



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, December 9th, 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 9:05 a.m.**

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

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

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

Additional Attendees :, Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Drew Loganbill (NRCS), Julia Sullivan (RCD North Coast Region Forest Coordinator) & Jim Jensen (MALT).

ACTION ITEMS:

2. Introduction of Julia Sullivan, New RCD North Coast Region Forest Coordinator, Julia Sullivan

3. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS

A. Board approval of regular meeting minutes.

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve the minutes.

B. Board approval of RCD Financial Report and bills to be paid.

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – 11:00 a.m.

4. Partner Updates

- **Conserve Our Watersheds Overview – Elise Suronen** – Elise updates the Board on the status of COW-UDRS (Updating Dairies and Ranches Sustainably) Grant. The Grant has been extended to March 2022 due to delays attributed to the COVID 19 pandemic and wildfires in Point Reyes National Seashore. Elise shares a list of projects the Grant is funding: Bivalve Dairy (manure scrape). Kehoe (troughs and fence), Giacomini (catchment basin), Parks (head cut repair), Mertens (manure pump) and Moreda (walkway).
- **USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service – Drew Loganbill** – Drew explains NRCS/EQIP has recently launched a Wildlife Prevention Program. A new highlight for NRCS is a new tribal intern working one day a week with a goal of understanding how NRCS operates and establishing more outreach to the tribes. In addition, Drew shares there are new virtual trainings available through EDS featuring very specific classes on soil interpretations and prescribed grazing. If interested, contact Drew. In his final point, Drew shares he is working as the active DC for the Napa Field Office until NRCS finds a replacement.
- **MALT – Jim Jensen and Eric Rubenstahl**– Jim states that MALT is continuing to move forward with 7 easement projects in various stages of funding. Also, Jim explains MALT is interviewing for another staff position: acquisition program staff. He closes with stating MALT is wrapping up the year with aerial monitoring, Zoom meetings and phone calls with landowners.

- **STRAW – Isaiah Thalmayer** – Isaiah explains STRAW is excited to be in planting season. Parks Ranch planting is completed with a PCS design. They are also focusing on seed collection for next year’s planting. Isaiah closes stating they are in a strange season not working with students due to COVID.

RCD Program Updates – 15 min:

- **Urban Streams Program:** USC carried out another successful Lagunitas TAC meeting with a lot of time spent beforehand to prepare and afterward to follow up on action items. USC attended a plethora of meetings in the month of November. See Staff Report for further details.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Grant extension granted. 3.5 out of 5 sites completed! Two projects to be built in 2021. STRAW is planting one site this fall.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** WCB Committee reviewed and commented on Selection Criteria, and approved of 10 Carbon Farm Plans to receive designs during meeting #2. WCB Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been formed to rank projects for carbon designs. TAC will review Selection Criteria and site details in the first meeting on December 16th, and will complete site visits Feb 16-18. Staff are in the process of creating a hedgerow/windbreak educational pamphlet and planning carbon farming focused educational events. Blakes Landing Hedgerow project with STRAW delayed to Fall 2021. Technical Assistance provided to True Grass Farm for their CDFA Healthy Soils grant.
- **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
- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** Oia, our GrizzlyCorps member, completed a radio script about the RCD, is revamping the RCD website and posted on Instagram and Facebook re Native American Heritage month.
- **Grant Opportunities:** MRCD may consider the State Coastal Conservancy’s Prop 68 funds for carbon farming.
- **Finance Committee:** The FC did not meet.
- **District:**
 - Darrylin is working on a new spreadsheet to distribute grant hours to staff.
- **Landowners assisted:** 10 agricultural and 12 urban landowners requesting assistance with 2 site visits conducted.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- None

7. 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.

8. MEETING ADJOURNED 10:30 a.m.