



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, December 13th, 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 if you have concerns about accessibility.

1. Regular meeting opens at **9:00 a.m in remembrance of Richard Plant**. Roll call, introduction of guests.

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

2. PRESENTATION 9:15-9:35 a.m.

- **North Coast Regional Soil Hub.** ~ *Emilie Winfield, North Coast Soil Health Hub Director*

ACTION ITEMS: 9:35 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR: 20 min

Consent Calendar reflects those agenda items that are routine in nature and/or consistent with past policy direction, and/or have previously authorized spending. All items will be acted upon by a single vote unless Board members or the public request specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration.

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Darrylin Mollath, Bookkeeper*
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*

4. DISTRICT

- A. Board approval of "Authorities of the Executive Director Policy". ~ *Nancy Scolari. ED*

5. CARBON FARMING PROGRAM: 10 min

- A. Board approval to execute a \$53,728.75 contract between the North Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council and the Marin RCD to demonstrate network and metrics for accelerating adoption of climate smart farming practices. ~ *Kelsey Brewer, Working Lands Scientist*
- B. Board approval to execute a \$27,139.87 contract between the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District and the Marin RCD to address the need for grazing lands technical assistance. ~ *Kelsey Brewer, Working Lands Scientist*

6. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHED PROGRAM: 15 min

- A. Board approval of one additional COW project, as recommended by the COW Technical Advisory Committee. ~ *Elise Suronen, Operations and Impact Director*
- B. Contingent on approval of Action 6A, Board approval of MRCD Executive Director to execute a contract with a design consultant to begin drafting a design plan in order to

meet USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service funding deadline to secure the MRCD's required match for the project. ~*Elise Suronen, Operations and Impact Director*

7. INFORMATIONAL: 10:30 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:** None
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The Graton Rancheria-MRCD/Point Blue Memorandum of Agreement is being drafted with partners. The Ad Hoc JEDI committee will review and the team will present a final draft at the January MRCD meeting. David Escobar was hired as a consultant on JEDI in Carbon Farming and continues to meet with staff.
- **Biomass Project:** The consultant delivered the third draft chapter with analysis of the greenhouse gas impacts of promising utilization pathways and has also begun work on the fourth chapter with analysis of the economic potential of promising utilization pathways. A meeting is expected to be held of the Marin Biomass Collaborative in January to seek stakeholder feedback on the greenhouse gas analysis.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** All projects are constructed. Staff are still checking in with land managers regarding their in-kind contributions and documenting their match. MRCD has \$80k remaining in construction funds; therefore, the TAC has recommended a new project to be approved into the program. Adding a new project would require an extension request to delay the grant from June 2024 to December 2024. Elise Suronen and Tom Hammond will take over management for the construction phase of COW CCAF until Simone's position is filled full-time. Suronen is coordinating a COW tour for the SWRCB and EPA staff in early 2024.
- **Permit Coordination Program:** Green Gulch Farms (GG) is moving through the CEQA and permitting process with PCI guiding the way and keeping MRCD and FIGR in the loop. Black Mountain culvert project is in the PCP and is on hold until next year.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah is back to full time work as of October 1st. She's been busy catching up with partners and streamside landowners on any current needs, including Marinwood CSD along Miller Creek in preparing for winter flows. Assisted Trout Unlimited with navigating the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance for restoration projects. She attended a shaded fuel break field trip in Ross Valley, led by MWPA and ESP. Finally, she worked with Marin Water District for the juvenile salmonid monitoring season in the Lagunitas Creek watershed.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** The Carbon Farming Team is currently holding initial meetings with 7 carbon farm plan farmer/rancher partners. The No-till drill rental program is live, and 4 producers have used it thus far. The CF team is currently developing and planning design and implementation projects for SCC in partnership with STRAW. 5 riparian restoration projects will begin construction this fall and winter.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Regional Board is compiling water quality data after removing a monitoring device in Walker Creek at one of the ranches that is engaged in the project. The Project Design Team continues working toward 100% designs for three complex projects in the lower reach and several low-tech projects in the upper, canyon reach of the overall project area.

