



## AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, May 11th, 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@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 - 10:15 a.m.**

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

- A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.
- B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid.
- C. Board approval of Resolution 04-2022 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 May 12- June 12, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

#### **3. CA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD (WCB):**

- A. Board approval of "Design Finalization and Board Approval Process" for six WCB carbon farming projects (15-20 practices).

#### **4. CHICKEN RANCH BEACH:**

- A. Request Board approval of letter of support for the Tomales Bay Watershed Foundation Chicken Ranch Contamination Mitigation and Wetlands Enhancement Project.

#### **5. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS (COW):**

- A. Request Board approval of an amendment to Elise Suronen Contract C10-2021 to support grant management services to a revised sum not to exceed \$2,202 for the Conserving Our Watersheds Program.

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## 6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES: 10:15 a.m.

Presentations: (30 minutes for presentations, including Q&A)

**Prescribed Fire:** Jim Jensen, Land Steward, and Sasha Berleman, PhD and Director of Fire Forward, Audubon Canyon Ranch. Prescribed burning in Marin for productive rangeland and wildlife habitat.

**WCB Conceptual Design Update:** Michelle Katuna, MRCD Agroecologist, will provide an update on two conceptual designs being funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Partner Updates: 5 min each

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** Several letters to the editor were printed in the Marin IJ regarding 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.
- **Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion** - No update
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** COW UDRS grant closed. COW CCAF projects in design and funding phase.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah has been providing ongoing assistance to landowners in west Marin regarding PG&E's efforts to remove a prolific number of trees along the riparian corridor. Sarah attended the annual Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference and presented in two sessions, and co-led a session at the regional conference focused on the recovery of wild salmonids. Sarah continues to provide partner support to Marin Water for fisheries monitoring.
- **Carbon Farming (CF) Program:** Wildlife Conservation Board: CF Program designs and Chileno Valley Ranch CF Plan 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 - CDFA expects to continue to issue awards until June 2022. Updates can be found at [CDFA's website](#). 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 Working Lands" [spreadsheet linked here](#).
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah is coordinating an upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting to meet on-site, in the field, to review conceptual designs. The 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:**

- o 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)*
- o Measure A will be on the June ballot. *(Pending)*
- o Foundation proposal was submitted for a GIS and project monitoring technician. \$50,000 *(Awarded!)*
- o Marin/Sonoma application to USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities. \$3.5M *(Pending, application submitted 5/6/22)*
- **Finance Committee:** The FC made suggestions to the RCD website in light of public requests for information including a description of the project selection process.
- **District:** Additional Public Records Act requests have been received. The MRCD FY2122 Draft Audit is complete and ready for review. All Board Members have submitted their form 700's with the County and those up for election have been notified of election deadlines. The MRCD Indirect Cost Proposal has been submitted to the Department of Interior for approval.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Urban: 10 assisted with information, 1 site visit for private property owners living along streams and the County's Flood Control District, 181 total educated. Agriculture: 5 crop producers consulted re: RCDs services at a deficit irrigation workshop, 3 landowners helped with EQIP applications, 1 landowner was provided with preliminary project designs. Carbon Farming: 3 land managers helped with technical assistance, 1 with Outreach and Education, 1 with funding.

#### 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Marin RCD is hiring a [Carbon Farming Program Manager](#) and [Monitoring and GIS Program Manager](#)! Please spread the word. Applications are due May 20th.
- LAFCo requested review of a proposal to annex 21 & 23 Church Street (APN 102-100-01) to Tomales Village Community Services District. Response required by June 1, 2022.

#### 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, April 13th, 2022**

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 9:03 a.m.**

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

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

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Sarah Phillips, Darrylin Mollath, Michelle Katuna, Emilie Winfield, Tara Krantz, and Simone Albuquerque. Additional Attendees: Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Tristen Brenner (MALT), Isaiah Thalmayer (Point Blue), Taj Hittenberger (Point Blue), Sebastian Tsoanos (NRCS), Woody Elliot (Inverness resident) Tom Gaman (TWF), Richard Plant (Inverness resident), Ed Nute, Carrie Lukacic (PCI), Christopher Woltemade (PCI), Ladi Asgill (MALT), Eric Ettinger (MMWD), Kris Jacobsen (Walker Creek Ranch), Elise Suronen, John Taylor (Bivalve Dairy) and Karen Buhr (CARCD).

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

2. Chicken Ranch Beach: Tom Gamon, Tomales Bay Watershed Council Foundation presents the Board with a historical view of Chicken Ranch Beach including its extreme E.coli contamination. Tom goes on to propose improvements to the project as they ask the MRCD to be the CEQA Lead agency. Carrie Lukacic and Christopher Woltemade, both from Prunuske Chatham, join Tom in requesting the MRCD consider being the Lead CEQA Agency and for a Letter of Support.

