



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, June 11, 2025**

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.

2. GUEST PRESENTATIONS 9:15 - 10 a.m.

- **Marin RCD Strategic Plan Kick Off-** *Amy Stork Consulting 30 min*
- **Santa Cruz RCD and their parcel tax-** *Lisa Lurie, Santa Cruz RCD and Eric Lombardo, Land Trust of Santa Cruz 10 min*

ACTION ITEMS: 10 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*

4. INFORMATIONAL: 10:15 a.m.

- **COW Water Quality Program** - *Gerhard Epke, Water Quality Program Manager (15 min)*
- **2025 Restoration Projects** - *Sarah Skinker, Carbon Farm Program Manager (20 min)*

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*
- Audubon Canyon Ranch - *Jim Jensen, Tomales Bay Land Steward and Preserve Mgr*

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Marin Water Expansion Alternatives:** *John Dolcini, Associate Director.*

Scoping meeting will be held on Tuesday July 15, 2025 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at

<https://marinwater.zoom.us/j/83247604594>

- **Federal Funding Freeze:** *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

RCD is working on modifying the existing USDA grant agreement to meet the new administration's Farmer First priorities.

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW MILC, the most recent Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Board grant, has begun. The agreement for \$1,000,000 is executed and projects at dairies in the Stemple Creek watershed have been solicited and ranked by the

Technical Advisory Group. Design work will begin this summer. The grant also funds practices in Drakes Bay watershed of the National Seashore and those projects are expected to constitute manure pond decommissioning at those outgoing dairies. An application for COW GIRL phase IX was submitted to the Water Board in early January and is in review.

- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The carbon farm team plus Michelle Katuna and STRAW held a visit with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria at Toluma and Straus on May 9th to revisit riparian restoration sites where FIGR collaborated on designs. David Escobar is almost ready to share his review of our implementation process. Sarah will schedule a JEDI team meeting this summer.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** New newsletter was sent out!
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is preparing a complete version of its Study by revising all technical reports submitted by consultants and incorporating them as chapters in an integrated Study. All deliverables under OPR Agreement No 21121 have now been completed, and all invoices have been submitted. The Marin Biomass Project is now operating under OPR (now LCI) Agreement No. SPPD23176. This second contract focuses on dissemination of Study findings and implementation of Study recommendations.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** Green Gulch Streamflow Enhancement Project is moving through design towards CEQA. 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.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Urban Streams Program has been in busy bee mode stepping up in a lot of meetings and events as well as planning for sabbatical leave. Sarah/USC has been supporting smolt monitoring efforts on both Lagunitas Creek (with Marin Water) and Walker Creek (with CDFW). As well as carrying out a site visit while providing resources to landowners and partners in need, including aides to the Board of Supervisors. USC attended the Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) Conference as well as two field trainings relating to fuels reduction and fire ecology (Santa Cruz and East Bay Regional Parks). Sarah has notified CDA, BOS aides, and close partners about taking a temporary leave while making sure to handle as many loose ends as possible before departing. Sarah organized and will be leading and facilitating the Lagunitas TAC meeting before heading on break. Finally, Sarah is providing ongoing support and facilitation to the needs in Tomales Bay; tire removal project with NOAA and Marin County as well as the TAC/Working Group.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed's (STRAW) riparian restoration monitoring and maintenance season is beginning. The team is almost finished with the 7 carbon farm plans due to one of the funders in mid June.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah P. closed out this project with CDFW. The project team will regroup in the near future to discuss SCC as a potential funding source to apply for implementation funds. Sarah reached out to the landowners involved in the restoration project designs to provide an update on our ongoing dedication to seeking implementation funds in addition to notifying them of her temporary leave for a few months.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Tomales Bay grant to remove tires (\$50k, \$40K goes to consultant). Staff continues to meet with Emilie and other north coast RCDs to strategize around Prop 4 funding through SCC and WCB.
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2025. At the last Finance Committee meeting the members discussed the retirement plan vesting schedule, the timing of the budget for FY 2026, human resource policy and CARCD dues.

- **District:** Strategic planning was initiated, ED drafted Fee Schedule for staff, edited Draft Employee Handbook
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
Urban Streams (April + May): 1 site visit, 15 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 8 landowners and/or partners were educated.
COW: 3 or 4 ranchers have received consultation, aside from the outreach happening in Stemple Creek related to COW MILC solicitation
CE: 7

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- [Mediterranean Oak Bearer hits Marin County](#)
- Nancy will be on vacation June 12-18.

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, April 9th, 2025**

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

Associate Directors: George Clyde

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Marcus Meggett, Preston Duncan, Sarah Phillips, Cora Richard, Emilie Winfield, Elise Suronen, Gerhard Epke and Lee Farese, Sarah Skinker

Additional Attendees: Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Liat Wilde (STRAW), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Rick Holland (Agroforestry), Martha Davis (Nicasio resident), Rachel Dennot (Public), Morgen Patten (Aide Supervisor to Dennis Rodoni's), Orlena Yee (Marin Carbon), Chance Cutrano (Resource Renewal Institute), Joe Deviney (Marin Ag Commissioner), Karin Reyna (NOAA), Ken Bouley (Turtle Island Restoration Network & SPAWN), Sebastian Tsocanos (NRCS), Sophia Grace Carter

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT:

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: Terry; SECOND: David; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry, Mike & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve March 2025 Board minutes.
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report and update on Federal Funding Freeze. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager, Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: David; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry, Mike & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve the Financial Report.
- C. Board approval to send Congressman Huffman a letter in support of extending the deadline to relocate the Point Reyes National Seashore ranches. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Sally, Terry & Mike; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: Jerry & David; to support the letter to Congressman Huffman.