The final Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held last month to review 65% designs and provide feedback. Grant Agreement closes out in March, 2024.

- **Funding Opportunities:** RCD submitted a \$8M NOAA Fisheries Coastal Resiliency grant for projects in the Walker Creek watershed. RCD also submitted a FARE grant for weed management in the PRNS.

- **Finance Committee:** FC did not have a meeting last month.

- **District:** Review and approval of the December financial report.

- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**

Urban Streams: 0 site visits, 5 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 1 landowner and/or partner was educated.

COW: 0 landowners supported with construction coordination.

CE: None reported

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Dec 14-15 CARCD Conference. Sacramento
- Elise Suronen is our new Operations and Impact Director!
- Gerhard Epke is our new Water Quality Program Manager!

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



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, October 11th, 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 9:03 a.m.

Roll call of directors: Terry Sawyer, Gerald Meral and Peter Martinelli.

Associate Directors: Guido Frosini and Dave Sherwood.

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Sarah Skinker, Kelsey Brewer, Marcus Meggett, Sarah Phillips, Emilie Winfield, Darrylin Mollath, Preston Duncan, Michelle Katuna and Chad White.

Additional Attendees: Scott Dunbar (MALT), Mike Gale (Rancher, Chileno Valley Beef), Rick Holland (MCL), Lily Verdone (MALT), Gordon Bennett (Save Our Seashore), Isaiah Thalmeyer (STRAW), Sonya Hammons (Marin Parks/FARE grant), Albert Straus (Save Marin Food Community), Paul Ingle (Landowner), Matthew Johnson (FIGR), Buffy McQuillen (FIGR), Jessie Ditmore (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Metha Klock (MALT), and Sebastian Tscocanos (NRCS)

2. PRESENTATION:

- **Open discussion related to Memorandum of Agreement between Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and Marin RCD.** ~ Sarah Skinker, Carbon Farming Program Manager; Buffy McQuillen, FIGR Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer & Matthew Johnson, FIGR Cultural Resources Officer
- **Measure A's Food, Agriculture and Resilient Ecosystems (FARE) Program.** ~ Sonya Hammons, Sustainable Agriculture Grant Program Lead, Marin County Parks

ACTION ITEMS:

3. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS:

A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.

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

B. Board approval of Financial Report.

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Peter, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; To approve Financial Report.

C. Board approval to request \$125,000 from the County of Marin to support Marin RCD programs and to partially offset operational costs not covered by state or federal grants

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; To approve to request \$125,000 from the County of Marin to support Marin RCD programs and to partially offset operational costs not covered by state or federal grants

D. Board approval of Marin RCD Associate Directors, George Clyde, Guido Frosini, David Sherwood.

MOTION: Peter, SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous, NOES: None, ABSTENTIONS: None; To approve Marin RCD Associate Directors, George Clyde, Guido Frosini, David Sherwood.

- E. Board approval to direct staff to draft a resolution to support the Save Marin's Food Community Coalition. Albert Straus spoke in favor of the Coalition.
MOTION: Peter, SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous, NOES: None, ABSTENTIONS: To approve joining the coalition.
- F. Board discussion to redraft RCD website home page.
This item was deferred to the Strategic Planning session.

