



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, January 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/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.)

2. Board approval of Resolution 01-2023 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 February 9-28, 2023 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

ACTION ITEMS: 9:15 a.m.

3. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS:

- A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.
- B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid. ~Darrylin Mollath
- C. Request Board approval to restructure board meetings and board packet materials. ~Nancy Scolari

4. CEQA & PERMIT COMPLIANCE:

- A. Request Board approval to execute a \$17,542.17 contract with Turtle Island Restoration Network/Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN) to complete California Environmental Quality Act AND permit compliance for three sediment reduction projects in the Lagunitas Creek watershed. ~ Simone Albuquerque

5. CONTRACT AMENDMENT:

- A. Amendment needed for Contract C13-2022 with Elise Suronen for Grant Writing Support for an additional \$1,600.00 for a total contract amount of \$6,600.00. ~Simone Albuquerque

6. INFORMATIONAL: 10:30 a.m.

- **Discussion of Conserving Our Watersheds Project 2022-03 Animal Walkway & Culvert Design and Project 2022-04 Heavy Use Area-** Simone Albuquerque, COW Program Manager & Tom Hammond, RCD Engineer

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):

- **Tomales Bay Foundation:** Simone will be representing MRCD on the Tomales Bay Foundation Advisory Committee.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach/Education:** *"How Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) are Catalyzing Restoration across California"* and several more articles are featured in the [Society for Ecological Restoration Newsletter](#)
- **Drought News:** The Sonoma and Marin Drought Resiliency Report is expected to be completed this month.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion:** A Request for Proposals has been drafted to hire a JEDI consultant to work with the carbon farming team.
- **Biomass Project:** Spatial Informatics Group (contractor) is drafting chapter of Part A ("Biomass Feedstock Confirmation") and will deliver it to the Marin Biomass Project Steering Committee in January. This chapter is the first in the seven-part Biomass Utilization Study. The Steering Committee launched the Marin Biomass Collaborative in December with invitations to over two dozen stakeholders. To date, over a dozen stakeholders have sent affirmative RSVPs. The first (kick-off) meeting of the Collaborative is on January 13. The Collaborative will begin its work reviewing the first chapter of the Biomass Utilization Study in February. (As a reminder, the purpose of the Collaborative is to solicit feedback on the data, findings, and recommendations in each draft chapter of the Biomass Utilization Study, as well as to foster conversations and, ideally, working relationships that will support implementation of the Study's recommendations.) Kelsey Brewer will be representing MRCD on the Collaborative.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Project 2022-06 approved for design 10/12/2022. Designs for projects 2022-03 and 2022-04 completed. Department of Conservation -Stemple Creek Restoration: planting days have begun - 24 in total. STRAW has conducted several planting days, and hundreds of plants are in the ground!
- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah is currently providing monitoring support to Marin Water District with spawner surveys in Lagunitas Creek. As well, she is planning the first in-person Lag TAC field trip since 2019. She has continued meeting with Gallinas Watershed Council to pick back up the efforts at the Outdoor Classroom site on Miller Creek. Sarah also took west Marin residents out on spawning tours to observe coho spawning and learn more about Lagunitas Creek. Finally, Sarah was asked by CDFW to assist their team with releasing 208 adult coho salmon from their Broodstock Prgm into Walker Creek at the Walker Creek Ranch.

