



## AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, April 14th , 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 415-787-7440 or [michelle@marinrcd.org](mailto:michelle@marinrcd.org) if you have concerns about accessibility.

1. Regular meeting opens at **9:00 a.m.** Roll call and introduction of guests. **Introducing our newest staff member: Emilie Winfield, North Coast Soil Hub Coordinator.**

### EMERGENCY INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

**Drought Updates-** Stefan Parnay, Acting Agricultural Commissioner, Director of Weights and Measures; Eric Rubenstahl, Marin Agricultural Land Trust

### ACTION ITEMS: 9:45 am

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS: 20 min
  - A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.
  - B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid.
  - C. Board approval to appoint two board members in reviewing the Marin RCD Personnel Policy.
  - D. Board approval of Resolution #04-2021 authorizing entering into a funding agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board and authorizing and designating representatives for the Conserving Our Watersheds: Collaborative Conservation Actions by Farmers Project. - Nancy Scolari, Marin RCD Staff
3. PINE GULCH INSTREAM FLOW ENHANCEMENT PROJECT: 15 min
  - A. Board approval to execute Contract #03-2021 with the San Francisco Estuary Institute in the amount of \$7,320 to provide for biological surveys. - Elise Suronen, Marin RCD Staff

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: 10:30 a.m.

4. Presentations & Updates: 15 min
  - **Local Agency Formation Commission: Marin RCD's Municipal Service Review** - Jason Fried, Executive Officer

Partner Updates: 5 min each

- **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):

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Elise will provide an update on the status of the Bivalve Dairy project including the use of roomba robots for scraping. Grant extension granted. 3.5 out of 5 sites completed! Two projects to be built in 2021. STRAW is planting one site this fall.
- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** Oia, Sarah, and Nancy completed a Walker Creek page on our website. Check it out: <https://www.marinrcd.org/walker-creek-projects/>
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC facilitated another successful yet intense Lagunitas TAC meeting as Co-Chair with Rob Carson and attended a Tomales Bay Watershed Council and Foundation meeting. USC prepared and submitted a progress report and an annual report to SCC for the LOAP project then carried out project monitoring for regulatory reporting. USC carried out one (3) site visits and is still providing support to a landowner regarding a violation in San Rafael. Finally, USC wrapped up on website content regarding rural roads and Walker Creek.
- **Monarchs:** The Gold Ridge RCD is applying for grant funding to increase habitat for the monarch butterfly which would include work in our district.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Landowners are being informed of ranking for WCB designs (designs are to be created May 2021 to April 2022). First site visit to start Chileno Valley Ranch CFP has been scheduled. Staff have been working with a local artist to create a hedgerow/windbreak educational pamphlet; content now in technical edit stage and will be soon sent to Tribe to request approval of land acknowledgement and possible section on plants of cultural importance. Staff hosted the first Marin RCD Carbon Farmers Forum on April 7th. For DOC Lazy R Ranch, staff has sent a request for a grant contract amendment asking for planting implementation to be pushed to 2022 so we can develop/improve water in 2021. “Funding for Carbon Farming” spreadsheet was created as a resource for local producers - link here: <https://www.marinrcd.org/carbon-farm-implementation/>.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** 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. Due to the drought, MRCD and PCI have asked the grant manager for a one year extension. Sarah prepared and submitted an Annual Report for 2020 and a progress report to date to CDFW for this project.
- **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!
- **Grant Opportunities:** MRCD will apply for the State Coastal Conservancy’s Prop 68 funds and Monarch funding.
- **Finance Committee:** The MALT SAP Program is under review by MALT.

- **District:** Darrylin is in the final stages of the FY 19-20 Annual Audit (Delays on the Auditor's side due to COVID), has completed the Form 700s for the Board and submitted them to the County. Darrylin is also updating her Notary status.
- **Landowners assisted:** Ag: 14 requested assistance with information and 2 site visits conducted. Urban: 12 total requested assistance. 9 assisted with information, 3 site visits. 4 total educated.

#### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- 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>. Applications are ranked based on the "cost per ton of CO2e sequestered"
- April 22nd. 9am. CA Coastal Commission Hearing re Consistency Determination by NPS for the 2020 General Management Plan Amendment.
- A "Funding for Carbon Farming Implementation" spreadsheet: has been created to inform local producers about cost-share and grant programs they can apply to for conservation projects. For most programs on the list, you do not need to have a Carbon Farm Plan to apply or qualify. Spreadsheet will be updated semi-annually. [Find here.](#)

#### 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, March 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 9:04 a.m.**

Roll call of directors: Bob Giacomini, Mike Moretti and Peter Martinelli. Absent: Terry Sawyer.

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

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

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Zach Mendes (MALT), Kristan Norman (NRCS), Taj Hittenberger (Point Blue & NRCS) Sebastian Tsocanos (NRCS), Drew Loganbill (NRCS), Julia Sullivan (Forest Health Watershed Coordinator), Ron Mallory (Tomales Bay Watershed), Ed Nute (Tomales Watershed Foundation), Ryan Di Gaudio (Point Blue) and Don Gilardi (Gilardi Family Farms).

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS**

**A. Board approval of regular meeting minutes.**

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Bob; 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.

**3. CARBON FARMING:**

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

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Bob Giacomini, to approve the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) ranking of carbon farm design projects as part of our CA Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – 11:00 a.m.**

**4. Presentations & Partner Updates**

• **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Drew Loganbill -**

Drew shares the NRCS office is presently understaffed and asks for patience as they move through the first part of this year. Drew elaborates the NRCS office has already had several requests for drought assistance this year. He feels the office may be able to help with drought technical assistance, but funds for projects may be slow to arrive. This triggers an important conversation around drought and how to assist the landowners.

**Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP –Eric Rubenstahl–** Eric states with excitement MALT is coming up on their monitoring season and they are all excited to get back in the field. They have received 13 applications for SAP projects with 11 being water developments which include developing springs and installation of solar pumps to feed their operation. Also MALT has staff transitions-2 positions in the Stewardship Department are available.

- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed –Isaiah Thalmayer–**Isaiah alerts the Board that STRAW is recognizing the drought conditions ahead of us this year and is already pivoting to their maintenance season as they look for solutions for watering their plantings. He shares a County update that schools are heading back to session, thus working with students is looking hopeful for Fall. Isaiah announces that Point Blue has been awarded a \$1,000,000 grant for monitoring State protocol for Carbon Farming practices. In closing, Isaiah shares he will be going back to school to continue exploring plant/soil interactions.

RCD Program Updates – 15 min:

- **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 will be meeting out in the field to go over different options.
- **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. Waiting to start the negotiation process.
  - Darrylin is in the final stages of the FY 19-20 Annual Audit. (Delays on the Auditor's side due to COVID)
  - Darrylin is continuing to plan the Art Show, possibly to be held in 2022.
  - Darrylin is in the process of updating her Notary status.
  - 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 at 11:09 a.m.