### ACTION ITEMS:

3. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS:

- A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Mike, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve the regular meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Mike, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve 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.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve 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 of Memorandum of Understanding between Sonoma RCD, Gold Ridge RCD and Marin RCD for shared engineering services.

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Mike, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Sonoma RCD, Gold Ridge RCD and Marin RCD for shared engineering services

4. Conserving our Watershed (COW):

A. Board approval of supplemental COW: Collaborative Conservation Actions by Farmers Program funding award in the amount of \$77,615 for increased water quality improvements.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve the supplemental COW: Collaborative Conservation Actions by Farmers Program funding award in the amount of \$77,615 for increased water quality improvements.

B. Board approval of new water quality improvement project as recommended by the COW Collaborative Conservation Action by Farmers Technical Advisory Committee.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve the new water quality improvement project located in the Point Reyes National Seashore as recommended by the COW Collaborative Conservation Action by Farmers Technical Advisory Committee.

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS:

**UPDATES:**

**Beavers in Lagunitas Creek: Efforts to support beaver reintroduction** - Eric Ettlinger, Marin Water presents the benefits and risks of reintroducing beavers to West Marin County. Benefits include: expanded fire break, enhanced salmon habitat and attract other species of animals. Risks include: potential loss of trees, giardia and flooding in small streams. The Board encourages that the Marin County Farm Bureau be brought into the conversation about reintroducing beavers to the County.

**Bivalve Dairy Update** - Elise Suronen, Planning Consultant and John Taylor, Bivalve Dairy present a status report on the Bivalve Dairy project funded by the SWRQCB. John also shares how is seeking more funding for a potential new project of pelletizing the compost. Partner Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Sebastian Tsochanos update the Board on their deadline for their Conservation Stewardship application as being April 15<sup>th</sup>. He goes on to share that Nick Goodman has accepted a position of District Conservationist in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Sebastian also states that NRCS will have a new Soil Conservationist position open soon.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Scott Dunbar shares with the Board that MALT’s SAP program is 85% implemented, with a small amount still available for work on MALT easement properties. He also states the MALT Board has approved additional funding for their DRAWS program [water security projects](applications on the website). Eric Rubenstahl adds that MALT has ramped up their monitoring season and continue to work on partnerships in Marin County.

- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Taj Hittenberger shares that Point Blue has hired a new Partner Biologist who has background in Salmonid restoration and pollinator research. Isaiah Thalmayer updates the Board with news that Point Blue is in the thick of their monitoring season and ramping up their planning for next planting season. He states they are looking forward to working with MRCD on lots of restoration work ahead with the Lazy R, which builds upon past work, and SCC grant, which helps support implementation of Carbon Farm designs. Isaiah elaborates that Point Blue is looking forward to working with Cal Trans, Terra Firma Farms, Open Field Farms and Cal Trout on potential future projects.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** George connected us with the Marin IJ on another article: “Creek advocates eager for assist from beavers” by Will Houston, Marin IJ
- **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** - Tara has put together a Draft Request for Proposals to hire a diversity, equity, inclusion training consultant.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** 4 out of 5 COW CCAF projects are currently being designed by Partner Engineer Tom Hammond and Brooke Pippi of NRCS. Cultural and biological review for COW projects is underway for CEQA compliance.
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC continues to work closely with CDA and Land Development regarding the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance. Smolt monitoring in Lagunitas Creek has begun whereas a substantial time commitment has been warranted. Finally, USC carried several site visits and provided support to many stakeholders during the month of March.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Wildlife Conservation Board: CFP designs and Chileno Valley Ranch CFP underway. *Design approval process and first design coming to the Board for approval at May Board Meeting.* 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*)
- **Finance Committee:** The FC reviewed the information compiled in compliance with the Public Records Act requests. Mileage reimbursement adjustment discussed. FC referred staff to research County policies.

- **District:** Two Public Records Act requests were submitted to requesters. Follow up information has been submitted for both requests. MRCD FY2122 Audit is in process. Board member Form 700's are being submitted to the County of Marin. MRCD Financial Transaction Report submitted to the State of California.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Urban: 7 assisted with information, 4 site visits for private property owners living along streams and the County's Flood Control District, 26 total educated. Agriculture: 2 land managers assisted with NRCS application and pre-implementation site visits. Carbon Farming: 5 land managers helped with technical assistance, 2 with Outreach and Education, 3 with Carbon Farm Plan interest, and 3 with funding.

#### 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- April 14. 7PM. Marin Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting to review the [Draft West Marin Municipal Service Review](#) which includes a review of the Marin RCD. Public comments are due by Friday April 29th.
- April 14. 10:30-11:30AM. Drought Webinar for Sonoma Marin Livestock Producers. Register at this [link](#) or contact Kerry McGrath [kamcgrath@ucanr.edu](mailto:kamcgrath@ucanr.edu)
- [AB 1902 Division 9 Public Resources Code Revisions](#). This is being revised to clarify RCD roles in addition to the Department of Conservation.

#### 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 11:28