



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, June 9th, 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 Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81172149361?pwd=V0doK21odm80akVMQ0FpdHV4R1N2UT09>

or by phone: +16699009128,,81172149361#,,,,*646428# meeting ID#: 811 7214 9361 Passcode: 646428 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: 20 min

- A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.
- B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid.
- C. Board approval of proposal to accept a \$50,000 donation to establish an endowment to be used by the Marin RCD to support its mission and activities of protecting and enhancing natural and agricultural resources in Marin County, including selected areas outside of the Marin RCD boundaries.

3. STEMPLE CREEK RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT: 25 min

- A. Board approval of fence design and to act as the local onsite project field manager for the Lazy R Riparian Fence Construction Project. Michelle Katuna, Marin RCD and Linda Judah Righetti, Lazy R Ranch

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: 10:00 a.m.

4. Presentations & Updates: 30 min

- **Marin Permit Coordination Program Addendum** - Elise Suronen, Marin RCD and Carrie Luckacic, Prunuske Chatham Inc.

Partner Updates: 5 min each

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Petaluma Field Office Staff
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Taj Hittenberger, Point Blue Partner Biologist

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RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Possible Fee for Service Agreement to apply for permit assistance. Grant extension granted. 3.5 out of 5 sites completed! Two projects to be built in 2021.
- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** Check out our drought page <https://www.marinrcd.org/drought-assistance/>
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC attended several meetings during the month of May including one with Marin Water regarding a partnership to support their monitoring efforts. USC carried out three (3) site visits, two in SGV and one in Mill Valley. USC was invited by CDFW to serve as an advisor for future restoration efforts in Lagunitas Creek, providing guidance and feedback.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Wildlife Conservation Board: Chileno Valley Ranch Carbon Farm Plan (CFP) to be completed by Fall 2021. CFP designs: first site visit scheduled with Progressive Pastures/GT Ranch for June 23; designs will be worked on from now to April 2022, in the order of project ranking. Educational materials: wildlife-friendly hedgerow pamphlet content has gone through an extensive technical review and sent to tribal groups for review. Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration: Staff seeks Board agreement on fence design, to allow us to move forward with USFWS match funding. Landowner's daughter continues to explore best options for water development, and with Staff, is exploring funding through MALT and NRCS. Other: Staff is working to restructure GIS files, software, and systems to meet organizational monitoring, tracking, and mapping needs. A "Funding for Carbon Farming Implementation" spreadsheet has been created. [Find here.](#)
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** The lead consultant at PCI has been out of town but upon return, she will work with Sarah to develop a revised schedule, scope of work, and budget to accommodate two changes; 1) the lack of data on water surface elevation due to a poor winter/rainy season and 2) the outcome of the first TAC meeting resulted in a desire for a more robust and engaging TAC process (which will cost more). A fourth progress report and third invoice for this project are currently being developed.
- **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** 5-year post-construction monitoring reports are due; Marin RCD secured an extension from the Army Corps of Engineers and Water Board to submit all final reports. Marin RCD hired SFEI to complete CRAMs, farmers hired PCI to complete wetland delineations, and Marin RCD monitored the riparian enhancement area. The riparian enhancement area has 75% survival; we met the goal of 60 plants alive and thriving! The majority of plants look healthy and vigor with most over 3 ft tall with several being at least 10 ft tall. 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:**
 - Shared Forester. Gold Ridge/Sonoma/Marin are partnering in a shared forestry position. The proposal is submitted to the National Association of RCDs. *Pending*
 - Marin Carbon Project Coordinator. A donor has awarded MCP \$50,000 to fund a part time coordinator. *Awarded!*
- **Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee met and reviewed the proposed donation in preparation for the RCD Board meeting. Investment options will need to be explored further.

- **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, comparing payroll companies, getting a Kaiser quote for a MRCD Group plan and meeting with a Financial Advisor to learn more about 401K investments for staff retirement savings.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Ag: 7 total - 0 requested CFPs and put on waitlist, 2 with drought assistance, 1 with educational event, 4 with other grant-related work. Urban: 7 total - 4 assisted with information, 3 via site visits. 15 total educated.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- June 16th, 1-3:30 [UCCE Dairying, Ranching and Climate Management](#)
- June 29th, 9-12 [UCCE Drought Webinar](#)
- Restore CA by Zero Foodprint:
Producers can apply on their own. Next round in Fall 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, May 12th, 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 9:07 a.m.**

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

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

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

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (Point Blue), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Zach Mendes (MALT), Chelsea Carey (Point Blue), John Parodi (Point Blue), Taj Hittenberger (NRCS) and Jim Jensen (MALT).

ACTION ITEMS:

2. 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: Terry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the RCD financial report and bills to be paid. Terry Sawyer requests a Finance Meeting be scheduled soon.

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS:

A. Board approval of Contract #C04-2021 with MKM Associates for \$6,800 to conduct structural engineer oversight of manure pit construction.

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Sally; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Peter Martinelli, to execute Contract #04-2021 with MKM Associates in the amount of \$6,800 to provide for structural engineer oversight of manure pit construction.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. Presentations & Updates: Chelsea Carey (Point Blue Conservation Science) presented two of their programs. **The Partner Biologist Program** employs 12 partner biologists who work on healthy soils demonstrations to help implement practices. They bring science to the NRCS partnership that wouldn't otherwise be there. For the **Rangeland Monitoring Network**, they conduct science to inform metrics, practices and strategies for thriving agroecosystems. They are using standardized protocols for birds, vegetation, soils by looking at baselines that will then be monitored over time. The RMN provides info back to landowners to guide decision making with 100 ranches in CA in 25 counties, 4 in Marin. CA rangeland soils can store more soil carbon than all vegetation carbon combined however CA rangelands are losing carbon, especially on the central CA coast.

Partner Updates: 5 min each

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Taj Hittenberger reminds the Board of the NRCS ranking deadlines: RCPP is May 21st and EQUP ranking deadline is June 9th. For clarification, these are not the deadlines for an application submittal, but for having a plan completed and submitted for funding. Taj also mentions that NRCS staff are potentially back in the office 100% by September and available now for in person meetings by appointment.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Eric Rubenstahl mentions DRAWS (Drought Resilience and Water Security) program is keeping staff busy with 25 applications on file right now. Hiring is happening in all areas of MALT with a focus on two new people hired on to the Stewardship team.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – John Parodi shares they are happy to be back working with students. STRAW is continuing to grow in the South Bay and the Sierra Nevada's. John also shares his gratitude for the multi-program partnerships MRCD leads.

RCD Program Updates:

- **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.
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7. MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:59.