



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, November 13, 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 sarabs@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.

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

AIM & Marketing: Andy Naja-Riese & Meleyna Nomura, Agricultural Institute of Marin

ACTION ITEMS: 9:45 a.m. - 11:15 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 revision to Marin RCD Associate Director Policy and candidate Associate Directors. ~*Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- D. Board discussion and decision to pursue increase in number of director seats. ~*Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- E. Board approval of Marin RCD representative to Marin County Sea Level Rise Steering Committee. *Chris Choo, Marin Community Development Agency Assistant Director & Emily Schwimmer, AECOM Climate Advisory Associate Principal*
- F. Board approval to request \$125,000 from the County of Marin to support Marin RCD programs and to partially offset operational costs not covered by state or federal grants. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- G. Board Approval to enter into a Collateral Agreement with Wells Fargo to protect District deposits in excess of the FDIC limit. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*

4. INFORMATIONAL: 11:15 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):

- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The Graton Rancheria-MRCD/Point Blue Memorandum of Agreement is being reviewed by FIGR. The staff held 1 site visit in September with FIGR to new projects and recently implemented projects at SoMar and TrueGrass. The next

visit is to be determined. David Escobar will soon meet with the JEDI Committee to review our implementation process. Sarah will reach out to JEDI committee members in November to schedule the next meeting.

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** New newsletter is being drafted. Focus will be on fisheries and the urban streams program.
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is revising its greenhouse gas analysis chapter and its economic analysis chapter, which are respectively the third and fourth chapter of the Biomass Utilization Study. Work is underway to develop findings and recommendations from the Study and to draft 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 VIII) 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 VII) completed its original scope with seven management practices implemented. The final report has been drafted and sent to the funder. Before December 2024 close-out, staff will be doing small jobs to spend remaining construction funds 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. SPAWN has completed 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 in 2024.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC carried out three (3) site visits to assist landowners and supported many partners and landowners with various requests. USC has been meeting with Supervisor Rodoni's office regarding the preparation of a study to assess the removal of tires from Tomales Bay. Juvenile fisheries monitoring wrapped up with Marin Water, spawner surveying will begin in November. USC attended various stakeholder meetings. Finally, USC is planning two (2) soil bioengineering workshops; one for staff and one for landowners.
- **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 almost finished with the current round of Carbon Farm Plan meetings with producers this fall. The team is working on a website and marketing materials associated with USDA Climate Smart Commodities in partnership with, Ag Institute of Marin, Gold Ridge and Sonoma RCDs. Healthy Soils Projects have been awarded via the ZeroFoodPrint Block Grant to be implemented this fall. Lee is currently working with producers to get these projects implemented.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah P. closed out this project with CDFW. The project team will regroup in the near future to determine another funding source to apply for implementation funds.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Possible Tomales Bay grant to remove tires. Prop 4 Climate Bond is passed.
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2024.

- At the last Finance Committee meeting the members discussed health insurance, maternity leave benefits, the office lease, the Wells Fargo collateral agreement and the content of meeting minutes.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on financial audit (federal spending), HR audit and investigating health insurance options
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
Urban Streams: 3 site visits, 12 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 9 landowners and/or partners were educated.
COW: Aside from the grant recipients, 1 rancher assisted w/ water quality plan, 1 with willow stakes
CE: 7

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, October 9th, 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: Sally Gale, Mike Moretti, Gerald Meral, David Sherwood and Terry Sawyer

Associate Directors: George Clyde

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Marcus Meggett, Gerhard Epke, Preston Duncan, Michelle Katuna and Lee Farese

Additional Attendees: Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Bronte Edwards (MALT), Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Paul Ingle (Resident), Joe Deviney (Marin Co Ag Commissioner), John Dolcini (Resident)

PRESENTATION:

2. **Measure J:**

Presented by Lewis Bernier, Yes on Measure J (Sonoma County)

Measure J was a citizen-initiated ballot measure, they gathered 37,000 signatures before it was able to be on the ballot. It is aimed towards ending Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, which is classified by a farm exceeding a certain number of animals on their farm. Measure J is most concerned with excessive greenhouse gasses, waste into water and animal conditions on very large animal farms.

