farm Plan projects receiving design assistance.

C. Board approval of selection process to identify new Carbon Farm Plan recipients.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the selection process to identify new Carbon Farm Plan recipients.

- D. If required by Board decision in Action C: Board selection of Technical Advisory Committee (Plan TAC) members for the selection of new Carbon Farm Plan recipients.
MOTION: NOT required and stricken from the agenda.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – 11:00 a.m.

4. Partner Updates

- **RCD Website – Oia Walker Van Aalst** – Oia explains the program she is with, GrizzlyCorps, is an Americorps program that sends recent college graduates into rural communities to promote regenerative agri-food systems and fire and forest resilience. She further defines her task at MRCD is to identify “gaps” in the RCD’s messaging and to help fill them. One of her main focuses is to educate the public on the role ranches can play in offsetting climate change. To do so, she is overhauling the website by analyzing other comparable websites, assess blind person access, and access to our projects and their information.
- **MALT – Jim Jensen and Eric Rubenstahl**– Jim states that MALT is continuing to move forward with easement projects and waiting to hear back from funders. He also explains MALT is continuing to move forward with SAP projects and they are looking forward to streamlining that system with the MRCD. Jim also expounds that MALT staff has not been able to go out into the field to meet with landowners, due to the pandemic, and they all miss that contact.
- **STRAW – Isaiah Thalmayer** – Isaiah explains STRAW is wrapping up most of their projects as they wait for the rainy season. Also, they have received their monitoring results back on the Millerton and Gilardi projects and the plant survival rate looks good. In the coming year STRAW will be working on Parks Ranch with MRCD. They are revisiting the sight they have worked on in the past with some new plantings following the erosion control project recently executed.

RCD Program Updates – 15 min:

- **Marin Monarch Working Group:** David Sherwood, RCD Associate Director/Marshall Rancher. Monarchs are the second most important pollinators than bees. They need pollinator plants to survive. They also need showy and narrow leaf milkweeds which are nectar producing plants and provide larvae habitat. There are two challenges: 1) toxicity and 2) geography. Milkweed is toxic to livestock so care should be taken in its planting and milkweed should only be planted in Nicasio and Novato areas to encourage their migration only to overwintering sites.
- **Coastal Permitting & Incentivizing Stewardship:** Provided Supervisor Rice with copy of RCD presentation and description of permitting challenges. The Board would like to invite Sup Rice to a Board meeting.
- **COVID Grant:** This grant is now complete.
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC spent time supporting MMWD’s new Fisheries Program Manager in getting caught up to speed on the role of the Lagunitas TAC and various ways in which MRCD and MMWD support one another. USC worked with Chair of Lagunitas TAC to begin working out the agenda for the November meeting. USC presented to the west Marin Rotary Club about the USC Program and MRCD’s other programs, per invitation to do so. A total of 12 residents/stakeholders were assisted and 18 were educated in the month of October. Finally, USC checked in with CDA on the status of the development of the SCA for San Geronimo which is currently at a standstill.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Three out of five sites completed. One project is halfway complete and another might start this year. STRAW will plant one site this fall.

- **Carbon Farming Program:** Staff and partners presented elements of the Marin Climate Action Plan to 8 different ag groups. WCB Committee meeting #2 will be November 19 from 1-2:30 to review selection criteria for allocating WCB Carbon Design funds and to approve of the 10 carbon farms receiving design assistance. Blake's Landing Hedgerow project with STRAW delayed to Fall 2021. Technical Assistance provided to True Grass Farm, a CDFA awardee.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Road surveys are continuing. Staff and consultants have begun working with landowners to conduct an assessment of the estuary.
- **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** No activity
- **Media/Outreach:** Our new GrizzlyCorps member, Oia, is working on a social media policy which will be presented to the Board at a later date.
- **Grant Opportunities:** Elise has attended several CARCD calls focusing on whether or not California RCDs want to send in a joint NRCS RCPP proposal. An RCPP proposal looks unlikely because it doesn't allow for planning money which most RCDs need. PWA proposed submitting a 319(h) proposal for the Walker roads work. MRCD might consider the State Coastal Conservancy's Prop 68 funds.
 - \$25,000 USDA Conservation Innovation Grant for training and education. *Denied*
 - \$55,000 CA Wildlife Conservation Board for technical assistance. *Denied*
 - \$430,000 DOC Stemple Creek Riparian Corridor Restoration. *Awarded!*
- **Finance Committee:** FC reviewed the RCD Budget and initiated review of the FY 21/22 MALT Stewardship Assistance Program (SAP) Grant Agreement. The budget is provided for board approval while the MALT SAP agreement will be presented in the spring.
- **District:**
 - Darrylin is working on a Federal Indirect Cost Rate and closing out the FY.
 - Staff completed a Public Records Act request.
 - **Landowners assisted:** 5 agricultural and 12 urban landowners requesting assistance.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE
 - None
- 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.
- MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:03 a.m.