



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, October 20th, 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.

(Note that we may move agenda items in this meeting to meet time constraints of participants.)

ACTION ITEMS: 9:15 am

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS: 9:15-9:30 a.m.

A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.

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

C. Board approval of Resolution 10-2021 of the Board of Directors of the Marin RCD proclaiming a local emergency persists, re-ratifying the proclamation of a state of emergency by Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, and re-authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of Marin RCD for the period of October 13 to November 12, 2021 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS: 9:30-10 a.m.

A. Board approval of Project Selection Criteria to be used in the evaluation and ranking of applications for the *COW: Collaborative Conservation Actions by Farmers* (CCAF) grant.

4. MARIN COASTAL PERMIT COORDINATION PROGRAM: 10:00-10:20 a.m.

A. Board approval to open a 30-day review of 2021 proposed projects into the Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program (PCP) and acceptance of proposed projects on November 11, 2020 contingent upon receiving no public comment.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: 10:20-11:30 a.m.

5. Presentations & Updates:

Marin Biomass Study: Bell Cole or Bill Kearney, Marin Biomass Collaborative

Partner Updates: 5 min each

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- **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. Nancy will report on short term and long term actions for pond projects. Check out our drought page <https://www.marinrcd.org/drought-assistance/>
- **DEIJ** - Marin RCD Staff, in addition to Sonoma and Gold Ridge RCDs, attended a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion training put on by Soil and Shadow consultants. Marin RCD staff will discuss next steps on October 12th.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** 4 out of 6 sites completed. Two remaining projects to be built in 2022 if extension is granted.
- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** Sonoma, Gold Ridge, Napa and Sonoma RCDs have received funding (\$75k) to hire a consultant to help with messaging and outreach.
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC attended several meetings including permitting pond maintenance activities, post-fire remediation, and Sup. Rodoni's Open House meeting on the SCA-O. Sarah attended and presented at the CA Chapter's Society for Ecological Restoration, virtually (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hS9Flg2BnU>). USC has been providing monitoring capacity to Marin Water for their annual juvenile salmonid monitoring activities in the Lagunitas Creek watershed. Finally, Sarah continues to attend meetings with CDA and DPW with regard to the draft expanded SCA Ordinance for San Geronimo Valley. The public draft was released for review on Thursday, September 16th. The Community Workshop will be combined with the Planning Commission hearing on Monday, October 25th then to the BOS on Dec. 7th. Please provide public comment prior to 10/25 to Kristin Drumm at CDA Kdrumm@marincounty.org.
- **Carbon Farming Program: Wildlife Conservation Board:** CFP designs will be worked on from now through 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 is being finalized and translated. Expected to be published by the end of the year. **Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration:** Rainwater gutters and storage tank (water improvement) installed, funded by MALT DRAWS and landowner! Fence designs complete with NRCS and provided to landowner and USFWS. **CDA Healthy Soils Application Assistance Grant** awarded (\$59K). Marin RCD can provide application assistance to producers who apply. 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 for login details.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah is working with PCI in requesting an extension on the project term and additional funds. Two changes are being accommodated: 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:** 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:**

- o The RCD has received the first of an annual contribution (\$3,500) from an endowment which will be used to support interns with on the job training. RCD staff has reviewed the application template and will release information in October for candidates.
- 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:** No meeting
- **District:** Nancy is working on revising the Salary and Step Schedule and budget.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Urban: 12 total; 9 assisted with information only, 2 site visits, 111 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.](#)
- 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 for login details.
- Letters of support were received from UC Cooperative Extension, Point Blue STRAW, Ag Institute of Marin, Straus Family Creamery, Marin County Board of Supervisors, Carbon Cycle Institute, CA Assoc of RCDs, Senator McGuire, Fibershed, Clover Sonoma.
- Public Comment due to kdrumm@marincounty.org prior to Planning Commission/Community Workshop meeting on October 25th regarding the SCA-Ordinance in San Geronimo Valley.

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, September 8th, 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: Mike Moretti, Bob Giacomini and Peter Martinelli.

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

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Sarah Phillips, Darrylin Mollath, Michelle Katuna, Emilie Winfield, Simone Albuquerque, Elsie Suronen & Julia Sullivan.

Additional Attendees: Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Tristan Brenner (MALT), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Isaiah Thalmayer (Point Blue), and Drew Loganbill (NRCS).

