



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, May 12th, 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 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: 10 min

- A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.
- B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid.

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS: 20 min

- A. Board approval of contract #C02-2021 with Miller Pacific Engineering Group for \$5,900.00 to conduct geotechnical engineer oversight of manure pit construction.
- B. Board approval of contract #C04-2021 with MKM Associates for \$6,800 to conduct structural engineer oversight of manure pit construction.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: 10:05 a.m.

4. Presentations & Updates: 20 min

- **Point Blue Conservation Science Rangeland Monitoring Network** - Chelsea Carey, Working Lands Research Director and Principal Soil Ecologist

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:** Grant extension granted. 3.5 out of 5 sites completed! Two projects to be built in 2021.

- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** Oia completed a drought page for our website. Check it out: <https://www.marinrcd.org/drought-assistance/>
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC attended two virtual events; Beaver Summit and the annual Salmonid Restoration Federation (presented on the first of the three-day conference). USC carried out one (1) site visit in San Geronimo Valley (SGV). Finally, USC attended a handful of partner meetings; Marin Conservation League, Gallinas Watershed Council, L-TAC subcommittee, Weed Management Area, Community Development Agency, SGV Planning Group, and Chief Executive for MWPA.
- **Monarchs:** The Gold Ridge RCD submitted a grant to increase habitat for the monarch butterfly which would include work in our district.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Wildlife Conservation Board: First site visit for Chileno Valley Ranch Carbon Farm Plan complete; planning to complete CFP by Fall 2021. CFP design will be worked on from May 2021 to April 2022, in the order of project ranking. For educational materials: wildlife-friendly hedgerow pamphlet content has gone through an extensive technical review. If you would like to review, please do so by 5PM Wednesday May 19th. [Find draft hedgerow pamphlet here.](#) Department of Conservation-funded Lazy R Ranch Riparian Restoration: Staff continues to explore best options for fence and water development, overall project timeline, and funding. Way forward will likely be influenced by whether or not DOC approves of project extension, NRCS EQIP batching deadlines (June 2021 or Winter 2021/22), what NRCS and other funders will provide cost-share for, and permit requirements. A “Funding for Carbon Farming Implementation” spreadsheet has been created. [Find here.](#)
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah coordinated and facilitated the first TAC meeting created for this project. The TAC includes the following; MRCD staff, PCI staff, one of the landowners involved in the project (Mr. Dave Sherwood), NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service & Restoration Center, CDFW, Marin Water, SF RWQCB, NRCS, and MALT. MRCD staff and PCI continue to engage with CDFW regarding a time extension to the Agreement and potentially a scope of work and budget amendment. Sarah and Darrylin prepared and submitted the third progress report and second invoice 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 secured an extension from the Army Corps of Engineers and Water Board to submit all final reports. Other reports include the Riparian Enhancement Area and Notice of Completion. Peter’s pond still leaks! Peter is seeking funding to apply bentonite to pond embankments.
- **Grant Opportunities:** MRCD will apply for the State Coastal Conservancy’s Prop 68 funds. Some cool maps were created for the proposal!
- **Finance Committee:** No report
- **District:** Darrylin is in the final stages of the FY 19-20 Annual Audit (Delays on the Auditor’s side due to COVID), working on the FY2122 Draft Budget and meeting with a Financial Advisor to learn more about 401K investments for staff retirement savings . Staff also worked with IT support to upgrade our phone system to RingCentral.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Ag: 10 total - 2 requested CFPs and put on waitlist, 2 with drought assistance, 8 with educational event. Urban: 10 total - 7 assisted with information, 2 via site visits. 3 total educated.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Restore CA by Zero Foodprint:
Producers can apply on their own. Next round in Summer 2021. Details for current and future rounds are available here: <https://www.zerofoodprint.org/apply>. Currently, applications are ranked based on the "total carbon removal per dollar" which is calculated as the requested grant amount divided by the total metric tons of modeled CO₂e (calculated using COMET Planner). Priority also given to historically underserved applicants.
- 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, April 14th, 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, Peter Martinelli and Terry Sawyer.

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

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

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Zach Mendes (MALT), Kathryn Lyddan (MALT), Stefan Parnay (MMWD) Eric Ettlinger (MMWD), Thane Kreiner (MALT), Jason Fried (LAFCO), Chris Howington (NRCS), Linda Righetti Judah (Landowner Rep), Kris Jacobsen (Walker Creek Ranch) and Jodi Charrier (NMFS).

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Drought Updates- Stefan Parnay, Acting Agricultural Commissioner, Director of Weights and Measures; Eric Rubenstahl, Marin Agricultural Land Trust. Stefan educates the Board on West Marin's drought educational resources and status of drought which spurs a very informative exchange between all attending.

Chris Howington with NRCS shares a link for USDA Disaster Assistance Programs:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index>

Eric Rubenstahl from MALT shares they are planning on having money available to assist with the urgency of this drought with the Drought Resilience and Water Security Initiative (DRAWS) which has sprung out of the SAP Program. This program supports anything that springs out of drought resilience for long term investments for water in West Marin.

Sarah Phillips (MRCD Staff) shares the link:

<https://oaec.org/publications/low-cost-roofwater-system/>

Nancy (MRCD Staff) shares the link for Drought Management:

[http://growninmarin.org/For Farmers and Ranchers/Water 221/Drought Management/](http://growninmarin.org/For_Farmers_and_Ranchers/Water_221/Drought_Management/)

Local Agency Formation Commission:

Marin RCD's Municipal Service Review- Jason Fried, Executive Officer, shares with the Board their role in Marin County and specifically Marin Resource Conservation District. He informs the Board they will be conducting a Municipal Service Review (MSR) of MRCD. This happens approximately every five years with a goal to review financial ability to provide services, accountability for community service needs, opportunities for shared facilities and more.

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: Bob; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the RCD financial report and bills to be paid.
 - C. Board approval to appoint two board members in reviewing the Marin RCD Personnel Policy.
Motion: Terry; Second: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve Mike Moretti and Bob Giacomini to assist Nancy in reviewing the MRCD 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 Watershed: Collaborative Conservation Actions by Farmers Project.
MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve 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 Watershed: Collaborative Conservation Actions by Farmers Project.
3. PINE GULCH INSTREAM FLOW ENHANCEMENT PROJECT:
 - 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
MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Peter Martinelli, to execute Contract #03-2021 with the San Francisco Estuary Institute in the amount of \$7,320 to provide for biological surveys
4. Presentations & Updates: 15 min

Partner Updates: 5 min each

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Chris Howington- Chris shares NRCS potentially has funding available for drought specific projects, but no specific time line yet. Also, the next EQIP batching period deadline is June 8th. NRCS is excited to announce they have a new Forester joining their staff on May 10th. Chris also shares they have a partner biologist available through the Xerces Society to assist on pollinator projects especially for Monarch butterflies.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Eric Rubenstahl mentions the previously discussed MALT Drought Resilience and Water Security Initiative (DRAWS) funds will be available to all farmers and ranchers in West Marin (only a six month emergency initiative). These funds will focus on cost share with labor and materials. Also, MALT has four new positions available.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Isaiah Thalmayer shares that drought is also on the mind of all at STRAW. They plan to be monitoring their existing sites as move through the warmer months ahead.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Elise provided 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. 9 a. m. 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 11:38 a.m.