3. TOMALES BAY TIRE SALVAGE PROJECT

- A. Request Board approval to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a \$49,900 Professional Service Agreement with the County of Marin to complete the Tomales Bay Tire Removal Assessment/Study. ~ *Karen Reyna, NOAA Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank Marine Sanctuaries and Sarah Phillips, Urban Stream Program Manager*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry, Mike & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a \$49,900 Professional Service Agreement with the County of Marin.

4. INFORMATIONAL

Overview of Point Blue/Marin RCD Planting Projects- *Point Blue Crew*

Point Blue gave us a great review of all the sites that have planting projects in conjunction with Marin RCD. The sites they presented were: SoMar Farms (a riparian windbreak), True Grass Farms (pollinator hedgerow), Moretti Farms (windbreak), Moreda-Poncía (windbreak) and Barinaga Farms (hedgerow).

North Coast Soil Hub- *Emilie Winfield, North Coast Soil Hub Director*

Moved to next month

Partner Updates:

- **Marin Agriculture-** Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner
Joe was present but needed to go to get to another meeting before he could give any updates.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff
Sebastian said NRCS has preapproved 55 applications for 2.7 million. Of the 55, 50 are EQUIP and 5 are RCPP contracts. 198 applications were received for the EQUIP funds.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
Scott said that MALT has closed out round 4 of their small grants program. They received 20 application, and will be announcing the awardees at the end of the month!
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff
Point Blue skipped their normal updates because they gave such a thorough overview presentation earlier in the meeting.
- **Audubon Canyon Ranch** – Jim Jensen was not present.
- **Marin Water Expansion** – John Dulcini (Marin RCD Associate Director)
Martha Davis shared as John was not present. She said MMWD wants to raise the Nicasio Reservoir 5-6 feet. First they will have to do an environmental review, and they are planning to do this project by next spring. The Nicasio Landowners Association would like to hold a community meeting.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Marin Water Expansion Alternatives** - New maps show new water levels for Nicasio
- **Funding Opportunities Current/Future:** Chileno Creek Restoration, Zone 10 Flood Control, COWGIRL, Carbon Cycle Inst.(approved!), Prop 4/Climate Bond, Mitigation Funds, Ballot Initiatives and Measures
- **September Strategic Plan Retreat** - Pick a day in Sept!
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW CCAF, phase VII of the COW program, has wrapped up. The final report and invoice has been submitted to the Water Board, and a summary of achievements is listed in the staff report. COW MILC, phase VIII, has begun. The agreement for \$1,000,000 is executed and six applications have been received for projects in the Stemple Creek watershed. The Technical Advisory Group has been meeting to review selection criteria, conduct site visits, and rank projects. The grant also funds practices in Drakes Bay watershed of the National Seashore and scoping for those projects is expected to begin later this spring. An application for COW GIRL phase IX was submitted to the Water Board.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The next visit with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria will take place in May. David Escobar is working on several projects and will soon meet with the JEDI Committee after the next FIGR site visit.

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Several National articles are pointing out the difficulties with the federal funding freeze associated with our USDA Climate Smart Commodities grant.
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is revising its findings and recommendations chapter. All technical work has been completed. Work is now underway to incorporate all technical reports into the final Biomass Utilization Study.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** Green Gulch Streamflow Enhancement Project is moving through design towards CEQA. 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.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC carried out four (4) site visits to assist landowners with various support, all relating to the health of Marin's watersheds. Smolt surveying has begun with Marin Water and will continue through late May, 2025. USC along with Lee and Preston completed the tests and other requirements associated with recertifying as RT-130 Fire Fighters (Type II). USC led the quarterly Lagunitas TAC meeting, carried out a Site Assessment per Stream Conservation Area Ordinance, met with a funder and MALT at the Martinelli pond project site, and carried out a preliminary investigation to sediment issues in Zone 10 area of Inverness along fire roads. USC played an instrumental role in supporting Olema Campground with addressing immediate flooding needs with the emergency permitting process and securing an engineer to assist. Finally, USC has been helping various watershed groups, as requested.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed's (STRAW) continues with their implementation season on 5 hedgerow/windbreak projects funded through WCB. Year 1 compost and rangeland seeding Healthy Soils Projects have been awarded and mostly implemented via the ZeroFoodPrint Block Grant. The 7 carbon farm plans funded by SCC, WCB, CDFA CAPGP and Marin County are almost complete, and the team aims to have drafts available for landowners by late May.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** The project team will regroup in the near future to discuss SCC as a potential funding source to apply for implementation funds. USC reached out to partner USFWS about additional funding in support of the project.
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21, 2025. At the last Finance Committee meeting the members discussed federal funding, budgeting, indirect cost rates, State Controller Financial Transaction report, the office lease, and the financial statement and Measure A audits.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on budget projections, fundraising.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
Urban Streams: 4 site visits, 14 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 50 landowners and/or partners were educated.
COW: 1 or 2 ranchers have received consultations, aside from the outreach happening in Stemple Creek related to COW MILC solicitation
CF: 64

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- May 14. Grazing Waiver Board Hearing

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:10 p.m.