6. INFORMATIONAL:

Partner Updates: 5 min each

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – NRCS Staff, Sebastian Tscocanos reports to the MRCD Board that NRCS deadline for FY24 EQIP and CSP is November 3rd. Applications from last year, that were not funded, may be rolled over without collecting a new application form. Sebastian announces NRCS has a new PB Biologist, Laura Robinson, who has previous experience in the Marin conservation world. To wrap up, Sebastian shares that NRCS Petaluma office had over \$6M go out in grants in FY2023. This was the highest number of contracts awarded in Area 2 of California. NRCS anticipates the FY2024 will be even larger due to the funding that is available.
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – MALT Staff, Metha Klock reports to the MRCD Board that MALT's small grants program received 24 applications and is now closed. MALT was able to award 5 applicants with \$40,000 each to use on their climate resilience projects. Scott Dunbar, MALT staff, goes on to share about the DRAWS program. This funding opportunity which focuses on water infrastructure projects, has run over 2 ½ years and reimbursed \$730,000 to landowners. DRAWS still has 12 projects still in the works to bring MALT's total assistance to over \$900K. Scott goes on to explain that the SAP program has 14 active projects collaborating with the MRCD. Scott also thanks the Poncia Family for the lovely celebration for Al Poncia.
- Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed – Point Blue Staff, Isaiah Thalmayer, reports they are preparing for a big year with big scale projects they have been planning for quite some time. Isaiah also shares STRAW has a new team member with Libby Kennedy as their new PM.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** None
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The Graton Rancheria-MRCD/Point Blue Memorandum of Agreement is being drafted with partners. The Ad Hoc JEDI committee will review and the team will present a final draft at the December MRCD meeting. David Escobar was hired as a consultant on JEDI in Carbon Farming and continues to meet with staff.
- **Biomass Project:** Marin RCD and its consulting team have revised and expanded data in the first two chapters of the Biomass Utilization Study, inclusive of stakeholder feedback. Marin RCD is now underway on the third chapter of its Biomass Utilization Study, which analyzes the greenhouse gas impacts of feedstock and utilization pathways.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** All project designs are complete and approved by the grantor. All projects are in various stages of construction. MRCD has \$50k remaining in construction funds; therefore, the TAC will be reengaged to determine how to spend this money during the wet season. Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration: planting 100%

complete! Elise Suronen and Tom Hammond to take over management for the construction phase of COW CCAF until Simone's position is filled full-time. Suronen is coordinating a COW tour for the SWRCB and EPA staff in early 2024.

- **Permit Coordination Program:** Elise Suronen, on behalf of MRCD, with Carrie Lukacic, PCI, and Green Gulch Farms (GG) attended a CEQA consultation meeting with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) for the *Green Gulch Farms Alternative Water Storage and Conservation Project*. FIGR supports the project and PCI will keep them in the loop throughout the permitting process. GG wants to include FIGR in their future fundraising strategizing.

- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah worked part time in September. She teamed up with Marin Water and CA Dept. Fish & Wildlife to rescue, tag, then relocate Coho salmon in west Marin. Sarah attended the State of Tomales Bay Conference in Inverness. Finally, she worked with Marin Water District to begin juvenile monitoring season in the Lagunitas Creek watershed.

- **Carbon Farming Program:** The Carbon Farming Team is currently holding initial meetings with 7 carbon farm plan farmer/rancher partners. State Coastal Conservancy (SCC): No-till drill rental program is live, producers can sign up to rent on our website. The CF team is currently developing and planning design and implementation projects for SCC in partnership with STRAW. 5 riparian restoration projects will begin construction this fall and winter.

- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Third quarter reporting and invoicing is due in October. Regional Board installed a water quality-monitoring device in Walker Creek at one of the ranches that is engaged in the project. The Project Design Team continues working on 100% designs for the top two project sites then will develop designs for the additional project sites as funding and time allow. A Technical Advisory Co. meeting will be scheduled soon to review 65% designs and provide feedback. Grant Agreement closes out in March 2024.

- **Funding Opportunities:** RCD is working on a \$6M NOAA Fisheries Coastal Resiliency grant.

- **Finance Committee:** FC did not have a meeting this month.

- **District:** Marcus is preparing for FY22-23 Audit, has updated QBooks, and updated Paychex/Online banking accounts.

Urban Streams: 0 site visit, 1 partner and/or landowner was assisted with information and 0 landowners and/or partners were educated.

COW: 4 landowners supported with construction coordination.

CF: 5 for initial carbon farm planning support, 1 new site for technical assistance

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Oct 12. 9:30-10:30. Measure A FARE Grant Program Info Session. [Zoom](#)
- Oct-Nov EPA Tour of COW Projects

6. 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.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:20 a.m.