



## AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, May 10th, 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. Regular meeting opens at **9:00 a.m.** Roll call and introduction of guests.

*(Note that we may move agenda items in this meeting to meet time constraints of participants.)*

### 2. PRESENTATIONS: 9:15 - 9:20 a.m.

- Measure A, Point Reyes National Seashore and the need for matching funds ~Simone Albuquerque

### ACTION ITEMS: 9:20 -10:30 a.m.

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

- A. Board approval of regular and special meeting Minutes. ~Darrylin Mollath
- B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid. ~Darrylin Mollath
- C. Board approval of a Resolution of the Marin Resource Conservation District approving and authorizing execution of a contract with the CA Department of Conservation.

#### 4. MARIN BIOMASS PROJECT:

- A. Request Board approval of CA Office of Planning and Research contract amendment to include revised scope of work and \$250,000 budget.
- B. Request Board approval to amend Contract #C09-2022 with Spatial Informatics Group in the amount of \$20,000 contingent upon the final approval of a contract amendment with the CA Office of Planning and Research.

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

- A. Board approval to award \$20,000 of MALT SAP funds to install two livestock exclusion fences on Straus' Blake's Landing property. ~ Sarah Skinker

### 6. INFORMATIONAL 10:30 a.m.

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Water Quality Projects Update** on Designs for Projects #2023-01, 02, 03 - Simone Albuquerque

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):

- **Scholarship Awards!** We have awarded two students \$2750 scholarships for our first year of awards. Adelaide Ergastolo, a USF student, is studying bees in Marin County and Sloan Farinha is studying forestry at UCB!
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** We are working on some website revisions.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion:** Two proposals were received. One is being recommended to the Board for consideration in June.
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project submitted a proposal for a revised contract. This revision modifies the original project schedule and responds to OPR's invitation to add \$250,000 in funding. The revision proposes to improve data quality and to expand the technical assistance under the project. The Executive Director and the OPR project manager have approved the revised contract. It is now being reviewed by a State contracting office. The Steering Committee has provided detailed feedback to the Biomass Utilization consultant for Part A of the Study and has met with the consultant leading the utilization pathways assessment under Part B.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Designs for projects 2021-01, 2, 3, 4 are complete. Project 2021-01, -02 & -04 are ready for construction. Bid walk upcoming April 20th for project 2021-03. Projects 2023-01 is in-design. Department of Conservation -Stemple Creek Restoration: planting 50% complete! Invoice for \$156k submitted 3/24/23.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah was away for a majority of April due to a family emergency, therefore work output was limited. Sarah did meet with Gallinas Watershed Council & STRAW to provide support toward moving a project on Miller Creek forward (outdoor classroom). She continues to support Marin Water District in life cycle fisheries monitoring activities (currently in smolt outmigration season).
- **Carbon Farming Program:** The carbon farm plan solicitation and producer application period is now closed as of Friday April 28th. As of 5/1, 15 producers have applied. State Coastal Conservancy (SCC): 1 contract with PB STRAW in development. No till drill is now at Mike Moretti's and the CF team is developing rental materials. JEDI consultant proposal selected and is being prepared to present to the board in June. The CF team is currently developing and planning design and implementation projects for SCC in partnership with STRAW.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Project Design Team is currently working on 100% designs for the top three project sites then will develop designs for the additional two project sites added. Contingency funds request was granted by CDFW (CA Dept Fish & Wildlife).
- **Funding Opportunities:** Nancy is working on Dept of Conservation climate capacity grant that will fund education, outreach, training, project management software programs
- **Finance Committee:** Reviewed Records Retention Policy is being reviewed by County Counsel and will come to MRCD at the June meeting.
- **District:** Bob's Goodbye Party? Form 700's are complete! Deadline for ethics training was March 31, 2023.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:**  
Urban Streams: 0 site visits, 4 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 2 landowners and/or partners were educated.

