



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, October 12th, 2022**

PLACE: **Marin Farm Bureau/Horizon Cable, 520 Mesa Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956**

REMOTE OPTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ONLY (Board members must be physically present)

Members of the public may participate remotely by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87864206727> or by phone: +16699009128,,87864206727# meeting ID: 878 6420 6727. Please contact Nancy Scolari at (415) 663-1170 ext. 301, or preston@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:

- A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.
- B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid.
- C. Board approval of FY19-20 Marin RCD Audit.
- D. Board approval to request \$125,000 from the County of Marin to support MRCD programs and to partially offset operational costs not covered by state or federal grants.

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS PROGRAM (COW):

- A. Request Board design approval for the Zanardi Ranch Riparian Exclusion, Livestock Watering System and Access Road Project into the design phase, contingent upon receipt of supplemental State Water Resources Control Board funds.

4. MEASURE A: Parks, Agriculture and Environment:

- A. Request Board approval to enter into a Grant Agreement with the County of Marin for the disbursement of Measure A tax proceeds.

5. CARBON FARMING PROGRAM:

- A. Board approval of final designs for four riparian restoration projects on ranches in the Stemple, Walker and Tomales Bay watersheds.

6. INFORMATIONAL: 11 a.m.

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):

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach/Education:** “Marin study to explore new ways to use biomass” Marin IJ. “Marin carbon projects to receive major federal funding” PR Light with help from George!
- **Drought News:** The Sonoma and Marin Drought Resiliency Report is nearly complete.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion:** This work will begin in 2023.
- **Biomass Project:** The Biomass consultant, Spatial Informatics Group, has been issued a notice to proceed under their contract, and has begun work under Part A of the Study. Members of the Biomass Steering Committee attended a quarterly meeting of the CA Office of Planning and Research cohort of which the Marin Biomass Project is one of five.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Equipment has been installed for the COW UDRS Bivalve project! COW CCAF Project 2022-02 is undergoing NEPA review. COW CCAF projects 2022-01 and 2022-02 bid documents are being drafted for fall 2022 implementation. COW CCAF deviation request (additional funds offered by SWRCB) is approved. Working with PRNS on Pond restoration of 10 ponds on 6 ranches fall 2022.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah attended the annual Salmonid Restoration Federation’s Coho Confab in September and has been busy providing lead organizational support for an upcoming Marin Creeks Symposium for practitioners. Sarah also carried out a series of site visits for private landowners in Mill Valley and in west Marin. Support was provided to Marin Water District with their juvenile salmonid monitoring efforts in Lagunitas Creek throughout the month. Sarah will be leading a training for 22 County staff members from Community Development Agency (CDA) to learn about hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, native and non-native riparian vegetation, and fisheries in west Marin (SGV and Lagunitas Creek).
- **Carbon Farming Program:** State Coastal Conservancy: Contracts are being developed with STRAW and UCCE. Wildlife Conservation Board: 4 CFP designs complete. Chileno Valley Ranch CFP underway. Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration: Fence materials have been delivered and installation has begun. Plant installation by STRAW scheduled for Fall 2022.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Designs are complete and are being reviewed by landowners and the Walker Creek Technical Advisory Committee.
- **Funding Opportunities:**
 - CARCD has been awarded for a monarch/pollinator/Carbon Farming grant from the CA Wildlife Conservation Board. Marin RCD is a recipient of this grant. \$221,000-\$450,000 (*Awarded!*)
 - USDA Climate Smart Commodities Program. \$2M (*Awarded, negotiating amount*)
- **Finance Committee:** Met and reviewed the Marin RCD audit presented for approval at this meeting.
- **District:** On boarding staff has been exciting. Staff are working on setting up grant management systems for the new Fiscal Year. Staff continue to develop the FY2223 Budget to include all new sources of funding. Per Board request at our last meeting, to meet in person in October, staff has been researching various local locations to host the meeting.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Urban: 6 site visits, 9 landowners were assisted with information and 27 landowners and/or partners were educated. Agriculture: 5 land

managers were provided with funding information; 3 landowners were supported with CEQA compliance and PRNS ranches were provided support with Residual Dry Matter monitoring. Carbon Farming: 4 land managers were given technical assistance.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Petaluma River is being considered for a Grazing Waiver program by the State Water Board. Discussions with supporting agencies will commence in October.

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, September 14, 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 9:07 a.m.

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

Associate Directors: David Sherwood, George Clyde and Guido Frosini (and special guest Adriano Luce Frosini).

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Simone Albuquerque, Sarah Skinker, Darrylin Mollath, Emilie Winfield, Preston Duncan and Sarah Phillips. Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Chad White (Biomass PM), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Carol Dolcini (Landowner), Jeff Creque (Biomass SC/CCI), Gerald Meral (RCD Director-elect), Orlena Yee (Marin Carbon Project), Veronica Rivera (NRCS), Larry Minikes (Marin Conservation League), Jessie Ditmore (STRAW), Bill Carney (Biomass SC), Chris Howington (NRCS), Belle Cole (Biomass SC), Tad Mason (TSS Consultant), Frederick Tornatorel (TSS Consultant), Bill Carney (Biomass SC), Barbara George (Biomass SC), and Thomas Buchholz (Spatial Informatics Group).

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – Carol Dolcini shares concern about Marin Water considering raising the level of Soulajule Dam to supply additional water during drought years. Larry Minikes shares his observation that this plan must be explored by Marin Water but is not likely to be implemented for reasons that have been revealed through research.

ACTION ITEMS:

3. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS:

- A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Terry, 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: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve Financial Report and bills to be paid.