- **Carbon Farming Program:** Wildlife Conservation Board: 6 CFP designs complete. Chileno Valley Ranch CFP complete for grant. Audubon appendix development underway. Grant submitted. State Coastal Conservancy: 1 contract developed with UCCE, 1 contract with PB STRAW underway. No till drill purchase in progress. JEDI consultant RFP in progress, distribution planning underway. TAC letters will be submitted this week.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** TAC #3 meeting was successfully carried out, virtually. Project team is now taking top 3 projects (all 5 identified projects if CDFW supplements funding) to 100% designs and has finished the draft Habitat Enhancement Plan. The draft Plan is currently under review.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Simone submitted a grant proposal to fund ~4 water quality projects located in Stemple Creek and Drakes Bay/Estero watersheds. Staff are working out the details of getting the new USDA Climate Smart Commodities budget details finalized with USDA and Sonoma County. Sarah is working with various teams, providing support, for securing funds for a fish passage barrier removal project in Mill Valley, habitat enhancement in Devil's Gulch, potential opportunities on former Coast Guard Property in Pt. Reyes, water conservation projects for the Muir Beach community, and an outdoor classroom project on Miller Creek.
- **Finance Committee:** Did not meet in December.
- **District:** The FY21-22 Audit has been rescheduled for January 30-31, 2023. Form 700's are coming due, thus Darrylin will be getting intouch with each Board member to update their required documents for submission. MRCD has a new IDC rate negotiated with DOI at 31.44%. MRCD Financial Transaction Report has been submitted to the CA State Controller. Board will be required to complete Ethics Training with SDRMA. Keep an eye out for more details on this.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:**
Urban Streams: 0 site visits, 15 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 4 landowners and/or partners were educated. 1 land manager supported with groundwater management resources.
Carbon Farming: 1 site visit
COW: 2 land managers supported with EQIP Applications. 1 land manager supported with prescribed fire permitting support inquiry. 2 land managers awarded project funding. Green Gulch project meeting with Cutting the Green Tape. PRNS ranches were provided support on water quality monitoring. 1 landowner and lessee consulted for fencing for flood support via DOC.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Jan 11, 2023. 7:30am-9am. MCL Breakfast w/ Senator Mike McGuire
- Jan. 20, 2023 Lagunitas TAC field trip.

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, December 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 9:05 a.m.**
Roll call of directors: Terry Sawyer, Peter Martinelli, Bob Giacomini (last meeting. Left meeting at 9:20a.m.), Gerald Meral (RCD Director-elect), and Mike Moretti (attending at 11:10am)
Associate Directors: George Clyde and Dave Sherwood.
Staff: Nancy Scolari, Simone Albuquerque, Sarah Phillips, Emily Winfield, Sarah Skinker, Darrylin Mollath, Preston Duncan and Kelsey Brewer. Additional Attendees: Chad White (Biomass PM), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Brian Peterson (Fire Forward), Darren Holguin (NRCS), Lily Verdon (MALT), Meghan Walla-Murphy (NBBC) and Rich Holland (Marin Horse Council).

2. Board approval of Resolution 11-2022 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 December 14, 2022 - January 11, 2023 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.
MOTION: Peter, with the option to change depending on County health alerts; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; to approve Resolution 11-2022 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 December 14, 2022 - January 11, 2023 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

3. The Oath of Office was administered for newly appointed board members, Sally Gale and Jerry Meral.

ACTION ITEMS:

4. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS:
 - A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.
MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Peter, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Jerry. To approve the regular meeting Minutes.
 - B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid.
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve Financial Report and bills to be paid.
 - C. Request Board approval to purchase new no-till drill.
MOTION: Peter to buy the smaller model #606; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to purchase a new no-till drill.

5. 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.
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Peter, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve contractor bid for Site #2022-01: Dickson Horse Ranch Heavy-Use Area reinforcement and Post Hole Drilling and Ramp Construction.
 - B. Request Board approval of 2-COW Technical Advisory Committee-recommended projects for design services.
MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Peter, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve 2-COW Technical Advisory Committee-recommended projects for design services.

6. CEQA & PERMIT COMPLIANCE:
 - A. **POSTPONED**-Request Board approval to execute a \$17,542.17 contract with Turtle Island Restoration Network/Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN) to complete California Environmental Quality Act AND permit compliance for three sediment reduction projects in the Lagunitas Creek watershed.
 - B. Request Board approval to execute a \$7,496.87 contract with Audubon Canyon Ranch to act as lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act compliance for a parcel-wide prescribed burning plan.
MOTION: Jerry, subject to answer per MRCD's potential liability; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to execute a \$7,496.87 contract with Audubon Canyon Ranch to act as lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act compliance for a parcel-wide prescribed burning plan.