COW: 2 land managers supported with funding information/educational materials, 4 landowners supported with construction coordination. PRNS ranches provided support on water quality monitoring and project management.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Phone call in support of the West Marin Compost site.
- Letter of Support from

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 12th, 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 Peter Martinelli, Board Member, at 9:10 a.m.**

Roll call of directors: Gerald Meral and Mike Moretti. Absent: Terry Sawyer and Sally Gale  
Associate Directors: George Clyde and Dave Sherwood.

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Emily Winfield, Sarah Skinker, Preston Duncan, Kelsey Brewer, Simone Albuquerque and Chad White.

Additional Attendees: Brooke Pippi (NRCS), Lily Verdone (MALT), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Carrie Lukacic (PCI), Justin Bodell (PCI), Sara Tashker (Green Gulch Zen Center), Preston Brown (SPAWN), Dylan Voeller (PRNS), Heather Furmidge (Public) and Mary Morgan (Public).

**2. PRESENTATIONS:**

- Green Gulch Streamflow Enhancement Project & RCD Role, Carrie Lukacic: Senior Environmental Planner, Prunuske Chatham Inc.; Sara Tashker, Green Gulch; Simone Albuquerque, MRCD

Sara Tashker presented Green Gulch's history and a vision for their Green Gulch Streamflow Enhancement Project. They will eliminate one pond and vamp up others to enhance stream flows and restore fisheries in the watershed. Designs are being drafted. CEQA and permitting will be required, needing Marin RCD's help.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**3. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS:**

**A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.**

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

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

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Mike, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: To approve Financial Report and bills to be paid.

**C. Board approval of board meeting structure and presentation of materials.**

No action. Follow up with Board members and Staff present to set up retreat.

**D. Board approval of Policy on Marin RCD Designated Positions and the election of President, Vice President, and Treasurer.**

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Jerry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: To approve Policy on Marin RCD Designated Positions and the election of Sally Gale, President; Peter Martinelli, Vice President and Terry Sawyer, Treasurer.

**4. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHED (COW):**

- A. Request Board approval of Scope of Work modification for Heavy-Use Area & Animal Pathway Project #2021-04  
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Mike, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to approve Scope of Work modification for Heavy-Use Area & Animal Pathway Project #2021-04.
- B. Board approval to award construction bid for Heavy-Use Area & Animal Pathway Project #2021-04.  
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Mike, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to award construction bid for Heavy-Use Area & Animal Pathway Project #2021-04.

5. MARIN COASTAL PERMIT COORDINATION PROGRAM (PCP):

- A. Board approval to provide CEQA coverage for five projects and close the 30-day public review of 2023 projects into the Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program (PCP) on June 13th, 2023 contingent upon receiving no public comment.  
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Peter, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None to provide CEQA coverage for five projects and close the 30-day public review of 2023 projects into the Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program (PCP) on June 13th, 2023 contingent upon receiving no public comment.

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

- A. Board approval to award \$20,000 of MALT SAP funds to install two livestock exclusion fences on Straus' Blake's Landing property.  
NO ACTION DUE TO LACK OF BOARD MEMBERS.

7. CARBON FARMING PROGRAM):

- A. Board approval to execute Contract #C03-2023 with Brown Institute Consulting Group for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion consulting, not to exceed \$15,000.  
POSTPONED TO NEXT BOARD MEETING DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINT.

8. **INFORMATIONAL:**

Partner Updates: 5 min each

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Brooke Pippi shares that EQIP and CSP requests were over \$10.5 million as of March 15th, 2023. We expect that initially about \$2.5 million of this will be selected for funding. For FY 22 – our total requests for the entire year were about \$6 million. We are on track to request over double that for this 2023 year. Some targeted pools of funding are still open for FY 23 but its very limited for the remainder of the year. We will have a EQIP Disaster sign-up and also Organic transition Initiative with practices reflecting those priorities listed and offered through the programs. We will be having 2 Pathways interns this summer – rangeland and forestry. They will start at the beginning of June and we look forward to showing them our amazing conservation work here. We are coordinating with UCCE and RCD on communicating disaster resources for producers available through USDA programs – FSA and NRCS. Jenna Houts (formerly

Merriless) has been promoted to a Senior Conservation Planner within the Field Office. We are thrilled to have this promotion for support in her role in the office.

- Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – Scott Dunbar shares that MALT's Stewardship Assistance Program (SAP) continues to operate in partnership with the RCD and has 17 projects in various stages of construction. Funds remain for additional applications. MALT's Drought Resilience and Water Security (DRAWS) initiative has 20 projects in various stages of construction. Very little funds remain for additional applications, and staff continues to internally develop the program for the following year. Easement monitoring has begun for MALT staff as well."
- Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed – Point Blue Staff, Isaiah Thalmayer shared a great report but we made the mistake of not recording his update 😞

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** We have web designer help thanks to Jerry.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion:** Two proposals were received. One is being recommended to the Board for consideration.
- **Biomass Project:** Biomass Study is being augmented with \$250K from the Office of Planning and Research. Spatial Informatics Group (contractor) has completed a draft chapter of Part A ("Biomass Feedstock Confirmation") which is now being revised. Part B (Utilization Pathway Assessment) is now underway.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Designs for projects 2021-01, 2, 3, 4 are complete. Project 2021-01 & -02 are ready for construction (pending weather). Bid walk upcoming April 20th for project 2021-03. Bid approval pending for Project 2021-04. Projects 2023-01, -02, and -03 are in-design. Department of Conservation -Stemple Creek Restoration: planting 50% complete! Invoice for \$156k submitted 3/24/23.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah chaired the quarterly Lagunitas TAC meeting and conducted a series of site visits for streamside residents in unincorporated Marin related to storm events and fallen trees in creeks. Sarah met with Gallinas Watershed Council to provide support toward strategizing for community engagement for a project to remove a concrete-lined portion of the creek. She attended a series of meetings with CDA (Community Development Agency) with regard to the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance (SCA-O) and conducted a Site Assessment in Woodacre. Sarah and Nancy attended a CA Conservation Corps training for the Ecological Workforce Program. She continues to support Marin Water District in life cycle fisheries monitoring activities.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** The carbon farm plan solicitation and producer application period is now open through April 28th. Producers can apply on our website and submit via email to Sarah or via mail. State Coastal Conservancy (SCC): 1 contract with PB STRAW in development. No till drill is now at Belkorp and ready. JEDI consultant proposal selected and will be shared for approval at the meeting. The CF team is currently developing and planning design and implementation projects for SCC in partnership with STRAW.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Project Design Team is currently working on 65% designs for the top three project sites then will develop designs for the additional two project sites added. Contingency funds request was granted by CDFW (CA Dept Fish & Wildlife).
- **Funding Opportunities:** Sarah is working with various teams, providing support, in securing funds for 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 Tomales School District (Shoreline Unified School District), and an outdoor classroom project on Miller Creek. Simone is working on drought and pond proposals with Sarah Phillips' assistance on the drought proposal.

- **Finance Committee:** Reviewed Records Retention Policy is being reviewed by County Counsel and will come to MRCD at the May meeting.
- **District:** Bob's Goodbye Party? Deadline for ethics training was March 31, 2023. New FY2223 Provisional Indirect Cost Rate approved.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:**  
Urban Streams: 5 site visits, 1 Site Assessment, 9 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 8 landowners and/or partners were educated.  
COW: 2 land managers supported with funding information/educational materials, 1 landowners supported with permit help, 4 landowners supported with construction coordination. PRNS ranches provided support on water quality monitoring.

#### 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- 2 letters of support from citizens favoring the West Marin Compost site.
- West Marin Compost Special Meeting will be held mid April.

#### 10. 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.

#### 11. MEETING ADJOURNED



## SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, April 27th, 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, at 1:30 p.m.**

Roll call of directors: Gerald Meral, Mike Moretti, Terry Sawyer (leaving at 2:30pm) and Peter Martinelli (leaving at 2:30pm)

Associate Directors: George Clyde

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Preston Duncan, Kelsey Brewer, Darrylin Mollath and Chad White.

