



## AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, December 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. 9:00-9:15 a.m.

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

### **ACTION ITEMS: 9:15 a.m.**

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 12-2021 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 December 12, 2021 to January 12, 2021 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.
- D. Board approval of Marin RCD letter to Marin County Board of Supervisors recommending changes to the Draft Measure A expenditure plan as they relate to District programs.

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS: 9:30-10:15 a.m.

- A. Board approval of Marin RCD Technical Advisory Committee and staff recommendations to authorize 5 visited and ranked projects into the design phase for 2022.

4. CARBON FARMING: 10:15-10:30 a.m.

- A. Board approval to execute contract # C09-2021 for \$14,782.21 with Point Blue Conservation Science's Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW) Program to: assist local producers in applying to the USDA California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)'s Healthy Soils Incentive Program (HSP), help with implementation of awarded projects, and develop educational resources.

5. MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST: 10:30-11 a.m.
- A. Board approval to execute FY21/22 Marin Agricultural Land Trust Stewardship Assistance Program grant agreement.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: 11 a.m.**

6. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation: 20 min

**Tribal Collaboration on CA Wildlife Conservation Board Designs:** Michelle Katuna, Isaiah Thalmayer, Tamara Hicks, Guido Frosini, Vivien Straus

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. Ag Commissioner will be distributing payments for drought losses to ag producers soon.
- **JEDI** - 24 RCD staff and partners received training from the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. Board members please joining us for a training from FIGR on Dec 9th, at 3:30-5:00 PM. Email [michelle@marinrcd.org](mailto:michelle@marinrcd.org) for log-in details.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** COW CCAF Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) discussed and ranked 11 projects and selected 8 based on the selection criteria. Of the 8 selected projects 5 are recommended by the TAC and MRCD Staff to be approved for design based on budgetary and time constraints. Erika Mikesch was contracted to support COW CCAF and COW UDRS up to \$5,000 in materials and services. COW UDRS grant will close on Feb. 28, 2022; Elise Suronen is writing the final report and the Grant Manager has approved the Bivalve Project not being completed prior to grant termination due to pandemic-caused supply chain delays for equipment delivery.
- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** Staff provided Measure A details to the Point Reyes Light, public and Marin Conservation League. Point Reyes Light: *County Parks to spend less on agricultural easements*; Marin Independent Journal: *Marin farm conservation funding slashed in tax renewal draft*. Several letters of support of Marin RCD and Measure A were submitted to the editor of the PR Light including one by George Clyde. One mention was not favorable.
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC provided assistance to several streamside landowners and Marin County's Flood Control District regarding fallen trees after recent storm events. Sarah was nominated and elected to serve as the Lagunitas TAC Chair again. The Planning Commission will meet again in December to review and decide on the SCA-O. Sarah and Nancy met with county staff to review the RCD's role under the SCA-O. Sarah met with the Trust for Public Land to brainstorm workshop ideas and ways to involve the community in fun stewardship activities at the former golf course. Furthermore, two (2) abstracts were submitted to the Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) for their annual conference to be held in April, 2022 in Santa Cruz. Sarah organized and led a regulatory meeting at Olema Campground to review recent flooding impacts.

- **Carbon Farming Program: Wildlife Conservation Board:** CFP designs will be worked on from now through 2022. Torliatt design being finalized, Mahrt started, Toluma visit in Dec. Chileno Valley Ranch CFP underway. Educational materials: wildlife-friendly hedgerow pamphlet is being finalized and translated. Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration: Rainwater gutters, storage tank, and piping (water improvement) installed and captured lots of water in Oct storm! Fence designs complete with NRCS and provided to landowner and USFWS. Fence planned for Spring 2022, and plant installation by STRAW for Fall 2022. **CDFA Healthy Soils Program 21/2022 round now open!** Marin RCD is providing application assistance to first 10 producers who call us at 415-787-7740. Application details on [CDFA's webpage](#) and [MRCD's webpage](#) (both linked).
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Currently waiting for the extension request to be granted.
- **Funding Opportunities:**
  - Measure A is being considered for renewal and is being redrafted and presented to the Board of Supervisors in December. Nancy submitted a letter to the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission re the draft expenditure plan and also met with some environmental groups to answer questions about the RCD. A letter will need to be drafted for submission to the County Board of Supervisors.
- **Finance Committee:** Meeting was canceled due to a family emergency.
- **District:** Nancy and Darrylin continue to work on revising the Salary and Step Schedule. Darrylin is gathering proposals for new Auditors to present to the Board.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Urban: 2 assisted with information only, 6 site visits in Marin County for private property owners living along streams and the County's Flood Control District, 7 total educated. Agriculture: 11 Landowners were visited by a technical advisory committee to discuss/rank project applications for the COW program. 3 landowners and 1 leasee supported by consultations with Marin County and UC Cooperative Extension on New Local Coastal Plan Permitting requirements (will hopefully support many future projects). Carbon Farming: 2 land managers assisted with carbon farming TA, 1 with outreach and education, 11 with funding.

