



AGENDA

DATE: **Thursday, March 10th, 2022**

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@marinrkd.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: 50 min

2. MARIN COUNTY BIOMASS STUDY: 9:15 - 9:45 a.m.
 - A. Board approval of Agreement #OPR21121 for \$500,000 with the CA Office of Planning and Research to conduct a Marin County Biomass study.
 - B. Board approval of Marin Biomass Steering Committee Members to direct the Marin Biomass Study.
3. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS: 9:45-10:20 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 03-2022 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 March 10 - April 13, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.
 - D. Board approval to accept the Marin RCD's Finance Committee recommendation to award a financial auditor contract for the Marin RCD FY 20/21 Audit.
 - E. Board approval to accept Marin RCD's Finance Committee recommendation to increase employee health insurance allocation to \$600/month April- December 2022.
4. CULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL PROJECT ASSESSMENTS: 10:20-10:40 a.m.

- A. Board approval to execute Contract #C03-2022 with Prunuske Chatham Inc. in the amount of \$15,420.00 to provide regulatory compliance, project planning and biological services for 2022 construction projects.
- B. Board approval to award Contract #C04-2022 to a contractor in the amount of \$6,706.00 to complete archaeological review of three (3) 2022 restoration projects.

UPDATES: 10:45 a.m.

- Introduction to Marin Monarch Working Group - Mia Monroe, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

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** – Point Blue Staff

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** Several articles and letters to the editor were printed in the Marin IJ and Point Reyes Light regarding the status of Measure A.
- **Drought News-** Sonoma and Marin Counties are pulling together a drought report for the ag community to describe recent challenges and to prepare and plan for future droughts. The Ag Commissioner will be looking for additional drought relief funding.
- **JEDI** - Registration is now open for the free [21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge](#) which starts April 4, 2022.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** COW UDRS Final Report delivered to State Water Board. COW CCAF Design and CEQA Compliance requests for proposals sent to 8+ consultants.
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC continues to work closely with CDA regarding the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance. Smolt monitoring in Lagunitas Creek will be starting up in March whereas a substantial time commitment will be warranted. Finally, USC carried several site visits and provided support to many stakeholders during the month of February.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Wildlife Conservation Board: CFP designs and Chileno Valley Ranch CFP underway. Wildlife-friendly hedgerow pamphlet is being finalized and translated and printed soon. Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration: Fence planned for Spring 2022, and plant installation by STRAW for Fall 2022. CDFA Healthy Soils Program a/o Feb 25, 2022 application has closed. Marin RCD will continue to update [design and implementation resources on website](#) and provide post-award soil sampling and implementation assistance. Latest “Funding Opportunities for Carbon Farming Funding” [spreadsheet linked here](#).
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** CA Department of Fish & Wildlife granted our request for a one-year extension to address a lack of significant data in winter 20/21 due to insufficient precipitation.
- **Funding Opportunities:**
 - CARCD is pooling together RCDs to apply for a monarch/pollinator/Carbon Farming grant to the Ca Wildlife Conservation Board. \$221,000-\$450,000 (*Pending*)

- Measure A will be on the June ballot. *(Pending)*
- Foundation proposal was submitted for a GIS and project monitoring technician. \$50,000 *(Pending)*
- **Finance Committee:** The FC reviewed auditor proposals, \$212K COVID relief funding that is provided to the RCD and our RCD health insurance allocation.
- **District:** The Public Records Act request information has been compiled and provided to County Counsel for review and submission.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Urban: 14 assisted with information, 3 site visits for private property owners living along streams and the County's Flood Control District, 7 total educated. Agriculture: 3 land managers assisted with funding applications, 2 with technical assistance, 1 with educational resources. Carbon Farming: 2 land managers helped with technical assistance, 4 with Outreach and Education, 3 with Carbon Farm Plan interest, and 5 with funding.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Board of Sups/State Water Resources Board letter in support of Marin RCD's allocation in Measure A.

7. 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.

