



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, July 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 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 9:15-9:30

Salmonid Monitoring Results for Walker and Lagunitas Creeks ~ *Eric Ettlinger, Marin Water District and Derek Acomb, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife*

ACTION ITEMS: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

3. DISTRICT: 60 min

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
- C. Board approval of Marin RCD positions of President, Vice President and Treasurer. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- D. Board approval to replace one board member to the Ad Hoc Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) committee ~ *Nancy Scolari*
- E. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- F. Board approval of Resolution 2024-03 of Marin RCD Proposing An Election Be Held In Its Jurisdiction; Requesting The Board Of Supervisors To Consolidate With Any Other Election Conducted On Said Date, And Requesting Election Services By The Marin County Elections Department ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- G. Board approval of response to Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

4. NORTH COAST SOIL HUB & CARBON FARMING NETWORK: 10 min

- A. Board approval to execute a \$74,979 contract agreement between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Marin RCD to support the North Coast Soil Hub Director in the coordination of a region-wide network to advance implementation of climate-beneficial practices. ~ *Emilie Winfield, North Coast Soil Hub Director*

5. INFORMATIONAL: 10:45 a.m.

Partner Updates: 5 min each

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)– Petaluma Field Office Staff
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – MALT Stewardship Staff

- Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)– Point Blue Staff

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Responded to Marin Independent Journal and Point Reyes Light on articles in response to Grand Jury Report.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The Graton Rancheria-MRCD/Point Blue Memorandum of Agreement is being reviewed by FIGR. David Escobar was hired as a consultant on JEDI in Carbon Farming and continues to meet with staff, and will soon meet with the JEDI Committee to review our implementation process.
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project met with the Marin Biomass Collaborative on June 28 to discuss the fourth chapter of the Biomass Utilization Study — an economic analysis of recommended biomass utilization pathways. In the waning hours of June, the Project also signed a funding agreement with OPR that provides \$150,000 from the Forest Sector Grant Program for implementation of recommendations for building up the biomass utilization system. These recommendations are being built as part of the fifth chapter of the Study and are anticipated in Q3 2024.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** 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 grant award amount is being increased by about \$250,000 as a result of excess 319(h) funding at the State level. The original scope of COW CCAF (phase VI) was completed in 2023 with seven management practices implemented. A time extension request has been submitted for December 2024 close-out and staff are conducting post-implementation monitoring.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** Green Gulch Farms (GG) is moving through the design, CEQA and permitting process with Prunuske Chatham Inc. (PCI) guiding the way and keeping MRCD and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) in the loop. PCI has received a letter of support from FIGR and plans to provide the MRCD Board with an update in August of 2024. SPAWN is working towards starting its road decommissioning project this fall. As of April 2024, Black Mountain culvert project is in the PCP and might be constructed next year, Staff checked in with the project consultant, Pacific Watershed Associates, and they said that Black Mtn has not expressed interest in building it this year. Elise checked in again July 1, 2024.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The month of June included a series of stakeholder meetings and minimal smolt monitoring. The quarterly Lagunitas TAC meeting was held virtually and covered the topics of beavers and low-tech, process-based restoration projects. Sarah attended the Beaver Festival in Martinez. Sarah assisted Regional Board staff with mercury monitoring via the collection of sediment samples in Walker. Finally, Sarah has been providing guidance and support to Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed and Marin Conservation League with their concerns over a Marin Water District project being proposed.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** The Carbon Farming Team has grown to 4! Lee Farese is our new Rangeland Ecologist and Fiona O’neill is our new Soil Conservation Technician. WELCOME! They are in their first few weeks and being onboarded into the Carbon Farming Program work. The CF team is currently developing and planning design and implementation projects in partnership with Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW). STRAW’s riparian restoration planting season is complete. The team has finished initial and follow-up site visits for the 5 hedgerow/windbreak projects to be funded by Wildlife Conservation Board and designed,

implemented and maintained by STRAW. The team is working on timelines associated with USDA Climate Smart Commodities in partnership with Gold Ridge and Sonoma RCDs.

- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah closed out this project with CDFW! Discussions around spoils placement continue. We are still waiting to hear back on the implementation funding proposal submitted to NOAA for \$8mil.
- **Funding Opportunities:** USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for Soil Hub Director. *Awarded!* Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to implement recommendations for building up the biomass utilization system. *Awarded!*
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2024.
- **District:** Staff have been onboarding for two new staff! Welcome Fiona and Lee! We have also spent time responding to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report and associated media requests.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 0 site visits, 8 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 68 landowners and/or partners were educated.
 - COW: 1 landowner assisted
 - CE: 5 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.

