



## AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, February 14th, 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 [sarahs@marinrcd.org](mailto:sarahs@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.**

- **Biomass Study Update** ~ *Chad White, Marin Biomass Project Manager*

**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. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS**

- A. Board approval of resolution authorizing the Marin Resource Conservation District entering into a funding agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board and authorizing and designating representatives for the Conserving Our Watersheds: Management & Implementation Leadership by CAFs Project. ~ *Gerhard Epke, Water Quality Program Manager & Elise Suronen, Impacts and Operations Director*

**5. CARBON FARMING**

- A. Board approval to execute a \$45,000.00 sub-contract between Zero Foodprint and the Marin RCD to provide technical assistance in submitting applications for and implementing on-farm soil health projects as part of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Healthy Soils Program (HSP) Block Grant. ~ *Kelsey Brewer, Working Lands Scientist*
- B. Board approval to execute a \$2,393,831.45 sub-contract between the County of Sonoma and the Marin RCD to support production and marketing of climate-smart commodities by providing incentives and support implementing climate-smart practices as part of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Climate Smart Commodities Grant. ~ *Kelsey Brewer, Working Lands Scientist*

## 6. INFORMATIONAL: 10:45 a.m.

- Update of COW CAFF project's USDA NRCS Act Now proposal, including planned Conservation Practices in preparation for grant proposal to secure additional matching funds for construction ~ *Gerhard Epke, Water Quality Program Manager & Elise Suronen, Impacts and Operations Director*

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 is planning a landowner panel. 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 taken to the Marin Biomass Collaborative for stakeholder feedback on January 26. We are now folding their feedback into review instructions for this chapter. Work on the economic analysis in the fourth chapter of our Study remains underway.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Two phases of the COW program are in progress; see agenda items 4A & B. COW MILC (phase VII) has been awarded a grant from the State Water Board and the agreement is in process. The original scope of COW CCAF (phase VI) was completed in 2023 but has been extended to implement an additional project with remaining funds. Elise Suronen is handing the program off to new MRCD program manager Gerhard Epke. Suronen and Epke plan to coordinate a COW tour for the SWRCB and EPA staff in 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. PCI will provide the MRCD Board with an update in 03/2024. Black Mountain culvert project is in the PCP and is on hold until next year.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The month of January was busy and included coordinating and carrying out the annual Lagunitas TAC field trip, several trips out with Marin Water to conduct spawner surveys in Lagunitas Creek and its tributaries, as well as completing CPR & First Aid training with MALT and other partners, and attending CA Conservation Corps North Bay's open house event. Additionally, Sarah assisted landowners with site visits, including regulatory monitoring and reporting, as well as meeting Flood Control and a concerned resident on site to develop a plan to remedy the creek in unincorp. Mill Valley. Finally, Sarah met with County staff in Forest Knolls to assess a woody debris jam.
- **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:** This project is wrapping up and closes out next month on 3/31. The Project Design Team continues working quickly 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 also in communications with landowners on placement of spoils excavated. Sarah will be working on the draft final report during the month of February.
- **Funding Opportunities:** No new grant proposals were submitted this month.
- **Finance Committee:** FC was held on Feb 8th.
  - FC reviewed the FY 22-23 Audit which is presented at this meeting.
  - Discussed active and completed finance, human resource and administrative projects, processes and activities.
- **District:** Public Records Act Request completed, Bookkeeper position posted.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
  - Urban Streams: 4 site visits, 5 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 55 landowners and/or partners were educated.
  - COW: 1 landowner supported with their USDA NRCS Act Now proposal.
  - CE: 6 landowners assisted

#### 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Marin RCD funding programs soon to be announced! Applications will be accepted by website and phone.

#### 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 10th, 2024**

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

**1. A regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Sally Gale, President, at 9:00 a.m.**

Roll call of Directors: Terry Sawyer, Gerald Meral, Peter Martinelli and Mike Moretti.

Associate Directors: George Clyde, Dave Sherwood.

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Sarah Skinker, Kelsey Brewer, Marcus Meggett, Sarah Phillips, Darrylin Mollath, Preston Duncan, Elise Suronen, Gerhard Epke.

Additional Attendees: Chad White (Marin Biomass), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Isaiah Thalmeyer (STRAW), Jessie Ditmore (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Paul Ingle (San Rafael resident) Rick Holland (Agroforester, MCL), Chase Garcia (DC NRCS)

**2. PRESENTATION**

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

This presentation was postponed to a later date due to time constraints.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

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*

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

**4. DISTRICT**

A. Board decision to request the County authorize the use of Measure A funding within the Point Reyes National Seashore.

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; To postpone this item until we hear from Point Reyes National Seashore about attending a future meeting in response to an interest in water quality funding.

**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.

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Peter; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None;

To approve the design option that includes the Colliss site as being the preferred site for sediment disposal with the understanding that hydrologic impacts related to seepage

and flooding be thoroughly examined and that we will revisit this option again at a later date to revisit payment options.

## 6. INFORMATIONAL:

### Partner Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Petaluma Field Office Staff**  
Chase reports that they are working on FY24 applications. They have 129 EQIP applications and 6 Conservation Stewardship applications. They have almost \$160 million for CA. The easier applications can be funded earlier. They have 8 pre-approvals already for \$750K. They are accepting EQIP applications continuously and they expect they will have more sign ups to come. March 22 is the deadline for FY24. They have 6 applications right now.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – MALT Stewardship Staff**  
Scott reports that they have 32 active grant projects. They are closing a couple easements next month. He thanks the RCD for being such a great partner on the carbon farm planning front.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed – Point Blue Staff**  
Jesse reports they are well underway with restorations. They have 3-4 restorations in December. They are done with willow sprigging. Everyone is welcome to come to a restoration. Just reach out! They will be planting until mid-Feb. They are also thinking of staffing requirements in the regular summer season.

### 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.
  - CF: 3 landowners assisted

#### 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Gerhard Epke, our new Water Quality Program Manager has started. This meeting was day 2! He worked on flood control for some time. Farm projects will be new to him.

#### 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.

- Rick Hollan is a new Biomass Steering Co member and will be reviewing the Marin Biomass Report.

#### 9. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:15 a.m.