Additional Attendees: Jeff Creque (West Marin Compost Project), Rich LaFranchi (Nicasio resident/LaFranchi Dairy), George Borghi (Nicasio resident), Leanne Wilson (Nicasio resident), Steve Lewis (NLOA), Bill Joost (NLOA), Steve Kinsey (Forest Knolls resident), Kevin Lunny (West Marin Compost), Richard Holland (MCL, Marin Horse Council), Caroline Bolthouse (Nicasio resident), Ben Stocking (Point Reyes Light) and Ruth Dawson (Nicasio resident).

Sally Gale informed the group that no decisions would be made today, but to come to the regular Marin RCD Board meeting to hear the recommendations made by the Board.

**2. PRESENTATIONS:**

- West Marin Compost Project: Its history leading up to present day status – Kevin Lunny, Jeff Creque, West Marin Compost.

Nancy provided a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the project. Marin RCD is legally bound to the operation at the drop off site •Operation of new mill at the site resulted in one or more complaints to the County and has prompted us to take a fresh look at our mutual agreements for site operations. Purpose of the project was to compost dairy, equine and green waste to promote enhanced soil and water quality. •Approximately 20,000 cubic yards of compost will be used by the partner dairy as bedding and compost, and sold to local farms, landscapers and residents as a soil amendment and mulch.

The Project was designed to address some primary resource concerns: In 1996 Point Reyes Station Landfill closes. In 2006 Dairies could no longer use beach sand from Lawson's Landing due to environmental impacts. As a result, local dairies were importing expensive bedding materials from the Central Valley, primarily rice hulls and almond shells, with increased trucking costs and GHG emissions. In 2007 Tomales Bay Pathogen water quality targets are set by State Water Board. Dairies and horse boarding facilities were dealing with pathogen issues and new regulation. Over 1.5 million has been contributed to the project by private, state and federal funding. A long list of planning folks were presented from local, state and federal agencies.

At the time of approval, the project qualified for zoning exemptions. In all zones, "[o]fficial activities and development of the County, the Marin Emergency Radio Authority, the State or



an agency of the State, or the Federal Government on land owned or leased by a governmental agency are exempt from discretionary permits except Coastal Permits.” (MCDC §22.06.050.B.)

Projected project benefits: Improved water quality, air quality, soil quality, climate change mitigation, energy/fuels reduction, landfill diversion, economics.

Jeff explained the project as being a success in addressing benefits. More material coming into the site than originally thought due to increase awareness of fuels management and fire fuel reduction. This generates logs coming into the site. West Marin Compost (WMC) has not had the equipment to handle the logs. The electric mill was brought in to process logs for a higher and better use. Taking in raw materials and processing them into a material that is superior to mulching/composting from a climate perspective. The electric mill is much quieter than the grinder. The County is required to divert organics from landfills and the project diverts those streams. This is a working model to demonstrate GHG reductions in raw materials that we generate in our daily lives.

Kevin explained that as larger logs came in, there is too much carbon to make into compost. The highest and best use is recognized by biomass managers. Kevin didn't think of the mill as a new activity. It doesn't add any new materials, it leaves the site in a different form. Other biomass managers include this practice. Transferring materials to cogeneration facilities in other counties is costly. Every time we send a truck to Woodland, WMC loses money. Milling will reduce trucking, reduce GHG impacts and cost. WMC brought power over to site for this purpose and apologized for not properly asking for permission.

Steve Lewis asks where the process stands with County? WMC has not applied for a use permit. We don't know if one will be required. Because this is a government project, this activity may be exempt as was the compost project. Next step is to ask County if this activity is exempt.

George asked if the mill is meeting the same goals of the project, wouldn't this also be exempt? Nancy says she believes that the landlord-tenant situation adds another layer of approval. The RCD-WMC project are tenants. We need to ask county permission for anything that wasn't originally scoped out in the project.

Bill asked if there is documentation that the mill is the same as the compost facility? Sally explained that it is the question we need to ask the county. It was pointed out that WMC is not a logging operation. They do not contract logs. PG&E, local tree companies are bringing logs in.