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, June 12th, 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 9:05 a.m.

Roll call of Directors: Terry Sawyer, Gerald Meral, and Dave Sherwood. Mike Moretti absent

Associate Directors: George Clyde, Guido Frosini

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Sarah Skinner, Marcus Meggett, Sarah Phillips, Preston Duncan, Elise Suronen, Gerhard Epke, Cora Richard

Additional Attendees: Scott Dunbar (MALT), Chad White (Marin Biomass), Jessie Ditmore (STRAW), Paul Ingle (San Rafael resident), Pete Christiansen (Marin Biomass), Lilly Verdone (MALT Executive Director), Richard Holland (Agro-Forestry & Marin Biomass), Chase Garcia (NRCS Petaluma), Jim Jensen (Audubon Canyon Ranch), Andy Miller (Marin Biomass)

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT:

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Jerry, Terry, Sally, David; NOES: None;
ABSTENTIONS: Mike (absent); to approve April 2024 Board minutes with one edit.
Clarification of conflicting statements about receiving applications for projects. We are already at max capacity with our current grant obligations in our service area.
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
Nancy shared that MRCD has been awarded \$200k in fire resiliency funding. It is a block grant from Coastal Conservancy to all the north coast RCD's. It will be allocated for staff training/workforce development & implementation of fire resiliency plans.
MOTION: Terry; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Terry, Sally, David; NOES: None;
ABSTENTIONS: Mike (absent); to approve the Financial Report.
- C. Board approval of "Authorities of the Executive Director Policy". ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: David; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Jerry, Terry, Sally, David; NOES: None;
ABSTENTIONS: Mike (absent); to approve new policy, increase the Executive Director's threshold for approval on contracts and amendments to \$50k, and report to report back on those approvals in Staff Reports.
- D. Board approval of Resolution #02-2024 to transfer responsibility for certain district transactions to the District Board of Directors ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Terry, Sally, David; NOES: None;
ABSTENTIONS: Mike (absent); to approve Resolution #02-2024

4. BIOMASS PROJECT: (moved up)

- A. Board approval of Contract #C03-2024 in the amount of \$42,500 with Loamist, Co. for development of carbon registry functionalities and their integration into the “Resilient Sierra” biomass assessment and digital marketplace tool of the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research. ~ *Chad White, Marin Biomass Project Manager*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Jerry, Terry, Sally, David; NOES: None;
ABSTENTIONS: Mike (absent); to approve Contract #C03-2024

3. CARBON FARMING:

- B. Board approval of Orlena Yee Contract #C02-2024 in the amount of \$57,195 to develop a Strategic Plan for the Regional Carbon Finance Initiative for the Sonoma Marin County Climate Coalition Carbon Project. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: David; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Jerry, Terry, Sally, David; NOES: None;
ABSTENTIONS: Mike (absent); to approve Contract #C02-2024 with Orlena Yee where the MRCD board is provided with quarterly updates.

5. INFORMATIONAL:

Partner Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff Chase shared that USDA funded 6.1 million contract dollars last year. This year USDA funded 7.4 million contract dollars. 77 contract approvals were EQIP program contracts.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff Scott shared that MALT has 2 ranch easements which will hopefully close by the end of June which would make 97 easements total. MALT also just wrapped up the second round of their small grants program. 5 biodiversity projects were selected from this small grants program
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff Jessie shared that Point Blue STRAW has 5 hedgerow/windbreak rows that have been designed. Their 8 week summer internship program just began early June.

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. The open rate for the newsletter was 66%. 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. Just hired 2 new positions: Soil Ecologist & Conservation Tech. They will start work at the end of June. We have an intern with us for the summer as well.
- **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.
- Marin RCD Letter of Interest to participate in Marin County Emergency & Hazard Mitigation Planning effort
- Letters of support for Coastal Conservancy proposal from the following: Assemblyman Conolly, Marin County Parks, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Holland shared that Agro-Forestry will be having an in-person conference this year in Costa Rica.

Sally brought up a recent Marin Civil Grand Jury report which involved Marin RCD and MALT spending of Measure A money. The conclusion of this report was no wrong-doing or illegal spending of Measure A money. The report did recommend vis Marin County that Marin RCD increase their board from 5 positions to 7, increase efforts to advertise open board seat positions, and that board members be disqualified from grant awards. The RCD needs to respond within 90 days.

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