



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, March 10th , 2021**

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

(Please let us know in advance if you plan on being physically present at our office so that staff can be available to sanitize and set up a computer station for you)

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.

3. CARBON FARMING: 60 min

- A. Board approval of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) ranking of carbon farm design projects as part of our CA Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: 10:15 a.m.

4. Presentations & 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):

- **North Coast RCD Forest Coordinator REPORT:** Julia Sullivan completed a compilation of a number of resources related to home hardening, defensible space, and fire-smart landscaping/vegetation for Marin residents. She's continuing to have conversations around integrating forestry work into soil health/carbon farm planning and working on strengthening the relationship between North Coast RCDs and the American Forest Foundation, CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program.
- **Stemple Creek REPORT & REQUEST:** Staff is beginning to plan the Lazy R restoration project planting but the fence needs to be worked out. There are different opinions about the type of fence required. Permanent Electric or Permanent Non-Electric. We

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will be meeting out in the field to go over different options but we need another board member with riparian fencing experience. Who's in?

- **Urban Streams Program:** USC has been attending various partner meetings in addition to Lagunitas TAC subcommittee meetings with Marin Municipal Water District. USC carried out one (1) site visit and is still providing follow up on the site visit conducted last month in San Rafael due to a violation. USC continues to provide assistance to Novato Police Department and County Flood Control. Finally, USC has been supporting Marin RCD on website content regarding rural roads and information about Walker Creek.
- **Monarchs:** CARCD is offering mini-grants of up to \$15,000 to at least 10 RCDs to provide technical assistance for monarch and pollinator habitat restoration and enhancement on private working lands.
- **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 ranking sites! 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 the Marin RCD Carbon Farming Forum. Don't forget to provide Guido with feedback on his draft plan!
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Road surveys are complete and a report is finalized. Only half the properties could be surveyed due to landowner access issues. Staff and consultants have monitoring equipment installed in lower Walker Creek to conduct an assessment of the estuary. Data captured by the equipment will be analyzed and discussed after the rainy season comes to an end. A Walker Creek page will soon be revealed on our website!
- **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. Peter's pond still leaks!
- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** Oia put up a page on our website with road erosion/resource information. Check it out! <https://www.marinrcd.org/rural-roads/>
- **Grant Opportunities:** MRCD will apply for the State Coastal Conservancy's Prop 68 funds. See \$1.5M, 3 page pre-proposal. A \$50K proposal was submitted to an anonymous funder to help with GIS services.
- **Finance Committee:** The MALT SAP Program is under review by MALT.
- **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 have selected a new North Coast Soil Health Hub Coordinator. A job description is finalized for the new conservation program manager position which will be posted soon.

- **Landowners assisted:** Ag: 1 requested assistance with information and 9 site visits conducted. Urban: 13 total requested assistance. 11 assisted with information, 1 site visit. 4 total educated.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- April 7. 12-1:30pm. Marin RCD's Carbon Farmer's Forum.
- Restore CA by Zero Foodprint:
 - Producers can apply on their own. A new application is open now until April 22, 2021 and details are available here: <https://www.zerofoodprint.org/apply>
 - Currently, applications are ranked based on the "cost per ton of CO₂e sequestered" which is calculated as the requested grant amount divided by the total metric tons of modeled CO₂e. Priority also given to historically underserved applicants.

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



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, February 10th, 2021**

PLACE: **Marin RCD Office, 80 4th Street, 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: 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, Sarah Phillips & Elise Suronen.

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Jeff Kelly (NRCS), Taj Hittenberger (Point Blue & NRCS) Juan Garcia (Marin Audubon Society), Leo Beckerman (Restore CA/Zero Foodprint), Anna Guth (Point Reyes Light) and Ed Nute (Tomales Watershed Foundation).

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS

- A. Board approval of regular meeting minutes.

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

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

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

- C. Board authorizes RCD Executive Director to sign and file Notices of Completion for 2020 construction projects

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob Giacomini, to authorize the RCD Executive Director to sign and file Notices of Completion for 2020 construction projects.

3. CARBON FARMING:

- 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.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Sally Gale, to approve 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 – 11:00 a.m.

4. Presentations & Partner Updates

- **Restore CA/Zero Foodprint Program – Anthony Myint**, Anthony shares the history and origins of Zero Foodprint Program. He explains how the organization works with chefs and restaurants with the goal of helping the restaurant industry become carbon neutral with the help of a

surcharge added to the restaurant customer's bill. In addition, the organization advises restaurants in how to make better sourcing choices in their operations. Anthony presents in detail how Restore CA/Zero Foodprint funds "supply-chain farmers" through a competitive grant process. They invite all Board Meeting attendees to apply for funding (no Carbon Farm Plan required). Anthony also offers to participate in a webinar in the future with Marin County restaurants if MRCD is able to be the host. They will provide the RCD with information to outreach to the ag community about the application period.

- **Marin Audubon Breeding Bird Atlas – Ed Nute & Juan Garcia** , Juan introduces the project's objective is to create an updated version of the Marin Audubon Breeding Birds Atlas (previous version published 30 years ago). The information will be obtained over a four year time span with field studies done by trained volunteers. Juan shares the Marin County map of study blocks which the field studies will use to define their areas of study. He thoroughly points to the consideration that the landowner will not be sighted, only the study block number. Juan is asking if we can help get the word out and he will provide us with information when they are ready for outreach.
- **Carbon Farm Plan: Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge- Guido Frosini**, Guido updates to Board on his work in regards to the MRCD Carbon Farm plan he has. He highlights the addition of adding history to his plan: the Pliocene Age, tribal history, what attracted immigrants, and how land started to be subdivided. In addition, Guido reads the work presently done on Cultural Ecology. This he states is being added with a goal that he has to help landowners heal the land. Guido will provide Nancy with a link and distribute the draft to the RCD board.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Taj Hittenberger** -Taj reports the NRCS internal batching deadline is approaching on March 3rd. The next deadline is June 8th. He encourages applicants to submit their request as soon as possible.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP –Eric Rubenstahl**– Eric states for this year, MALT monitoring is all wrapped up. As they look forward to the new year, they are excited to get out to visit the ranches again. Staffing transitions are a big part of what is currently happening at MALT.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed –Isaiah Thalmayer**– Isaiah shares STRAW is currently in the planting stage mostly in Petaluma in the Schollenberger Park and along the San Francisco Bay in San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Isaiah is looking forward to the work he will be doing on the MRCD-Wildlife Conservation Board projects next month.

RCD Program Updates – 15 min:

- **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.
- **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.
- 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/8446121262>. Livestock and Dairy Meeting #2, February 12 at 9 a.m.: <https://csus.zoom.us/j/8446121262>

5. 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.

6. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:37 a.m.