- C. Board approval of Resolution 09-2022 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 August 11 – September 14, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

- Board proposed that MRCD staff locate a new venue (larger than the Farm Bureau) to meet in for the next Board Meeting.

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Mike, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve MRCD staff to locate a new venue (larger than the Farm Bureau) to meet in for the next Board Meeting.

4. MARIN BIOMASS STUDY:

- A. Request Board approval to execute \$285,000 Professional Service Agreement #C09-2022 with Spatial Informatic Group to conduct a multi-part Biomass Utilization Study, contingent upon agreement from the CA Office of Planning and Research.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to execute \$285,000 Professional Service Agreement #C09-2022 with Spatial Informatic Group to conduct a multi-part Biomass Utilization Study, contingent upon agreement from the CA Office of Planning and Research.

5. MARIN CARBON PROJECT:

- A. Request Board approval to execute \$50,000 Professional Service Agreement #C10-2022 with Orlena Yee to provide coordinator services for the Marin Carbon Project

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to execute \$50,000 Professional Service Agreement #C10-2022 with Orlena Yee to provide coordinator services for the Marin Carbon Project

6. CA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION:

- A. Request Board approval of final designs and Landowner Authorization Agreement Maintenance and Monitoring obligations for Project #2022-05 Stemple Creek Riparian Restoration Project.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Bob, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to request Board approval of final designs and Landowner Authorization Agreement Maintenance and Monitoring obligations for Project #2022-05 Stemple Creek Riparian Restoration Project.

7. **INFORMATIONAL:**

Project Updates: 20 min

- Review of Wildlife Conservation Board Project Designs – Preston Duncan, Marin RCD and Isaiah Thalmayer, Point Blue STRAW presented the preliminary designs for SoMar and True Grass and asked the board for input. Implementation will potentially take place next year.

Partner Updates:

- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Scott Dunbar informs the Board that their new ED, Lily Verdone, has started in her new position. He also shares that MALT has hired Acquisition staff. In regards to funding, MALT still has \$50,000 available in their DRAWS program after committing \$300,000. The MALT SAP program is still available for requests.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Isaiah Thalmayer shares with the Board that STRAW has a busy fall ahead of them with 90 days of working with students scheduled. He invites the Board to come out and see the planting in action! He also shares that Point Blue has just hired a fully paid group of Interns to work with Point Blue/STRAW for a year (a full cycle of seasons). Isaiah also shares STRAW is wrapping up the maintenance season to start planting in October.

- **NRCS** – Chris Howington shares with the Board that NRCS has obligated funds to 10 Marin County producers (\$655,000) in the FY22 with three more on the way. He states the final numbers will come at a later date. He also states the District Conservationist interviews have been completed and will hopefully be announced at the next Board meeting. Chris goes on to invite RCD staff to attend a prescribed training class Kristan Norman will be hosting this fall/winter. Chris also informs the Board that he will be leaving the Petaluma office to take a job in San Francisco. He introduces Veronica Rivera who is the new Senior Soil Conservationist. Veronica shares she has been with NRCS for six years working in Puerto Rico, Pennsylvania and Stockton, CA.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach/Education:** We now have a news page where local RCDs can share information. Go to [this link](#) and sign up!
- **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. Report comes out soon!
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion:** Our work here will get started once our work plan is approved by CA State Coastal Conservancy.
- **Biomass Project:** A Request for Proposals was posted on the Marin RCD website for a Biomass Utilization Study with Greenhouse Gas Assessment. Four proposals were received and reviewed by the Biomass Steering Committee. One is recommended for approval.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Equipment has been installed for the COW UDRS Bivalve project! COW CCAF Project 2022-02 is undergoing NEPA review. COW CCAF projects 2022-01 and 2022-02 bid documents are being drafted for fall 2022 implementation. COW CCAF deviation request (additional funds offered by SWRCB) is approved. Working with PRNS on Pond restoration of 10 ponds on 6 ranches fall 2022.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah continues to work alongside CDA in developing guidance materials and training County staff on the new Stream Conservation Area ordinance. Marin Water District contracted Sarah and Preston to support their ongoing monitoring efforts. Sarah is currently assisting Marin Water District with their juvenile salmonid monitoring efforts in Lagunitas Creek through the month of September. Sarah has completed her recertification of wildland Fire Fighting Type II training and attended a workshop on post-fire remediation efforts in the CZU fire complex region of the south bay.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** State Coastal Conservancy: New projects are delayed by one year due to staff being redirected to Public Request Act assignments. Wildlife Conservation Board: 2 CFP designs complete, and 4 underway. Chileno Valley Ranch CFP underway. Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration: Fence materials have been delivered and installation has begun. Plant installation by STRAW scheduled for Fall 2022.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** No report.
- **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*)
 - USDA Climate Smart Commodities Program. \$4M (*pending*)
 - NACD Soil Health Hub Coordinator. \$123k. (*pending*)

- **Finance Committee:** Did not meet this month.
- **District:** On boarding and Off boarding staff has been exciting and challenging. Staff continue to work on closing up FY2122 and setting up new files for the new Fiscal Year.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Urban: 2 site visits, 9 landowners were assisted with information and 3 landowners and/or partners were educated. Agriculture: 3 land managers were provided with funding information; 3 landowners were supported with CEQA compliance and PRNS ranches were provided support with Residual Dry Matter monitoring. Carbon Farming: 2 land managers were given technical assistance.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Petaluma River is being considered for a Grazing Waiver program by the State Water Board. Discussions with supporting agencies will commence in October.

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.

George Clyde shares his concerns with the Board/citizens of Marin County in regards to the upcoming election.

9. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:38 a.m.