



## AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, January 10th, 2024**

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 Elise Suronen at (415) 663-1170 ext. 314, 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, introduction of guests.

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

**2. PRESENTATION 9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**

- **Expansion of Marin RCD Funding** ~ *Jerry Meral, Marin RCD Director*

**ACTION ITEMS: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 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 decision to request the County authorize the use of Measure A funding within the Point Reyes National Seashore.

**5. WALKER CREEK WATERSHED**

- A. Board decision on design option to dispose of sediment spoils related to planned Lower Walker Creek Floodplain Habitat Assessment and Design Projects.

**6. INFORMATIONAL: 10:45 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

continue to review and the team will hold a landowner panel with FIGR at the February MRCD meeting. David Escobar was hired as a consultant on JEDI in Carbon Farming and continues to meet with staff.

- **Biomass Project:** A preliminary draft of the third chapter of the Biomass Utilization Study was delivered to OPR per our contract. This chapter's analysis of the greenhouse gas impacts of promising utilization pathways will now be taken to the Marin Biomass Collaborative for stakeholder feedback in late January. Work on the economic analysis in the fourth chapter of our Study is underway.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Seven projects were implemented and staff are checking in with land managers regarding their in-kind contributions and documenting their match. MRCD has \$80k remaining in construction funds; therefore, the TAC and MRCD Board approved a new project into the program. This new project requires a grant extension from June 2024 to December 2024. Gerhard Epke will start in mid-Jan, and Elise Suronen will hand off the grant to him. We foresee Tom Hammond designing the last project. Suronen and Epke will coordinate 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:** The month of December included attending a series of meetings, several trips out with Marin Water to conduct spawner surveys in Lagunitas Creek and its tributaries, as well as completing a certification training on rainwater harvesting for landscapes. Additionally, Sarah attended the annual Restoration Symposium at UC Berkeley and presented to the symposium speakers about MRCD's USC Program. Finally, Sarah joined an all-star team at Walker Creek Ranch to review proposed restoration activities by CalTrout.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** The Carbon Farming Team is currently holding meetings with 7 carbon farm plan farmer/rancher partners. The No-till drill rental program is finished for the season, and 8 producers used it on their working lands. The CF team is currently developing and planning design and implementation projects for SCC in partnership with STRAW. 4 riparian restoration projects are currently underway with STRAW.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** 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 design team is currently looking into appropriate locations for the spoils that will result from significant grading in the major project areas lower in the watershed. Grant Agreement closes out on March 31, 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 January financial report.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
  - Urban Streams: 1 site visit, 11 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 14 landowners and/or partners were educated.
  - COW: 1 landowner supported with their proposed project for the program.
  - CE: 3 landowners assisted

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Gerhard Epke, our new Water Quality Program Manager starts Jan 15th!

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 13th, 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. in remembrance of Richard Plant.**

Roll call of directors: Terry Sawyer, Gerald Meral and Mike Moretti.

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, Elise Suronen and Chad White.

Additional Attendees: Scott Dunbar (MALT), Karisma Wilson (MALT), Isaiah Thalmeyer (STRAW), Jessie Ditmore (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Metha Klock (MALT), and Sebastian Tscocanos (NRCS)

2. **PRESENTATION:**

- **North Coast Regional Soil Hub.** ~ *Emilie Winfield, North Coast Soil Health Hub Director* shares the vision, benefits and impacts of the North Coast Regional Soil Hub.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

3. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.
- B. Board approval of Financial Report.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; To approve Minutes and Financial Report.

4. **DISTRICT:**

Board approval of "Authorities of the Executive Director Policy".

MOTION TO TABLE: Mike; SECOND: Jerry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; To Table until a future meeting.

5. **CARBON FARMING PROGRAM:**

- 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.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Jerry; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; 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.

- 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.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Mike; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; To 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.

#### **6. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHED PROGRAM: 15 min**

A. Board approval of one additional COW project, as recommended by the COW Technical Advisory Committee.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; To approve one additional COW project, as recommended by the COW Technical Advisory Committee.

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.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry, AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; To approve 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.

#### **6. INFORMATIONAL:**

Partner Updates: 5 min each

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – NRCS Staff, Sebastian Tscocanos reports to the MRCD Board that NRCS ACT now funding is still available until February 16<sup>th</sup> for Climate Smart practices. Sebastian also states that CSP applications are open until the Spring and EQIP classic is closed for the year.
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – MALT Staff, Scott Dunbar reports to the MRCD Board that MALT has received Measure A funding for two more easements, approximately 1800 acres.
- Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed – Point Blue Staff, Isaiah Thalmayer and Jessie Ditmore report they are in full restoration season getting plants in the ground. Sprigging willows, planting seeds, sedges and rushes. Isaiah also mentions STRAW has a phenomenal crew this year. Better than ever before and they are working hard.

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.
  - CF: 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 at 11:49 a.m.