



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, September 11th, 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.

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

1. Regular meeting opens at **9:00 a.m.** Roll call, introduction of guests.

Introducing Joe Deviney, the new Marin Agricultural Commissioner

2. PRESENTATION 9:15-9:45 a.m.

Marin Water Reservoir Expansion ~ *Ranjiv Khush, President Marin Water Board*

ACTION ITEMS: 9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

3. DISTRICT:

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
- C. Board approval of FY 24-25 Annual Budget ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
- D. Board approval of response to Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- E. Board approval of response to the Draft California Association of Resource Conservation District Bylaws. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director and Jerry Meral, MRCD Director*

4. 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):

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** No activity.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The Graton Rancheria-MRCD/Point Blue Memorandum of Agreement is being reviewed by FIGR. The team is planning site visits with FIGR to new projects and recently implemented projects. 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 is working to revise the greenhouse gas analysis of biomass utilization pathways and the economic analysis of biomass utilization

pathways, which are respectively the third and fourth chapter of the Biomass Utilization Study. Work is now underway to bring forward findings and recommendations from the work and develop the fifth and final chapter of the Study.

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** Two phases of the COW program are in progress. COW MILC (phase VII) has been awarded a grant of \$1,000,000 from the State Water Board. The agreement has been finalized and is being circulated for execution. COW CCAF (phase VI) completed its original scope with seven management practices implemented. Before December 2024 close-out, staff will be doing small jobs to spend remaining construction funds, preparing the final report, and 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 has started its road decommissioning project. 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 August USC worked part time due to another loss in the immediate family. Work will continue part time until further notice. USC attended STRAW's Watershed Week for the first day then provided assistance to Marin Water District with relocation efforts. USC met with a landowner in San Geronimo to assess two fallen trees in the creek. Juvenile salmonid monitoring with Marin Water District has begun and will keep Sarah very busy for the coming six to seven (6-7) weeks.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** 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 monitoring and maintenance season is complete. The team is scheduling the next round of Carbon Farm Plan meetings with producers this fall. The team is working on timelines associated with USDA Climate Smart Commodities in partnership with Gold Ridge and Sonoma RCDs. Healthy Soils Projects have been awarded via the ZeroFoodPrint Block Grant to be implemented this fall.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah closed out this project with CDFW! We are currently coordinating a meeting with the National Marine Fisheries Service to better understand why our proposal was denied funding. That will likely take place in mid-October.
- **Funding Opportunities:** \$60,000 in funding was awarded by the Kurland Foundation to support Orlena Yee, our Marin Carbon Project Coordinator!
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for Sept 17th, 2024. The Finance Committee discussed the budget, the office lease, FDIC coverage, COVID funding and hiring an HR consultant.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on financial matters, setting up new project management software, personnel reviews and finalizing our newsletter.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 1 site visit, 4 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 3 landowners and/or partners were educated.
 - COW: 2-3 landowners assisted
 - CF: 4 landowners assisted

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Marin RCD is accepting applications for projects. [Apply here](#) at our website or call Sarah Skinker at (415) 780-2854.

6. 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.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, August 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 Terry Sawyer, Vice President, at 9:00 a.m.

Roll call of Directors: Mike Moretti, Gerald Meral, David Sherwood, Terry Sawyer and Sally Gale

Associate Directors: Guido Frosini, George Clyde

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Cora Richard, Sarah Skinker, Marcus Meggett, Sarah Phillips, Preston Duncan, Elise Suronen, Fiona O'Neill, Lee Farese and Maya Gomez Moreno (intern)

Additional Attendees: Jim Jensen (Audubon Canyon Ranch), Orlena Yee (Marin Carbon Project), Dayna Ghiradeli (Sonoma County Farm Bureau), Jeff Corda (Resident), Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), John Parodi (STRAW), Paul Ingle (Resident) and Richard Holland (Agro-Forestry & Marin Biomass)

PRESENTATION:

2. Measure J in Sonoma County:

Presented by Dayna Ghiradeli (Executive Director, Sonoma County Farm Bureau)

Sonoma County's Measure J came from an animal rights activist group centered in Berkeley, CA. Their goal in having this measure put on the ballot is to put a cap on the number of animals allowed to be part of a family farm. Dayna expressed that this would result in a number of negative effects, such as loss of farm workers jobs which in turn would affect the Sonoma County economy. For more information you can visit www.noonmeasurej.com The Board asked that the opposing view also be represented at a future meeting.

Carbon and Finance (Sonoma-Marin Ag County Climate Coalition- SMACCC for short)

Presented by Orlena Yee (Marin Carbon Project Coordinator & SMACCC Carbon Finance Contractor)

The goal on this project is to advance climate smart agriculture through this partnership between USDA and Sonoma + Marin Counties. Marin RCD is part of this partnership. Orlena gave us a big picture timeline of how the project will proceed over the next 5 years. This fiscal year her focus is on gathering information and learning about existing financial models for climate smart ag and how they are being implemented. Marin RCD board members felt that the 5-year timeline was a bit slow, and Orlena agreed but pointed out the many reasons why it was as drawn.

*Before action items a vote was held to approve President Sally Gale's remote presence at this meeting.

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, David, Jerry, Mike; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: Sally; to approve Sally Gale attending this board meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances.

ACTION ITEMS

3. DISTRICT

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Jerry, David, Sally, Mike and Terry; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; to approve July 2024 Board minutes.
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, David, Terry; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; to approve the Financial Report.
- C. Board review and approval of Marin RCD Conflict of Interest Policy. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Sally; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, David, Terry; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None; to approve Marin RCD's Conflict of Interest Policy contingent upon Marin County Council approval and bringing their response back to the September Marin RCD Board Meeting.

4. CARBON FARMING:

- 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*
Staff informed the Board that Board action was not necessary because staff have the authority to approve CEQA Categorical Exemptions therefore, Sarah updated the Board on the timeline of this grant and progress on the hedgerows for the 5 landowners selected.
No Board Action Taken, only information presentation

5. INFORMATIONAL:

Partner Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff

No staff present at this meeting

- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff

Eric Rubenstahl presented in place of Scott Dunbar and shared that they are monitoring projects right now. One large project will close in December. There are 13 active SAP projects right now. As of August 1st, they just opened applications for their 3rd small grants program. The theme of this round is climate resilience. They will be selecting awardees in the middle of October. They are also following along with Measure J and feel strongly against the measure. Last, Eric is moving back to the East Coast so come October we will not be seeing him anymore. Good luck and goodbye Eric!

- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff
Jessie Ditmore presented and shared that they just had their annual watershed training. The theme was beaver analogs. They have some new apprentices are starting in October along with 2 more staff positions. They are also finalizing the plans for the projects Sarah Skinker presented on today.

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 greater than 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 continues. 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 landowners assisted
 - CF: 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

Rick Holland shared that the Agro-Forestry Network will be starting regular monthly meetings. They will be held on the 1st Thursday of every month.

Jim Jensen shared that Audubon Canyon Ranch got a small grant for prescribed burning that will last 2 years.

Jerry shared that the CARCD is amending their bylaws and he and Nancy will be submitting some comments. He intends to put this as an item on the September agenda for the Marin RCD board to review.

8. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:37 a.m.