



## AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, September 8th, 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](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.

### **ACTION ITEMS: 9:15 am**

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS: 9:15-9:55 a.m.

- A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.
- B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid.
- C. Board approval of letter requesting County financial support of RCD programs in the amount of \$125,000.
- D. Board approval of Marin RCD FY 19/20 Audit.
- E. Board approval of 2021/22 Marin RCD Associate Directors: Guido Frosini, David Sherwood and George Clyde.

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS: 9:55-10:15 a.m.

- A. Board selection of COW Technical Advisory Committee members who will select and recommend projects to the RCD board for the design and implementation of water quality projects in the Stemple Creek and Tomales Bay watersheds.
- B. Request Board authorization of a designated board member to make emergency decisions during a two month construction window for the COW UDRS Bivalve Project.

4. PERMITTING: 10:15-10:30 a.m.

- A. Board approval of Black Mountain Culvert Replacement project under the MRCD Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

5. Presentations & Updates:

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

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Drought News-** A time for updates from all attendees. Check out our drought page <https://www.marinrcd.org/drought-assistance/>
- **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:**
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC attended several meetings including the Lagunitas TAC subcommittee meeting on Marin Water’s flow release schedule, SF Estuary Partnership’s Blueprint update meetings, and meetings regarding permitting pond maintenance activities. Sarah attended Salmonid Restoration Federation’s Coho Confab (mini conference) on the Navarro River in Mendocino to tour various restoration projects focused on coho habitat enhancement. Finally, Sarah has attended all of the focused stakeholder group meetings with CDA and consultants regarding the roll out of the draft expanded SCA Ordinance for San Geronimo Valley. The team held their final focus group meeting on August 30th. Public draft will be released for review on September 7th.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Wildlife Conservation Board: CFP designs will be worked on from now to April 2022, in the order of project ranking. First site visit at Torliatt complete and designs submitted for implementation funding through NRCS CIC program. Chileno Valley Ranch CFP underway. Educational materials: wildlife-friendly hedgerow pamphlet final edits underway, and translation in October. Expected to be published by the end of the year. Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration: Fence designs complete with NRCS and provided to landowner and USFWS. Site visit complete to update design at eastern-most cross-fence and soon to be submitted to USFWS. CDFA Healthy Soils Application Assistance Grant awarded (\$59K), meaning 21-22 round will likely occur. General: A “Funding for Carbon Farming Implementation” spreadsheet has been created. [Find here.](#) Training for Board and staff by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria is booked for Nov 18 from 1-2:30 PM. Mark your calendars and email [michelle@marinrcd.org](mailto:michelle@marinrcd.org) for login details.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah has continued to stay in touch with the grant manager to find a time to discuss this request for an extension on the project term and additional funds. Sarah will work with the lead consultant at PCI 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).
- **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** Coho salmon were seen in Pine Gulch creek! This project is helping provide them with higher quality instream habitat! Peter’s pond bottom is not completely sealed and therefore is leaking! Peter is seeking funding to apply bentonite to pond embankments. Dennis’ pond has a leak in the overflow line, and he is fixing it.
- **Grant Opportunities:**
  - The RCD has received the first of an annual contribution (\$3,000) from an endowment which will be used to support interns with on the job training. RCD staff will be discussing how to integrate it into our programs.

- o Staff will be working on a scope of work and budget for our \$1M carbon farming proposal in preparation for State Coastal Conservancy approval in December.
- o The Water Board notified staff that future priorities for 319(h) have been expanded to include high quality waters including Drakes Estero and the Point. This means future funding could help the dairies that drain into the Pacific Ocean!
- **Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee met and reviewed the FY 21/22 Draft Marin RCD Annual Budget, MALT Stewardship Agreement, and FY 20/21 Audit.
- **District:** Darrylin is working on the FY2122 Draft Budget, onboarding new staff, comparing payroll companies, creating new spreadsheets and balancing all numbers across the organization for the new Fiscal Year. Darrylin met with CPA to review FY2122 numbers in preparation for the annual Audit. Darrylin has been working with Nancy to analyze Bay Area salaries and benefits in preparation for revisions to the RCD Step Schedule.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Ag: **11 total** - 6 with technical assistance; 1 with outreach; 1 requested CFP and put on waitlist; 3 with funding. Urban: 8 total; 8 assisted with information only, 0 site visits, 3 total educated.

#### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- 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. Spreadsheet will be updated semi-annually. [Find here.](#)
- Point Reyes National Seashore General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement Letter from ag agencies to Dept of Interior/PRNS in support of GMPA and 20 year agreement with Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.
- Training for Board and staff by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria is booked for **Nov 18 from 1-2:30 PM**. Mark your calendars and email [michelle@marinrcd.org](mailto:michelle@marinrcd.org) for login details.

#### 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, July 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 Bob Giacomini, Vice President, at 9:02 a.m.**

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

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

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

Additional Attendees: Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Isaiah Thalmayer (Point Blue), Taj Hittenberger (NRCS) and Nick Goodman (NRCS).

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS:**

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

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve the minutes.

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

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

**3. MARIN WATER AGREEMENT:**

**A. Board approval to execute a \$19,500 contract with Marin Water (AKA Marin Municipal Water District) to conduct fisheries monitoring services, low-flow habitat monitoring, landowner coordination, water quality monitoring, and habitat typing with large woody debris surveying.**

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve to execute a \$19,500 contract with Marin Water (AKA Marin Municipal Water District) to conduct fisheries monitoring services, low-flow habitat monitoring, landowner coordination, water quality monitoring, and habitat typing with large woody debris surveying.

**4. DISTRICT: GIS PROJECT:**

**A. Board approval to execute a 2-phase scope of work contract with a consultant, Green Info Network (GIN), to improve our Geographic Information System (GIS) file structure, software, and systems to meet organizational monitoring, tracking, and mapping needs.**

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve to execute a 2-phase scope of work contract with a consultant, Green Info Network (GIN), to improve our Geographic Information System (GIS) file structure, software, and systems to meet organizational monitoring, tracking, and mapping needs.

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### 4. Presentations & Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Nick Goodman shares EQIP CIC app deadline today with ranking to be complete by the middle of August. NRCS has received 40 Applications for this program with a focus on drought needs. NRCS staff change will include the addition of an Archeologist this summer. This should expedite cultural resources reviews.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Eric Rubenstahl mentions MALT's working with Nancy Scolari (MRCD) to reformat Landowner Assistance Program. MALT Board has approved \$250,000 in SAP funding, plus additional Drought Assistance funding. Meeting with a consultant on Conservation Priorities.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Isaiah shares they have successfully irrigated all their plants, despite the drought. Now pivoting to the next season including Straus Home Ranch and Lazy R project. Also working with SRCD on two projects: Terra Firma and Eames Foundation.

### 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 including the June Lagunitas TAC meeting. USC carried out two (2) site visits, one in SGV to carry out a bird nesting survey prior to tree trimming along the creek and one in Novato with Marin County's stormwater program and the police department staff. USC attended the first CDFW North Coast Coho Project meeting specific to guiding future restoration efforts in Lagunitas Creek. Finally, Sarah has attended ongoing meetings with CDA and consultants regarding the roll out of the expanded SCA Ordinance for San Geronimo Valley.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Wildlife Conservation Board: CFP design will be worked on from now to April 2022, in the order of project ranking. First site visit at Torliatt complete. Chileno Valley Ranch CFP underway. Educational materials: wildlife-friendly hedgerow pamphlet layout is being finalized. Expected to be published by the end of summer. Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration: Fence designs complete with NRCS and provided to landowner and USFWS. 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 and has now returned and is working 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).
- **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*

- **Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee met and reviewed the draft annual budget which will be presented at the August meeting. The Salary Step Schedule is being revised pending bay area salary and retirement research.

- **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. Hopefully arranging a Financial Advisor to come out and meet with staff.

The Fiscal Year closed on June 30 so Darrylin is invoicing all funders to wrap up FY2021. Staff met to discuss the production of the aforementioned 2022 calendar. The result of the meeting was a shift to produce a "Planner" instead of a calendar. Darrylin is working on a one month draft of the Planner. Upon completion staff will be called in to review.

- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Ag: 8 total - 0 requested CFPs and put on waitlist, 2 with drought assistance, 6 with other technical assistance. Urban: 12 total - 12 assisted with information, 2 via site visits, 4 total educated.

## 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- 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 at 9:44 a.m.