



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, March 13th, 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 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.)

ACTION ITEMS: 9:15 a.m. - 11 a.m.

2. DISTRICT: 60 min

- A. Board consideration of applications and the appointment of a candidate to fill a vacant director position on the Marin RCD Board. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- B. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- C. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
- D. Board approval of the Marin RCD FY22-23 Audit. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*

3. MARIN BIOMASS PROJECT: 15 min

- A. Request that the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a new agreement with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, which will fund implementation of findings and recommendations from the Marin Biomass Project's Biomass Utilization Study. ~ *Chad White, Marin Biomass Project Manager*

4. CARBON FARMING & NORTH COAST SOIL HUB: 30 min

- A. Board approval to execute Agreement with the CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts in the amount of \$228,137 to implement projects that will enhance habitat restoration and implement climate beneficial practices ~ *Sarah Skinker, Carbon Farming Program Manager*
- B. Board approval to execute a \$73,428 contract agreement between the National Association of Conservation Districts and the Marin RCD to support the North Coast Soil Hub Director in the coordination of a region-wide network in the implementation of climate-beneficial practices. ~ *Emilie Winfield, North Coast Soil Hub Director*
- C. Board approval of Memorandum of Agreement Between Parties of the North Coast Soil Hub and authorize the Executive Director to enter into the agreement. . ~ *Emilie Winfield, North Coast Soil Hub Director*

5. INFORMATIONAL: 11:00 a.m.

- A. Carbon Farming application portal ~ *Sarah Skinker, Carbon Farming Program Manager*

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:** MRCD sent out its first quarterly newsletter in a decade. We started with a contact list of 392 in our listserv (consisting mainly urban streams folks with a few partners and ag producers); note this list was before we started the newsletter. A marketing effort is in place to increase contacts.
- **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:** We are currently folding in feedback from the Marin Biomass Collaborative into review instructions for our consultants on Chapter 3 of the Biomass Utilization Study. Work on the economic analysis in the fourth chapter of our Study remains underway. We are also seeking approval from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research for a third round of funding for the Marin Biomass project.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Two phases of the COW program are in progress. 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 is waiting for a letter of support from FIGR. Once they receive that letter, PCI will provide the MRCD Board with an update in 04/2024. Black Mountain culvert project is in the PCP and is on hold until next year.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The month of February was wet and wild! No spawner surveys were conducted as a result of the streams being unsafe to enter and too turbid to see any fish. Many partners and landowners reached out for assistance on a variety of subjects, mostly being storm-related impacts. Sarah attended the annual Steelhead Festival and has been working with a team to create a fantastic tour of Lagunitas Creek projects through the Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference in March. Sarah met with landowners in San Anselmo that are wanting to host three (3) workshops this year to learn more about soil, plant propagation, and creek stewardship (which will include soil bioengineering). Sarah met with Marinwood CSD to review a headcut in residential area along Miller Creek. Finally, the smolt monitoring season is ramping up which will keep Sarah busy in March-May.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** The Carbon Farming Team completed the second round of meetings for current carbon farm plans and will continue with soil and forage sampling this spring. 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 this month on 3/31. The Project Design Team continues working quickly toward 100% designs for three complex projects in the lower reach and four 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 submitted the draft final report at the end of February.
- **Funding Opportunities:** A few grant opportunities are in the works: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for two positions: Forest Health Coordinator and Soil Hub Director. One proposal to address fire resiliency with the North Coast RCDs.
- **Finance Committee:** FC was held on Feb 8th. FC reviewed the FY 22-23 Audit which is presented at this meeting.
- **District:** Published board vacancy in PRLight, Post Office, Grandi Building and RCD website, RCD newsletter.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 3 site visits, 11 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 3 landowners and/or partners were educated.
 - COW: 1 landowner supported with their USDA NRCS Act Now proposal.
 - CF: 4 landowners assisted

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Marin RCD is accepting applications for projects. [Apply here](#) at our website or call Sarah Skinker at (415) 780-2854.
- March 20. 12:00-12:45 pm. UCCE Wildfire Preparedness webinar for agricultural operations. [Register here](#)

7. 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.

8. MEETING ADJOURNED



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, February 14th, 2024**

PLACE: **Marin 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, and Mike Moretti.

Absent: Peter Martinelli

Associate Directors: George Clyde, Dave Sherwood, Guido Frosini

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

Additional Attendees: Chad White and Bell Cole (Marin Biomass), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Isaiah Thalmeyer (STRAW), Jessie Ditmore (STRAW), Paul Ingle (San Rafael resident), Sebastian Tsochanos (NRCS)

Sally opened the meeting with a letter of resignation submitted by Director Peter Martinelli effective as of this meeting, February 14, 2024. Folks took turns expressing their appreciation of Peter whose presence will be sorely missed by all of us. Thank you for your years of dedicated service to farming and stewardship of Marin's landscape.

2. PRESENTATION:

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

The Biomass Study is on track. Marin has the most urban study of all pilot projects in the state. As opposed to other counties, Marin is not a lumbering county which makes us different. Disposal of products is being avoided as much as possible to cut down on GHG emissions. However, study results show that exiting composting infrastructure should be expanded. Milling, anaerobic digestion, urban wood recovery are some other options to consider. Still developing co-composting, joint pyrolysis, biochar, soil amendment options as well. As we move on to implementation, joint planning with other agencies will be necessary. Mike recommended including farmers input into the study as it moves forward.

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

4. CONSERVING OUR WATERSHEDS

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telephone 415.663.1170 · facsimile 415.663.0421 · email marinrcd@marinrcd.org

- A. Board approval of resolution authorizing the Marin RCD 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*
MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Mike due to potential financial conflict; to approve resolution authorizing the Marin RCD 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.

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*
MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Mike due to potential financial conflict; 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.
- 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*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Mike; 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.

6. INFORMATIONAL:

- 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*
Marin RCD has come through on all deliverables on this contract with the State Water Board and there is funding left over which can be used on another project. The Technical Advisory Committee is recommending the next highest project on the proposed list of projects which is located at the Brazil Ranch. It is a road/creek restoration project to be conducted with NRCS match funding. The design is in progress and will come back to the RCD board at a later date.

Partner Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Petaluma Field Office Staff**
Sebastian reported that the Conservation Stewardship Program deadline is coming up. NRCS will finalize their rankings for other programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), and Inflation Reduction Act funding.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – MALT Stewardship Staff**
Scott announced that the next round of their small grants program opens Tuesday. The emphasis will be on biodiversity. See Eric or Scott for questions. MALT is also closing two easements next month.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed – Point Blue Staff**
Jesse says that Coast Live Oak is taking off right now! Also, they are getting plants in the ground now at 4 ranches: Somar, Straus, True Grass, Toluma.

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 at 11:39 a.m.