



AGENDA

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

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

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

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.

2. PRESENTATIONS 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Measure J ~ *Dayna Ghirardeli, Executive Director, Sonoma County Farm Bureau*
Carbon and Finance ~ *Orlena Yee, Marin Carbon Project Coordinator*

ACTION ITEMS: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

3. DISTRICT: 30 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 review and approval of Marin RCD Conflict of Interest Policy. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

4. CARBON FARMING: 30 min

- A. Board approval of CA Environmental Quality Act, Notice of Categorical Exemption for CA Wildlife Conservation Board hedgerow/windbreak project #s 2024-01, 2024-02, 2024-03, 2024-04, 2024-05 ~ *Sarah Skinker, Carbon Farming Program Manager*

5. INFORMATIONAL: 11:00 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):

- **Thank you Maya!** This is the last month of Maya Gomez Moreno's internship.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Postcards inviting subscriptions to MRCD's newsletter and online match-funding application portal will be mailed to all Marin ag zoned addresses >5 acres this month.
- **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 to discuss the fourth chapter of the Biomass Utilization Study — an economic analysis of recommended biomass utilization pathways. 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 was approved to December 2024 and staff are conducting post-implementation monitoring.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** SPAWN began construction on its road decommissioning project this week. Work is scheduled to last into October. 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. 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, and Black Mtn has not responded to Pacific Watershed Associations with an update.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The month of July included three (3) sites visits with one relating to the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance. Sarah has been assisted Sup Rodoni's aid, Morgan Patton, with support around discussions on Tomales Bay's health. As well, Sarah assisted Contra Costa RCD and university professors to learn more about impacts tied to unhoused encampments along urban streams. Finally, Sarah has connected and met with the new landowner who bought one of the properties that was part of the Landowner Assistance Program in San Geronimo Valley to continue stewardship support on the property.
- **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! The CF team is currently partnering with Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW) on 4 riparian restoration projects (implementation complete, in maintenance and monitoring phase) and 5 hedgerow/windbreak projects (in design phase). 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. Funding on the implementation funding proposal submitted to NOAA for \$8mil was denied. Project team await feedback from NOAA.

- **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 August 20, 2024.
- **District:** We have made good progress in identifying administrative staff roles, streamlining payment systems and using software to identify necessary tasks as the organization is growing.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 3 site visits, 7 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 8 landowners and/or partners were educated.
 - COW: 2 landowner assisted
 - CE: 3 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, July 10th, 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: Mike Morretti, Gerald Meral, and David Sherwood. Terry Sawyer absent. Associate Directors: Guido Frosini
Staff: Nancy Scolari, Cora Richard, Sarah Skinker, Marcus Meggett, Sarah Phillips, Preston Duncan, Elise Suronen, Gerhard Epke, Emilie Winfield, Fiona O'Neill and Lee Farese
Additional Attendees: Scott Dunbar (MALT), Chad White (Marin Biomass), Richard Holland (Agro-Forestry & Marin Biomass), Sebastian Tsochanos (Petaluma NRCS), Eric Ettlinger (Marin Water District), Derek Acomb (CDFW)

PRESENTATION:

2. **Salmonid Monitoring Results for Walker and Lagunitas Creeks:**
Presented by Derek Acomb (CDFW) & Eric Ettlinger (Marin Water District)
Derek began the presentation with data from Walker Creek. Initial install of Smolt traps was April 8, 2024 and data collection started April 17, 2024. They saw lower numbers of fish this year compared to last year with the Rotary Screw traps being used.
Eric moved us on to data from Lagunitas Creek. The number of adult salmon is slowly dropping over the past 3 years. Juvenile and Smolt salmon numbers are slowly increasing. The goal is to tag 1200 Juvenile Coho a year.

ACTION ITEMS

3. **DISTRICT**
 - A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, David, Sally, Mike; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None. Terry (absent); to approve June 2024 Board minutes.
 - B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, David; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None. Terry (absent); to approve the Financial Report.
 - C. Board approval of Marin RCD positions of President, Vice President & Treasurer. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, David; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None. Terry (absent); for Sally Gale to continue to hold the position of MRCD Board President, Terry Sawyer to become Vice President and David Sherwood to become Treasurer.
 - D. Board approval to replace one board member to the Ad Hoc Justice, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) Committee ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
Previously we had 2 MRCD director representatives and 1 MRCD associate director on this committee and now that Peter is no longer a board member we need to decide if

we want to fill the second directors spot on the committee. The Committee will remain as-is. No Action Taken.

- E. 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*

In November 2024 David (Peter's replacement), Terry & Mike's term's will expire on MRCD's Board. This resolution is to ask Marin County to combine our election with theirs so we do not have to hold an election on our own. This agenda item comes up about every 2 years to comply with normal requirements.

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, David; NOES: None;

ABSTENTIONS: None. Terry (absent); to approve Resolution 2024-03

- F. Board approval of response to Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

This is to approve a proposed schedule of preparation of response timeline. MRCD staff will prepare a response, then 2 board members will review the draft. Next Marin County counsel reviews. Hopefully by August 7th the county counsel review is completed to then become an action item on August 14th MRCD Board agenda.

MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, David; NOES: None;

ABSTENTIONS: None. Terry (absent); to the schedule for Marin Civil Grand Jury Report response.

4. NORTH COAST SOIL HUB & CARBON FARMING NETWORK:

- 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*

This year there was a gap in funding Emilie's position so she applied for this grant to fill the gap. This contract will start September 2024 and run through September 2026.

MOTION: David; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, David; NOES: None;

ABSTENTIONS: None. Terry (absent); to approve this contract agreement between USDA NRCS Petaluma and MRCD.

5. INFORMATIONAL:

Partner Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff Sebastian shared that 15 new CSP applications have been pre-approved. 11 RCPP applications have also been pre-approved. 101 total applications have been approved for FY 2024, over 7 million dollars! A new record for NRCS. An intern, Julia, will be at NRCS through the end of July.
- **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. There is a new allocation of funding for SAP. Their 3rd round of small grants program (which will be focused on climate resilience) opens August 1st.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff No staff from STRAW were present at this meeting.

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.

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- **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
 - CF: 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

Jerry shared that Todd Steiner is retiring as the Executive Director of SPAWN

8. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:21 a.m.