



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, February 10th, 2020**

PLACE: **Marin RCD Office, 80 4th Street, Suite 202, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956** *(note change)*

REMOTE OPTION: Due to the COVID-19 health emergency - and to protect our Board Members, staff, and members of the public - the regularly scheduled board meeting will be held remotely. Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely by using the following options:
by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85806950980> or by phone:
+16699009128,,85806950980# , meeting ID#: 858 0695 0980. Please contact Michelle Katuna at 707-774-5047 or michelle@marinrcd.org if you have concerns about accessibility.

1. Regular meeting opens at **9:00 a.m.** Roll call and introduction of guests.

ACTION ITEMS: 9:10 am

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS: 15 min

- A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.
- B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid.
- C. Board authorizes RCD Executive Director to sign and file Notices of Completion for 2020 construction projects.

3. CARBON FARMING: 15 min

- A. Board approval of the 2015-2017 Marin Carbon Project (MCP) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)-prioritized list of Carbon Farm Plan recipients and approval of the top-ranked, Gale Ranch, to receive the next Carbon Farm Plan, as part of a CA Wildlife Conservation Board grant.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: 9:45 a.m.

5. Presentations & Updates:

- **Restore CA/Zero Foodprint Program Presentation** - Leo Beckerman, Zero Foodprint
- **Marin Audubon's Breeding Bird Atlas** - Juan Garcia

Partner Updates

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Petaluma Field Office Staff
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Isaiah Thalmayer, STRAW

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Carbon Farm Plans: Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge** - Guido Frosini, RCD Associate Board Member
- **North Coast RCD Forest Coordinator:** Julia Sullivan is working on setting up a clearing house of general resources for RCDs. She is also working with Carbon Cycle Institute to incorporate forestry into carbon farm plans.

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- **Urban Streams Program:** USC was out of town the first half of January but returned without skipping a beat in carrying out one (1) site visit which included substantial follow up. USC carried out the annual Lagunitas TAC field trip (virtually) and has been following up on a series of action items that resulted from that L-TAC meeting. Finally, USC has been working with Marin RCD on website content, supporting the bookkeeper with various tasks, and providing guidance to MMWD's AmeriCorps members in the coordination of a creek clean up event this summer.
 - **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 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has finalized Selection Criteria and will be ranking sites on Feb 16-18. Staff have been working with a local artist to create a hedgerow/windbreak educational pamphlet; illustration is complete and content is being drafted. Staff are also planning carbon farming focused educational events. Staff conducted CDFA Soil Sampling at True Grass Farms and are assisting with incorporating Cultural Ecology into TGF's carbon farm plan.
 - **Walker Creek Watershed:** Road surveys are complete and a report is being finalized. Only half the properties could be surveyed due to landowner access issues. Staff and consultants have monitoring equipment installed in Walker Creek to conduct an assessment of the estuary.
 - **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** 5-year post-construction monitoring reports are due to regulators at the end of the month. Marin RCD has requested an extension from the Army Corps of Engineers and Water Board for a CA Rapid Assessment Monitoring report, as we search for a consultant and funds to cover the cost of the CRAM. Other reports include the Riparian Enhancement Area and Notice of Completion.
 - **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** GrizzlyCorps is putting up a page on our website with roads information and working on a hedgerow pamphlet.
 - **Grant Opportunities:** MRCD will apply for the State Coastal Conservancy's Prop 68 funds. See \$1.5M, 3 page pre-proposal.
 - **Finance Committee:** The FC met to review the MALT SAP Agreement and staff billing rates.
 - **District:**
 - Darrylin has submitted an indirect cost rate proposal that will help the RCD be fully compensated for our billing rate
 - Darrylin is now working on the FY 19-20 Annual Audit.
 - We are in the final stages of interviewing applicants for the new North Coast Soil Health Hub Coordinator position. A job description is finalized for the new conservation program manager position which will be posted soon.
 - **Landowners assisted:** Ag: 4 requested assistance with information and 1 site visit conducted. Urban: 13 total requested assistance. 11 assisted with information, 2 assisted in one site visit. 6 total educated.
6. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE
- The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will be holding stakeholder meetings to solicit feedback from agricultural stakeholders on climate solutions that sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gases and enhance biodiversity. Livestock and Dairy Meeting #1, February 8 at 2 p.m.:

<https://csus.zoom.us/j/92112559722>
Livestock and Dairy Meeting #2, February 12 at 9 a.m.:
<https://csus.zoom.us/j/92112559722>

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



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, January 13th, 2020**

PLACE: Marin County Farm Bureau, 520 Mesa Road, 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: Bob Giacomini, Terry Sawyer, Mike Moretti and Peter Martinelli.

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

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

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Nick Goodman (NRCS), Regina Pozzi (Marin County Farm Bureau), Jim Jensen (MALT), Drew Meador (STRAW) and Tom Gaman (Tomales Watershed Foundation).

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.

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

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

C. The Board President, Sally Gale, administered the Oaths of Office to Terry Sawyer, Michael Moretti and Peter Martinelli.