7. **INFORMATIONAL:**
 - **North Bay Bear Collaborative** - Meghan Walla-Murphy, NBBC Lead Scientist, shares with the Board about the increased population of bears in Marin County. The North Bay Bear Collaborative desires to appeal to ranchers to come "sit at their table" and help decide how to move forward with the bears of Marin County.
Presentation of Conserving Our Watersheds Project 2022-03 Animal Walkway & Culvert POSTPONED - Design- Simone Albuquerque, COW Program Manager.

Partner Updates:

- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Scott Dunbar shares that MALT has allocated \$950,000 to their DRAWS (emergency Drought Resilience & Water Security) program since inception with 69 projects planned and 48 completed. He also shares that MALT has allocated \$100,000 to the Marin County Invasive Species pilot program being launched in Chileno Valley. Eric Rubenstahl adds that MALT is now fully staffed, will close two new easements in January and will end their Monitoring season shortly.
- **NRCS** – shares they are close to 140 applications for their batching period. Their deadline for ranking is March 1st allowing 2 months and 2 weeks to plan the work.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach/Education:** None to report

- **Drought News:** The Sonoma and Marin Drought Resiliency Report is expected to be completed in January 2023.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion:** This work will begin in 2023.
- **Biomass Project:** Spatial Informatics Group (contractor) had completed over half the work needed to complete the Part A “Biomass Feedstock Confirmation” portion of the seven-part Biomass Utilization Study. The Steering Committee is organizing a “Biomass Collaborative,” as included in its grant agreement with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Designs for projects 2022-03 completed & 2022-04 designs expected complete by 1/2. Ranking of 2 additional projects to replace paused 1 project that was slated for construction through the COW CCAF grant. Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration: planting days have begun - 24 in total. Met with Region 1 and Region 2 Water Quality Control Board, PRNS, and UCCE to discuss upcoming 319h funding opportunity. Application pending confirmation of adequate matching funds. Recent PRA near completion - continued work until Dec. 16th.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah provided monitoring support to Marin Water District with spawner surveys in Lagunitas Creek. As well, she led another successful Lagunitas TAC meeting to close out the year. She has continued meeting with CLAM representatives about potential projects for the former Coast Guard site. Sarah also carried out site visits for a landowner in the unincorporated San Anselmo area and for both Marinwood CSD and Muir Beach Association. Finally, Sarah gave a presentation to students about salmonids and restoration in Marin County, shedding light on the importance of such work in Marin.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Wildlife Conservation Board: 6 CFP designs complete. Chileno Valley Ranch CFP complete for grant. Audubon appendix development underway. Grant submitted. State Coastal Conservancy: 1 contract developed with UCCE, 1 contract with PB STRAW underway. No till drill research underway to prepare for purchase. JEDI consultant RFP completed, distribution planning underway. TAC planning underway.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Project team is currently developing final conceptual designs in addition to the draft Enhancement Plan. The next TAC meeting will take place virtually on Dec. 13th.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Simone is working on a new grant proposal to fund ~4 water quality projects located in Stemple Creek and Drakes Bay/Estero watersheds. Staff are working out the details of getting the new USDA Climate Smart Commodities budget details finalized with USDA and Sonoma County.
- **Finance Committee:** Did not meet in November.
- **District:** Darrylin has met with the CPA to review FY21-22 books. The FY21-22 Audit is scheduled for December 28-29th, 2022. Form 700’s are coming due, thus Darrylin will be getting in touch with each Board member to update their required documents for submittal. Our updated Indirect Cost Rate proposal is complete. Waiting for the final numbers from the Dept. of the Interior for negotiation.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Urban: 4 site visits, 10 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 29 landowners and/or partners were educated. Agriculture: 6 land managers were provided with design and EQIP information; 1 land manager supported with fence designs. 1 landowner assisted with prescribed fire inquiry. 2 landowners were assisted with pond restoration permitting and PRNS ranches were

provided support on water quality monitoring. Carbon Farming: 0 land managers were given technical assistance. 0 site visits.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Dec 18, 2022. 10am-2pm. Sonoma Marin Pasture Club Meeting
- Jan 11, 2023. 7:30am-9am. MCL Breakfast w/ Senator Mike McGuire
- Petaluma River is being considered for a Grazing Waiver program by the State Water Board.
- Jan. 20, 2023 Lagunitas TAC field trip.

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 11:35 a.m.