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS:

A. Board approval of regular meeting minutes.

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

C. Board approval of letter requesting County financial support of the RCD programs in the amount of \$125,000.

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve letter requesting County financial support of the RCD programs in the amount of \$125,000.

D. Board approval of Marin RCD FY 19/20 Audit.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Bob; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve Marin RCD FY 19/20 Audit.

E. Board approval of 2021/22 Marin RCD Associate Directors: Guido Frosini, Dave Sherwood and George Clyde.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the 2021/22 Marin RCD Associate Directors: Guido Frosini, Dave Sherwood and George Clyde.

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS:

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.

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

Board members suggested rotating which Board member participated in the TAC due to time commitments.

- B. Request Board Authorization of a designated Board member to make emergency decision during a two month construction window for the COW UDRS Bivalve Project.

Mike Moretti volunteered. Board approved with a unanimous vote.

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to authorize Mike Moretti in making emergency decisions during construction season.

4. PERMITTING:

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

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve the Black Mountain Culvert Replacement project under the MRCD Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program. Board encouraged Fee for Services if considerable staff time is required.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. Presentations & Updates:

- **Forest Health Watershed Coordinator** – Julia Sullivan shared Julia and Nancy met with Mark Brown, MWPA Executive Officer and Anne Crealock, MWPA Planning and Program Manager. MWPA is trying to plan for project implementation in the coastal zone (excluding Federal lands), possibly something fashioned after the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (SMRCD) San Mateo County Forest Health and Fuel Reduction Public Works Plan (PWP). The RCD is designated as a "special district" and a "public works entity" which is necessary to carry out the program and partner with the State Coastal Conservancy.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Drew Loganbill updated the Board stating that NRCS has been busy with end of fiscal year items, especially obligating EQIP contracts. To date we have obligated nearly \$3.4 million for EQIP, CSP, RCPP, EQIP-CIC. Also, Kay Joy Barge, ASTC-FO for Area 2, is retiring at end of the year.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Eric Rubenstahl **shares that** MALT has ramped up the monitoring season with the help of new Stewardship Associate, Tristan Brenner. We have monitored 35 easements to date and have over 10 more scheduled for September. We are using **Landscape** a new software program and plan to make some improvements to our monitor reporting in our off season (Jan.-March). Eric adds that **DRAWS**, continues to be a top priority and is well received by the community. We have 38 approved DRAWS projects earmarking nearly \$468,000 with 12 projects completed and reimbursed at this point. We have 8 more applications awaiting approval. Most of the projects involve some element of water storage, spring cleaning, increased water efficiency or increased water distribution through new water troughs. Scott Dunbar begin with MALT on July 12 and is now lead staff for the DRAWS and SAP programs. The SAP guidelines, policies and application for the FY 2021-22 SAP are in the midst of being finalized. Once MALT and the MRCD finalize these documents we will have a clear process in place and start processing applications. In addition, MALT is working on an Easement Pipeline which is schedule to close one more easement in the 2021 calendar year with 3-4 easements closing in the 2022 calendar year.

Internal Updates: MALT has two new directors that start September 13, 2021. The Director of Communications and Marketing and the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Sustainability. These positions round out 6 directors at MALT. In our stewardship team, Tristan Brenner, Stewardship Associate and Scott Dunbar, Stewardship Program Manager, were hired on in July and August and are quickly learning the people and landscape of the community.

- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Isaiah shares STRAW is anticipating another year of mixed student engagement, thanks to ever changing COVID and school guidelines. Point Blue’s Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research grant for Rangeland Carbon Monitoring protocol development is kicking off with a working group (including CCI, NRCS, CDFA, Paustian Lab and others), focused on protocol development. A user group including ranchers and other end users is also under development. MRCD’s CDFA grant, including TA funding for Isaiah/STRAW, was funded! Big thanks to Michelle Katuna (Marin RCD) for all her work. WCB design collaboration with FIGR is continuing to expand, most recently with site visits at 3 properties, including staff, partners, landowners and Director Mike Moretti. STRAW is seeking access to private lands in west Marin for native plant seed collection. Get it touch if you’re interested. Seeds from your land will help support future restoration projects in west Marin! And last, but not least, our treasured friend, Isaiah is starting graduate school at UC Davis Sept. 20 (studying how mycorrhizal associations with oaks can improve restoration success). He will miss Board meetings thru December. Other staff from STRAW will attend in the meantime.

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:** News articles were sent to Board by email.
- **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 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 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.

Meeting Adjourned at: 11:34 a.m.