## 7. 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](#). Of special note: CDFA's Healthy Soils 2021/22 Round and Zero Foodprint are now open!
- Training for the Board and staff by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria will be tomorrow, **Dec 9 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.** Mark your calendars and email [michelle@marinrcd.org](mailto:michelle@marinrcd.org) for login details. If you are interested in learning more about local indigenous history and presence, you can [follow this link to an ongoing list](#) of books, articles, museums, etc. that Gold Ridge/Sonoma/Marin RCD staff have compiled.

## 8. 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.

## 9. MEETING ADJOURNED



## MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, November 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 9:02 a.m.**

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

Associate Directors: George Clyde and Guido Frosini.

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Sarah Phillips, Darrylin Mollath, Michelle Katuna, Simone Albuquerque, and Tara Krantz.

Additional Attendees: John Parodi (STRAW), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Tristan Brenner (MALT), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Jessie Ditmore (Point Blue), Kat Lunquist (Occidental Arts and Ecology Center), Jon Griggs (Maggie Creek Ranch, Nevada), Tracy Schohr (Landowner, Placer County), Brock Dolman (Occidental Arts and Ecology Center), Ed Nute (TWSC), Betsy Stapleton (Rancher), Richard Holland (Agroforestry), Mike Swezy (MCL), Larry Minikes (MCL, Biomass Group), Terry Thomas (MCL), Bill Carney (Sustainable San Rafael), Tom Gaman (TBWC) and Taj Hittenberger (NRCS).

2. **PRESENTATION:**

**Experiences with Beaver:** A panel which includes Tracy Kay Schohr, Doty Ravine; Betsy Stapleton,; and Jon Griggs share their experiences with beaver on their land. Followed by an informative question and answer session with these highlights:

- Sub irrigated pastures
- Higher quality forage
- Longer grazing season
- Better livestock distribution
- Elevated groundwater level and surface water

**ACTION ITEMS:**

3. **MARIN BIOMASS STUDY:**

A. Board approval to act as a fiscal agent, on behalf of the Marin Biomass Collaborative, in a proposal to the CA Office of Planning and Research for a Marin Biomass Study: Creating environmentally responsible biomass utilization pathways in an urban rural coastal region. MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve the MRCD to act as a fiscal agent, on behalf of the Marin Biomass Collaborative, in a proposal to the CA Office of Planning and Research for a Marin Biomass Study: Creating environmentally responsible biomass utilization pathways in an urban rural coastal region.

4. **CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS:**

A. Board Approval to execute contract #C10-2021 for \$11,400 with Elise Suronen for Grant Management Services.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve to execute contract #C10-2021 for \$11,400 with Elise Suronen for Grant Management Services.

5. DOC STEMPLE CREEK RIPARIAN RESTORATION:

- A. Board approval to execute contract # C06-2021 for \$363,548.20 with Point Blue 5. Conservation Science's Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW) Program to install 3,940 native plants to restore approximately 4,260 linear feet of degraded riparian area along Stemple Creek at the Lazy R Ranch (Righetti), and perform monitoring and maintenance for 3 years.

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve to execute contract # C06-2021 for \$363,548.20 with Point Blue 5. Conservation Science's Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW) Program to install 3,940 native plants to restore approximately 4,260 linear feet of degraded riparian area along Stemple Creek at the Lazy R Ranch (Righetti), and perform monitoring and maintenance for 3 years..

6. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS:

- A. Board approval of regular meeting minutes.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve the minutes. Terry noted a correction to the Minutes: he was present and not in the roll call.