8. MEETING ADJOURNED



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, January 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 9:05 a.m.**
Roll call of directors: Mike Moretti and Terry Sawyer. Absent: Peter Martinelli and Bob Giacomini.
Associate Directors: George Clyde, David Sherwood and Guido Frosini
Staff: Nancy Scolari, Sarah Phillips, Darrylin Mollath, Michelle Katuna, Emilie Winfield, and Simone Albuquerque. Additional Attendees: Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Tristen Brenner (MALT), Isaiah Thalmayer (Point Blue), Jennifer Carlin (MALT Board), Rich Holland (Marin Horse Council), Bob McGee (MALT Board-Chairman), Taj Hittenberger (PBCS), Chris Howington (NRCS), Jessie Ditmore (STRAW), and Bill Carney (Sustainable San Rafael).

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

2. **Marin Agricultural Land Trust Update** – Jennifer Carlin and Bob McGee share MALT’s forecast for 2022 during the transition phase of changing CEO’s. Presently, Jennifer Carlin is serving as the acting CEO while a search for the new CEO is conducted. She emphasizes MALT’s value on their indispensable relationships, which include the Marin RCD and the community of Marin. MALT’s core Mission is to preserve agricultural land for agriculture use by way of supporting easements.
3. **Inoculant-Support Restoration: A New Practice with Promising Results-** Isaiah Thalmayer shared that Point Blue conducted a field experiment at 3 restoration sites in Sonoma County comparing local and heat-adapted whole soil inocula on 4 native plant species. Results after 2 years of growth indicate the heat adapted inoculum increased plant survival, acorn germination, and mycorrhizal colonization of root tips for coast live oak and arroyo willow. This new practice could help increase plant survival in the face of climate change and increasingly frequent and severe droughts.

ACTION ITEMS:

4. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS:
 - A. Board approval of regular meeting minutes.
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; 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.
 - C. Board approval of Resolution 01-2021 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 January 12, 2022 to February 12, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.
MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve 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 January 12, 2022 to February 12, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

- D. Board approval of Resolution 02-2022 of the Board of Directors of the Marin RCD approving \$1M in grant funding from the CA State Coastal Conservancy for the Marin Carbon Farming Projects.
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve Resolution 02-2022 of the Board of Directors of the Marin RCD approving \$1M in grant funding from the CA State Coastal Conservancy for the Marin Carbon Farming Projects.

5. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS (COW):

- A. Board approval of Contract #C01-2022 for \$9,025.00 with Erica Mikesh to create designs for the COW CCAF Mclsaac Ranch and Dickson Ranch projects.
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve Contract #C01-2022 for \$9,025.00 with Erica Mikesh to create designs for the COW CCAF Mclsaac Ranch and Dickson Ranch projects..

6. MARIN COASTAL PERMIT COORDINATION (PCP):

- A. Board approval of Contract #C02-2022 for \$7,395.00 with Prunuske Chatham Inc. to complete a Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program Addendum that will synchronize the PCP with state categorical exemption requirements.
MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve Contract #C02-2022 for \$7,395.00 with Prunuske Chatham Inc. to complete a Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program Addendum that will synchronize the PCP with state categorical exemption requirements.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS:

Partner Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Chris Howington shares with the Board that NRCS has a new Cover Crop Initiative. It is a trial run program hoping to increase the use of covers crops here in California. The deadline for applications is January 18th. He also mentions the general EQIP batching period deadline is February 23rd.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** –Eric Rubenstahl states that MALT has finished up monitoring all 90 easements and all went well. Scott Dunbar, from MALT, adds that MALT has approved almost half of the SAP Budget for this fiscal year. In regards to the DRAWS program \$490,000 has been utilized, capping out the \$500,000 that had been allotted for the program. He mentions that 29 of the 40 projects have received reimbursement for completing their projects.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Taj Hittenberger explains that his position, that was partially with STRAW and partially with NRCS, has changed. He is presently fully employed with Point Blue Conservation Science as the new Fire Stewardship Ecologist. In this position Taj will plan and conduct prescribed burns along with providing educational and outreach materials. Jesse Ditmore shares that STRAW has on boarded 5 new technicians in December. They are excited to be out working with students again on the Collis Ranch harvesting and planting willows. Although, they are still experiencing many class cancelations or rescheduling due to the COVID variant complications.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** Some media highlights over the last month. *Thank you to George Clyde* for creating and circulating the press release and doing the hard work of communicating with reporters and highlighting the role of the RCD.