Carol asked if we will see a business plan? Its hard to have an opinion without knowing what the plans for the site are. How does the mill benefit agriculture? How does this affect fire insurance? Who gets it/pays for it? How about neighboring properties? Can they keep their policies? Logs look like a fire danger.

Sally says that what happens at the site will be covered by a contract. A public citizen can have input into that. Marin RCD is a public agency. Records and meetings are open to the public.

Jeff says logs are coming from West Marin through tree companies. Please come and watch the influx of material. DPW is also another waste stream. Lot of big logs coming from the County. Good questions about business plan, fire danger. After milling, it would be stored off site.

Chad from Biomass Project suspects that WMC will address much of what is contained in the study. It is valuable to have WMC in Marin. It is part of why Marin is selected for a Statewide pilot project.

Rick asked what problems have been noted to bring us to this point? Steve Lewis responded that the quantity of material and the presence of logs was more than folks imagined. It is a visual impact. There was also reportedly a fire at the site. Concern of truck traffic.

Leanne stated that mills have overhead fire sprinklers. Kevin says they have water, fire extinguishers but they don't have automatic sprinklers yet. Sounds reasonable.

Caroline asked if the mill has been identified as a suitable pathway. Chad says they don't have a data but over the next couple of years they will study it. 1. The circular economy is emerging science but there are new laws that require keeping logs out of landfill, 2. Study will take 1-2 years to complete but WMC is the type of facility we find useful to study, 3. We know about the viability of such a site based on steering committee member experience.

Sally says we will discuss this at our next RCD meeting and everyone is welcome to participate. Lewis says concern are about aesthetics and process. The Nicasio Landowners Association has people in the community who want to do things that are not permitted by zoning. They must take a uniform position with everyone. Concerned about seeing the process followed through in a transparent way and that statues and regulations are applied equally to everyone.

Everyone is invited to visit the compost site. Conference room meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. by Sally Gale.

### **Notes from West Marin Compost Tour - April 27, 2023**

#### **Current Operation**

Grinder operates between their business hours 7a.m. - 3 p.m. It is a 750 horsepower diesel powered grinder. There are electric models at a cost. Right now all logs are ground/chipped. Some ground material goes to the compost site for further processing. Excess goes to Woodland for electricity generation. WMC tipping fees are comparable to other county sites, which prevents east Marin residents from drop offs. Food waste is not accepted, therefore Recology green bins are not received. WMC has a waiting list for finished compost. The WMC operation includes a consolidation of materials from the private dairy, private equestrian facilities and public/private drop offs. The County would need to accommodate those needs if they took the business over. There is a sediment pond to comply with their stormwater permit. This project ties to obligations set in the County Climate Action Plan and helps address the growing need for fire fuel reduction biomass processing.

#### **Electric Mill**

Approximately 20% of the logs at the site are millable. They are not operating the mill currently on the site pending approval from all parties. They worked with the County to get electricity to the site which cost about \$300K. Eventually they would like to add another smaller saw which would fit inside the existing equipment to process smaller pieces if permitted to do so. Their plan is to mill materials on site and then move the material to Novato for further processing.

### **Sustainability Model**

It was suggested that the first priority is solving the finance part of the operation. WMC should be built as a sustainable model for other sites. Kevin believes the addition of a mill will support WMC in breaking even. He showed us a 3 ft stack of redwood planks valued at \$400 for each plank. They can also make eucalyptus fence posts which are currently being evaluated in the hope that they may last a long time in the ground. There was discussion regarding the County DPW payment for tipping fees vs rental payments and finding a fair exchange. Right now the County DPW pays a \$15K/year drop off fee, but rent is free. If DPW were a regular paying customer tipping fees would be about \$10-15K/month. This represents at least a \$100K subsidy by WMC for county DPW material handling, which is neither sustainable nor equitable. Resolving this discrepancy, plus enabling milling operations, would push the project out of the red.

### **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment was taken during the informational item and at the public tour.

