



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, November 9th, 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.
Welcome to our new staff addition: Kelsey Brewer, Working Lands Scientist.

(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 FY 22-23 Marin RCD Annual Budget.
- D. Board approval of Marin RCD Associate Directors.

3. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS PROGRAM (COW):

- A. Request Board approval of contractor bid for Site #2022-01: Dickson Horse Ranch Heavy-Use Area reinforcement and Post-Hole Drilling and Ramp Construction.

4. CARBON FARMING PROGRAM:

- A. Request Board approval to execute a \$25,000 Professional Services Agreement #C12-2022 with the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) to deliver four carbon farming workshops for dairy and livestock producers.

5. INFORMATIONAL: 10:15 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:** We are working on a joint article with Point Blue which will be featured in the SERCAL (Society for Ecological Restoration) newsletter.
- **Drought News:** The Sonoma and Marin Drought Resiliency Report is nearly complete.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion:** This work will begin in 2023.

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- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project Steering Committee and Spatial Informatics Group (contractor) have written specific scopes of services for each of the seven parts of the Biomass Utilization Study to assure that it satisfies all objectives in the Marin RCD contract with OPR. The Biomass Committee has given presentations to the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority and to a Marin chapter of the Sierra Club.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** COW projects 2022-01 and 2022-02 bid documents have been drafted and bid tours were held 10/25/2022 and 10/26/2022. Four interested contractors - one pending bid for 2022-01. Designs for projects 2022-03 & 2022-04 expected to be ready for December Board meeting. Solicitation for a 6th COW project is in progress. Pond restoration in PRNS is complete; 2 ponds restored. Contract with SPAWN for project support in PRNS is in progress. Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration: Plant installation by STRAW scheduled for November 2022.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah provided lead organizational support for the first Marin Creeks Symposium for practitioners on October 29th. It was a very successful and well-attended event with 65 total that joined. Sarah also carried out a site visit for a private landowner in west Marin with more site visits scheduled for November. Sarah successfully trained 22 County staff members from Community Development Agency (CDA) to learn about hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, native and non-native riparian vegetation, and fisheries in the field, in west Marin (SGV and Lagunitas Creek) as it all relates to the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Wildlife Conservation Board: 6 CFP designs complete. Chileno Valley Ranch CFP almost complete - project team met with landowner and partners this week to finalize details of grazing plan. State Coastal Conservancy: 1 contract developed with UCCE, 1 contract with PB STRAW underway. No till drill research underway to prepare for purchase.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Project team met with landowners in the lower Walker project, one-on-one, to discuss conceptual designs so far and received outstanding support to move forward.
- **Funding Opportunities:** None to report
- **Finance Committee:** Met and reviewed the Marin RCD FY22-23 Budget which is presented at this meeting.
- **District:** The FY20-21 Final Audit has been received and the scheduling for the FY21-22 Audit is moving forward. Staff continue to fine tune grant management systems for the new Fiscal Year. The FY21-22 Measure A Expenditure Report has been compiled and is being reviewed by staff.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Urban: 1 site visit, 9 landowners were assisted with information and 72 landowners and/or partners were educated. Agriculture: 5 land managers were provided with funding information; 3 landowners were supported with CEQA compliance, 3 landowners were assisted with pond restoration permitting and PRNS ranches were provided support with Residual Dry Matter monitoring. Carbon Farming: 4 land managers were given technical assistance. 3 site visits.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Nancy will be on vacation most of November.

- Petaluma River is being considered for a Grazing Waiver program by the State Water Board.

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, October 12, 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 9:05 a.m.**

Roll call of directors: Mike Moretti and Bob Giacomini. Directors not present: Peter Martinelli and Terry Sawyer

Associate Directors: George Clyde

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Simone Albuquerque, Sarah Skinker, Darrylin Mollath, Emilie Winfield and Preston Duncan. Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Charles Johnson (FIGR), Chad White (Biomass PM), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Gerald Meral (RCD Director-elect), Tristan Brenner (MALT), Veronica Rivera (NRCS), Lily Verdon (MALT), Rich Holland (Marin Horse Council), Anne Altman (PRNS) and Dylan Voeller (PRNS),

ACTION ITEMS:

2. 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 FY19-20 Marin RCD Audit.

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

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Bob, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve a request of \$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.

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Mike, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve 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. Bob Giacomini would like to note his motion comes with deep concern over the future of the ranch itself.

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.

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

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Bob, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to request Board approval of final designs for four riparian restoration projects on ranches in the Stemple, Walker and Tomales Bay watersheds.

6. INFORMATIONAL:

Partner Updates:

- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Scott Dunbar shares that MALT has DRAWS and SAP funds available presently and are welcoming applications. He explains that the amount of DRAWS funding for the next year will depend on what rainfall we receive this winter.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Isaiah Thalmayer thankfully celebrates that this planting season marks the 30th season of restoration for Point Blue! He goes on to share that STRAW has 24 days planned to be working with students on the Lazy R Ranch (a project in partnership with MRCD and DOC). Isaiah elaborates that Point Blue is involved in developing proposals for funding projects statewide that have the potential to position Point Blue and other RCD's to provide funds in more regions with less resources and landowners that have been underserved. These proposals cover public and private land. Isaiah closes with, "The future is looking bright for implementation!"
- **NRCS** – Veronica Rivera shares that NRCS received 180 applications in FY20-22. Fifty were awarded with 13 being for the County of Marin. She encourages farmers to continue to apply to NRCS programs.

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 @11:15 a.m.