- “County Lands \$1M grant to boost carbon farming” Will Houston, Marin IJ
- “New funds will expand Marin carbon farming” Ike Allen, PR Light
- “County allocates \$4M toward climate projects” Richard Halstead, Marin IJ
- “Marin Supervisors rebuff proposal to cut future Measure A funding for Agriculture” Richard Halstead, Marin IJ
- “Marin County will implement carbon farming” Jeffrey Schaub, KCBS
- **Drought News-** A time for updates from all attendees. Ag Commissioner has distributed payments for drought losses to ag producers.
- **JEDI** - 39 RCD staff and Board members received training from the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria on Dec 9th. Thank you for the thoughtful engagement! Registration is now open for the free [21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge](#) which starts April 4, 2022.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** MRCD Board approved 5 projects for design based on COW CCAF Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommendations on 12/8/21. Alternative resources were provided to landowners whose projects were not approved for design at this time. The Water Board grant manager has approved the Bivalve Project not being completed prior to grant termination due to pandemic-caused supply chain delays for equipment delivery.
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC led a salmon spawning tour for partners working on the CLAM project as well as met with an engineer on site to review the existing topographic conditions. USC provided assistance to several streamside landowners and stakeholders with information and resources. USC attended the Planning Commission hearing in December where they approved the SCA-O upon minimal clarifications. Sarah continues to hold conversations 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 (San Geronimo Commons) for the early months in 2022. Finally, Sarah continues to support Marin Water’s salmonid monitoring efforts in the Lagunitas Creek watershed.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** 20 Carbon Farm Plan holders were contacted to ask for Measure A letters of support addressed to the Marin BOS and/or presence at the Jan 25th BOS Meeting. Wildlife Conservation Board: CFP designs will be worked on from now through 2022. Torliatt design being finalized, Mahrt started, Toluma visited with STRAW and FIGR. Chileno Valley Ranch CFP underway. Educational materials: wildlife-friendly hedgerow pamphlet is being finalized and translated and printed soon. Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration: Fence planned for Spring 2022, and plant installation by STRAW for Fall 2022. **CDFA Healthy Soils Program 21/2022 is open through Feb 25th or until funds run out!** Marin RCD has helped 12 producers. Call 415-787-7740 or email michelle@marinrcd.org if you need last-minute assistance. Application details on [CDFA’s webpage](#) and [MRCD’s webpage](#) (both linked).
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Currently waiting for grant extension request to be granted.
- **Funding Opportunities:**
 - CARCD is pooling together RCDs to apply for a monarch/pollinator/Carbon Farming grant to the Ca Wildlife Conservation Board.
 - Measure A is being considered for renewal and is being redrafted. Nancy submitted a letter to the Marin County Board of Supervisors requesting the RCD receive an increase from \$130,000 to \$500,000 per year. Tara is working on a watershed map to show past Measure A projects completed. The schedule moving forward is as follows:
 - January 20, 2022: Parks and Open Space Commission considers recommending Measure A Expenditure Plan to the Board of Supervisors
 - January 25, 2022: Board of Supervisors conducts first hearing on Measure A ordinance, sales tax, and expenditure plan
 - February 1, 2022: Board of Supervisors conducts final reading, and if approved, signed resolution is sent to elections office

- The Biomass Study is moving forward. The CA Office of Planning and Research is reviewing a draft scope of work and budget. A contract is expected for approval at our next RCD meeting.

Finance Committee: A meeting is being planned for January where auditor proposals will be reviewed.

District: LAFCo is drafting up our service review which will be available for public comment soon.

New landowners/stewards assisted: Urban: 8 assisted with information, 2 site visits for private property owners living along streams and the County's Flood Control District, 5 total educated. Agriculture: 11 landowners received updates on their COW CCAF Applications; Alternative funding resources were provided to landowners if their projects were not recommended for design at this time. Carbon Farming: 5 land managers helped with technical assistance, 1 with Carbon Farm Plan interest, and 6 with funding.

8. 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!
- The following landowners submitted letters of support or submitted comments to the Board of Supervisors (that we are aware of): Pozzi, Straus, Giamonna, Frosini, Gale, Sherwood, Clyde, Giacomini, Lafranchi, Martinelli.

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 11:12 a.m.