



## AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, February 8th, 2023**

PLACE: **Marin Farm Bureau Conference Room, 520 Mesa Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956**

**REMOTE OPTION:** 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](mailto:preston@marinrcd.org) if you have concerns about accessibility.

1. The 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. PRESENTATIONS: 9:15 - 10 a.m.

- Marin Biomass Project Update- Chad White, Marin Biomass Project Coordinator
- Measure A Funding on State/Federal Land- Jerry Meral, MRCD Director

### ACTION ITEMS: 10 -11:15 a.m.

#### 3. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS:

- A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes. ~Darrylin Mollath
- B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid. ~Darrylin Mollath

#### 4. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS (COW):

- A. Board approval of contractor bid for COW Project #2022-02 Livestock Watering System Construction. ~Simone Albuquerque
- B. Board approval of Final Design for COW Project #2022-03 Animal Walkway & Culvert Design ~Simone Albuquerque

#### 5. MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST: STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP):

- A. Request Board approval of two MALT SAP projects for funding. ~ Sarah Skinker

### 6. INFORMATIONAL 11:15 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:** None
- **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 distributed to hire a JEDI consultant to work with the carbon farming team.

- **Biomass Project:** Spatial Informatics Group (contractor) has completed a draft chapter of Part A (“Biomass Feedstock Confirmation”). It is now under review. This is the first step in the seven-part Biomass Utilization Study. The Steering Committee held a kick-off meeting of the Marin Biomass Collaborative. Roughly thirty people from around the County joined a call on January 13 and began a conversation about common challenges and potential solutions. The next meeting of the Collaborative on February 24 will create an opportunity for participants to discuss and for the Steering Committee to provide feedback on Draft Chapter A.
- **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. She carried out a very successful Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee field trip, first one in-person in three (3) years with 49 in attendance. She has continued meeting with Gallinas Watershed Council to pick back up the efforts at the Outdoor Classroom site on Miller Creek. Sarah carried out a preliminary assessment to determine if a proposed development would fall within the Stream Conservation Area (SCA). Finally, Sarah has been meeting with various partners in offering support toward project development (Mill Valley StreamKeepers, Gallinas Watershed Council, Muir Beach Assoc., Open Space District, CLAM, Gold Ridge RCD, and Trout Unlimited).
- **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(SCC): 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 has been formed for the SCC grant and will be selecting 6 new CFPs in the upcoming months. The CF team is currently developing and planning design and implementation projects for SCC.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Project Design Team submitted the draft Habitat Enhancement Plan for comments then finalized by 1/31/23. Project manager, Phillips, submitted a request for contingency funds to CDFW (CA Dept Fish & Wildlife).
- **Funding Opportunities:** 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. Simone is working on drought and pond proposals.
- **Finance Committee:** Reviewed Records Retention Policy which will come to MRCD at March meeting. Suggested 1) incorporating compliance by staff/directors under standard operating procedures, 2) records retention be in sync with grant requirement, 3) keeping less is best unless the information adds value to our programs, 4) look into hiring a public records act consultant to perform future requests so that MRCD work is not delayed, 5) consult with county counsel for review and clarity of policy.
- **District:** Form 700’s are coming due in April. Darrylin emailed each Board member to update their required documents for submission. The Board will be required to complete Ethics Training with the Special District Risk Management Authority. Keep an eye out for

more details on this. Darrylin continues to keep all grant invoices up to date, bank accounts balanced and bills paid.

- **New landowners/stewards assisted:**

Urban Streams: 4 site visits, 9 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 55 landowners and/or partners were educated. 1 land manager supported with groundwater management resources.

Carbon Farming: 1 site visit for Health Soils Program testing and Carbon Farm Plan review

COW: 1 land manager supported with contact information/educational materials, 4 landowners supported with design help, 1 landowner supported with construction coordination, 1 landowner supported with groundwater monitoring inquiry. PRNS ranches were provided support on water quality monitoring. 1 landowner and lessee consulted for fencing for flood support via DOC.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- 12/16/22 West Marin Compost letter to MRCD re Wood Processing
- Feb 21 10:30am. Marin Carbon Project Implementation Working Group Meeting
- Steelhead Festival at Lake Sonoma on Saturday, Feb. 11th  
<https://lakesonoma.org/support-lake-sonoma/lake-sonoma-steelhead-festival/>

## 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, January 11, 2023**

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: Terry Sawyer, Gerald Meral and Mike Moretti  
Associate Directors: George Clyde, Guido Frosini 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), Tristan Brenner (MALT), Chase Garcia (NRCS), Allen Curry (NRCS), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Preston Brown (SPAWN), Tom Hammond (RCD-Shared engineer) and Rich Holland (Marin Horse Council).
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.  
MOTION: Terry, declines the resolution; SECOND: Jerry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; to decline 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:**

3. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS:
  - A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.  
MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Jerry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: To approve the regular meeting Minutes.
  - B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid.  
MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Jerry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve Financial Report and bills to be paid.
  - C. Request Board approval to restructure board meetings and board packet materials.  
Discussion was had and the following notes taken:
    - An enormous amount of staff time is spent on preparing the Board packets.
    - Digital format of Board packet works for most
    - Meetings are helpful to educate the Board to help keep them current
    - We (the Board) need to spend the time and effort for the community
    - We have a lot more staff and more money-everything is bigger

- TAC responsibilities were discussed. Potential place to cut down on Board packets and time spent in meetings.
- Ad Hoc committee consisting of Sally, David and Jerry to be formulated to discuss this further.

MOTION: Mike to follow up with an Ad Hoc Committee; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to follow up with an Ad Hoc Committee.

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.

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve 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.

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.

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Jerry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve to execute 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.

6. INFORMATIONAL:

- **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** – Chase Garcia, the new District Conservationist, shares that he is looking forward to getting familiar with his new position and the staff at the Petaluma NRCS Office. He states there is a tremendous workload in this area and is excited to be a part of it. Allen Curry (Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Salinas) adds in he is available for full support as Chase gets familiar with California, specifically Sonoma and Marin Counties.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Tristan Brenner shares that MALT has completed their 2022 monitoring season. He also states that MALT staff is excited to announce their Stewardship Team is growing. Tristan also details the year end numbers for assistance for DRAWS is \$600,000 and SAP is \$225,000.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Isaiah Thalmayer starts with explaining the effect the deluge of rain has had on the Lazy R ranch project. He states that

most of the plantings are underwater and this huge rain event has really tested the infrastructure STRAW set up on the project. All is well, so far, and they feel they are in the best place they can be in a flood event like this. Isaiah also mentions STRAW has had 4 AmeriCorps staff join their staff recently. These are young people between the ages of 18-24 that work all over the Country. They will be involved in early April with the planting of the grasses on the Lazy R project alongside the students that are scheduled to come out to help. He goes on to state that STRAW is busy scheduling site visits.

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//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 in touch 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 11:35.