West Marin Housing Study:

Presented by Cassandra Benjamin, CSBC Consulting

This program is to help Ag workers and their families. There are not enough rental units! West Marin needs a minimum of 464 new housing units. Majority of Ag workers have lived here 20+ years, they hold multiple jobs and have extremely low incomes. They are starting with educating and protecting low-income renters, moving to rehabbing and maximizing existing housing. As a last step and end goal they are planning on building more low-income housing.

ACTION ITEMS

3. **DISTRICT**

A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Terry, David, Sally, Jerry and Mike; NOES: None; to approve September 2024 Board minutes.

B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, Terry and David; NOES: None; to approve the Financial Report.

C. Board approval of Marin RCD Finance Committee members. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, Terry and David; NOES: None; to approve the current RCD Finance Committee Members and continue to re-approve them on an annual basis.

- D. Board approval of FY 24-25 Annual Budget ~*Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
 MOTION: Terry; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, Terry and David; NOES: None; to approve the FY 24-25 Annual Budget with two small edits.

4. INFORMATIONAL:

Partner Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff
 No staff present at this meeting. They passed on a short update through Nancy: They have completed about 6.5 million in EQIP funding with 76 contracts. They have about \$293,000 obligated through the RCPP. They have a million obligated through the conservation stewardship program (15 contracts). Total between Sonoma and Marin counties is about 8 million.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
 Bronte Edwards shared that they are 2/3 of the way through their monitoring season, and getting ready to announce the awardees for the third round of their small grants program. Bronte also weighed in on the Measure J discussion and said they would very much like people to understand the distinction between a CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) and a factory farm. They are not the same- a farm acknowledging themselves as a CAFO is them acknowledging they need a more through manure management plan.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff
 Jessie Ditmore presented and shared that they had 12 new staff start at the beginning of October. They are currently seed collecting for multiple projects. Of their 7 projects in Marin County 6 are in conjunction with MRCD. They have 37 classes slated for these projects.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI)**: Michelle Katuna provided an update on recent site visits with the Tribe. The Graton Rancheria-MRCD/Point Blue Memorandum of Agreement is being reviewed by FIGR. The team held 1 site visit in September with FIGR to new projects and recently implemented projects at SoMar and TrueGrass. The next visit is to be determined. 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.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach**: We started with a contact list of 393 in our listserv (consisting mainly urban streams folks with a few partners and ag producers); note this list was before we started the newsletter.

Newsletter Date	Subscribers Sent	Open Rate	Clicks	New Subscribers	Unsubscribed
March 2024	393	66%	9%	31	5
June 2024	401	61%	6%	?	0
Sept 2024	377	64%	9%	-1	2

On Sept 23rd we mailed out a postcard to the ag community asking for subscribers. We have 3 new subscribers - a total of 380.

- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is revising its greenhouse gas analysis chapter and its economic analysis chapter, which are respectively the third and fourth chapter of the Biomass Utilization Study. Work is underway to develop findings and recommendations from the Study and to draft 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, maybe November of 2024. SPAWN has been working on 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.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC worked part time due to another loss in the immediate family. USC attended the annual Coho Confab (conference) on the Smith River, reviewing projects to improve instream habitat for coho salmon. She also carried out site visits and assisted partners with limited capacity. USC met with various officials at the County to address any needs they have in the USC Prgm. Juvenile salmonid monitoring with Marin Water District has kept Sarah very busy during the month of September and will come to a close in early October.
- **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 has begun 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. On Sept 24, MRCD and STRAW staff reconnected with land managers, Tribal staff and citizens to re-visit implemented collaborative riparian restoration design projects at SoMar and True Grass Farms. We look forward to having a Board Member out at the next collaborative site visit, likely to happen before the end of the year!
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah P. closed out this project with CDFW! Project team met with NOAA (National Marine Fisheries Service) to better understand why our proposal was denied funding. The project team will regroup in the near future to determine another funding source to apply for implementation funds.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Possible TBay grant to remove tires and new NACD grant for Soil Hub Director
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for October 15th, 2024. At the last Finance Committee meeting the members discussed the budget, the office lease,

FDIC coverage, COVID funding and hiring an HR consultant. At the next meeting the committee is meeting with the HR consultant to get an update and review a revised health insurance policy.

- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on hiring and directing a new HR consultant, investigating Health Insurance options, analyzing bank insurance liabilities, preparing for audit
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
Urban Streams: 2 site visits, 8 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 4 landowners and/or partners were educated.
COW: 2-3 landowners assisted
CF: 6 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

None

8. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:35 a.m.