- 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 Resolution 11-2021 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 November 12, 2021 to December 11, 2021 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve Resolution 11-2021 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 November 12, 2021 to December 11, 2021 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

- D. Board approval of FY 21/22 Marin RCD Annual Budget.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Bob; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve FY 21/22 Marin RCD Annual Budget.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

7. Presentations & Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Taj Hittenberger explains NRCS’s FY2122 EQIP deadlines for ranking: 1) January 28, 2022 and 2) May 27, 2022. Also, the only ranking deadline for CSP is May 27, 2002.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** –Eric Rubenstahl explains that MALT is entering its Monitoring season and staff is enjoying connecting with landowners. He also shares that their easement program continues to move forward with potentially four more easements being completed in 2022. Scott Dunbar mentions that MALT has two new staff members joining their team this week: a new COO and a new Program Manager. He mentions MALT is meeting with Point Reyes National Seashore staff to discuss potential projects in the Seashore. He also shares that the DRAWS program has capped out for now, but they are looking forward to more funding in the future.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** –Taj Hittenberger shares that Point Blue is starting up their Soil Monitoring season following the rain we had in early November. Taj also shares he is doing coursework with Audubon Canyon Ranch to become a trained leader in prescribed burns. John Parodi adds that STRAW is doing its best to support the various teachers as schools navigate COVID concerns. He states that approximately 50% of the schools are able to participate in offsite field trips. He looks forward to when that will gradually change, but understands the vast variety of concerns.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Drought News-** A time for updates from all attendees. Ag Commissioner will be distributing payments for drought losses to ag producers soon. Check out our drought page <https://www.marinrcd.org/drought-assistance/>
- **JEDI** - RCD staff and county partners received training from the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Selection Criteria for the COW CCAF program was established by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). 10 site visits were conducted with the COW CCAF TAC and landowners were given technical advice on proposed projects (3 in Estero De San Antonio, 2 in Point Reyes National Seashore, and 5 in Tomales Bay Watershed). Two meetings have been held with Vince Trotter re: permitting projects in the Local Coastal Zone in order to better understand the recent update to the Local Coastal Plan and enable MRCD Staff to advise landowners on project permitting in Local Coastal Zone.
- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** Staff provided Measure A details to the Point Reyes Light, public and Marin Conservation League.
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC provided assistance to Marin Water for their annual juvenile salmonid monitoring activities in the Lagunitas Creek watershed, which has come to an end. USC continues to be engaged with CDA and DPW in meetings relating to the draft expanded SCA Ordinance for SGV. The Planning Commission Hearing will be held on November 8th with the SCA being discussed at 1pm. USC met with a project coordinator in the Canal District to review sites for greening and restoration activities in the community. USC attended two full-day meetings with CDFW for their SHaRP process.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Staff gave a presentation to the American Farmland Trust. Wildlife Conservation Board: CFP designs will be worked on from now through 2022. Torliatt design being finalized, Mahrt next. 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, storage tank, and piping (water improvement) installed and captured lots of water in Oct storm! Fence designs complete with NRCS and provided to landowner and USFWS. Fence planned for spring 2022, and plant installation by STRAW for fall 2022. CDFA Healthy Soils Program 21/2022 round now open! Marin RCD is providing application assistance to first 10 producers who call us at 415-787-7740. Application details on [CDFA's webpage](#) and [MRCD's webpage](#) (both linked).

- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah submitted a request for a one year extension on the project term and continues to seek additional funding from other sources. Two changes are being accommodated: 1) the lack of data on water surface elevation due to a poor winter/rainy season in 20/21 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).
- **Funding Opportunities:**
  - The County of Marin requested submission of a \$125,000 proposal for carbon farming project development from the RCD.
  - The RCD has been a recipient of Measure A funding. Measure A is being considered for renewal and is being redrafted and presented to the Board of Supervisors in December.
- **Finance Committee:** FC held a meeting to discuss salaries, step schedule, salary survey and Measure A
- **District:** Nancy is working on revising the Salary and Step Schedule.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Urban: 11 assisted with information only, 9 site visits, 19 total educated. USC carried out nine (9) site visits in Marin County for private property owners living along streams and the County's Flood Control District. Agriculture: 17 Landowners were visited to support the development of project applications for the COW program. 5 landowners were referred to alternate funding sources for water development projects, 8 landowners assisted with carbon farming TA and RDM Monitoring.

## 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

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- Training for the Board and staff by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria has been rescheduled to **Dec 9 from 3:30 - 5:00 PM**. Mark your calendars and email [michelle@marinrcd.org](mailto:michelle@marinrcd.org) for login details. If you are interested in learning more about local indigenous history and presence, you can [follow this link to an ongoing list](#) of books, articles, museums, etc. that Gold Ridge/Sonoma/Marin RCD staff have compiled.

## 9. 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.

## 10. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:51 a.m.