3. CARBON FARMING:

A. Board approval of Technical Advisory Committee-recommended Selection Criteria that will be used to rank 15-20 Carbon Farm Design Projects as part of a CA Wildlife Conservation Board grant.

Board Edit: Eliminate 10 points and keep with high, medium, low scale.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob Giacomini, to approve eliminating points on the Subjective Ranking and keeping with high, medium, low scale on the Technical Advisory Committee-recommended Selection Criteria that will be used to rank 15-20 Carbon Farm Design Projects as part of a CA Wildlife Conservation Board grant.

Board Edit: Increase the numbers of points on line #12 (Long Term Buy-In by Landowner). Staff to look at doubling the number of points.

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob Giacomini to increase the numbers of points on line #12 (Long term Buy-In by Landowner). Staff to look at doubling the number of points on line #12 of the Technical Advisory Committee-recommended Selection Criteria that will be used to rank 15-20 Carbon Farm Design Projects as part of a CA Wildlife Conservation Board grant.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the Technical Advisory Committee-recommended Selection Criteria **with the above edits** that will be used to rank 15-20 Carbon Farm Design Projects as part of a CA Wildlife Conservation Board grant.

- B. Board approval of \$12,000 Contract #C01-2021 with Water Bear Collaborative for strategic planning services provided to the Marin Carbon Project.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve \$12,000 Contract #C01-2021 with Water Bear Collaborative for strategic planning services provided to the Marin Carbon Project.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – 11:00 a.m.

4. Partner Updates

- **STRAW 2019-2020 Restoration Season Summary - Isaiah Thalmayer and Drew Mealor**, Isaiah provided a Power Point to illustrate STRAW's overview of their 2019-2020 Season, an unprecedented year. He states STRAW was able to get the majority of their planting projects completed prior to the pandemic shut-down. He also explains the work with the Marin RCD counts for a large portion of the work they accomplished. Isaiah and Drew give the Board an update on MRCD projects – Millerton, Gilardi, Corda East, McClelland, Glenn and Park. STRAW is also looking forward the MRCD projects Straus Home, Blake's Landing and Lazy R for the 2021-2022 season. Peter compliments STRAW on their high plant survival rate.
- **Monarch Update - David Sherwood** reports it is a dismal situation in regard to extinction. Dave continues to share milkweed is being propagated and planted in a widespread fashion throughout Marin (East and West) to help provide Monarch habitat. David contacted the CARCD which has grants available from the Xerces Society for pollinator habitat kits.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Nick reports the Petaluma NRCS office has been approved to hire for a new forester position. They also have other openings throughout the state: positions may be found at USA jobs. Dates have been set for EQIP batching periods in 2021: The first one has a deadline of March 3rd, with funding selections made March 17th and the second has a deadline of June 9th with funding selections made June 23rd. Nick states applications may be made at any time, but the earlier the better. Last, he shares a fire update where he shares NRCS has more funding available for fire recovery.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – Jim Jensen and Eric Rubenstahl**– Jim gave an update on 4 new easements where he details two have been funded by NRCS/ALE and two with DOC/SALC. Biggest year with SAP projects. Jim announces he has taken a position with Audubon Canyon Ranch in Marshall. This is a big change for Jim, but this position will give more time to work on the land and the ability to be a liaison for MALT. The entire MRCD Board and Staff wish him well but will miss his input greatly! Eric shares that they are happy to have the 2020 monitoring season wrapped up and he looks forward to the bright future ahead for the SAP program.

RCD Program Updates – 15 min:

- **Monarch Update:** David Sherwood, Associate Director

- **Urban Streams Program:** Ongoing assistance has been provided to residents and partners during pandemic. Attended Marin Permit Meeting and provided follow up assistance to project proponents regarding permit fees and native plant lists. Attended site visit with Dave Sherwood at old Coast Guard property to discuss restoration plans and potential in lower Lagunitas reach. Worked on Stream Conservation Area details for county staff and website. Worked on fuel break and fire related issues.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Grant extension granted. 3.5 out of 5 sites completed! Two projects to be built in 2021.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** WCB Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed and finalized Selection Criteria, to recommend to the Board for approval. TAC will complete ranking site visits Feb 16-18. Staff are working with a local artist to create a hedgerow/windbreak educational pamphlet. Staff are also planning carbon farming focused educational events. Michelle conducted a Toluma hedgerow site visit with STRAW to check on the health of the new hedgerow. See staff report for details.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Road surveys are continuing. Staff and consultants have monitoring equipment installed in Walker Creek to conduct an assessment of the estuary.
- **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** No activity
- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** GrizzlyCorps is revamping the RCD website.
- **Grant Opportunities:** MRCD will apply for the State Coastal Conservancy's Prop 68 funds and also partnered with SPAWN on a Lagunitas proposal.
- **Finance Committee:** The FC did not meet.

Landowners assisted: 3 agricultural and urban landowners requesting assistance with 3 site visits conducted.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

MCL Pillars Letter to Congressman Huffman supports MRCD and NRCS programs

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 11.30 a.m.