



## 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](mailto: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-Poncia (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.

**Marin Resource Conservation District**  
**Monthly Financial Summary**  
**as of 6/4/2025**

**CASH**

**Wells Fargo\***

	<b>June</b>	<b>May</b>
Checking - Operating Account	\$ 277,494	\$ 363,428
No-till Drill Account	\$ 14,596	\$ 14,596
<b>Total Wells Fargo</b>	<b>\$ 292,090</b>	<b>\$ 378,024</b>

**County of Marin\*\***

Checking	\$ 512,475	\$ 411,550
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>\$ 804,565</b>	<b>\$ 789,574</b>

**OTHER WORKING CAPITAL DETAILS**

<b>Grants Receivable</b> - Open grant invoices - (see page 3)		\$ 599,286	\$ 887,426
<b>Retention Receivable</b> - Due from Grantors		\$ 9,456	\$ 9,456
<b>Prepaid Grant Funds Received:</b>			
Measure A - less-costs/Adm fees		\$ (941,876)	\$ (1,006,136)
Ombudsman Fund		\$ (19,793)	\$ (19,793)
<b>Current Bills To Pay</b> (see page 4):			
Administrative Expenses	12.00%	\$ (10,497)	\$ (16,462)
Grant Expenses, current to be paid	88.00%	\$ (76,957)	\$ (85,116)
<b>Net Working Capital</b>		<b>\$ 364,185</b>	<b>\$ 558,950</b>

\* - Wells Fargo bank balances are reported as of 6/4/2025. However, they are reconciled with the most recent activity through 4/30/2025. There will be adjustments as current statements become available and they could be significant.

\*\* - The County account is reported as of 6/4/2025. However, it is reconciled with the most recent "preliminary" statement through 5/31/2025. There will be adjustments as current statements become available and they could be significant.

## **Marin Resource Conservation District**

### **Monthly Financial Summary**

**Grants Receivable** - Money coming in. The RCD submits invoices to our grantors. Our work is paid on a reimbursable basis. The expected turnaround time for reimbursement varies but is usually 60-90 days.

**Retention Receivable** - Money coming in after grant is finalized. Some funders require a withholding of 10% of each invoice until the entire project is completed and approved. Once the funder is satisfied with the overall grant, the project is deemed complete and the remaining 10% is paid in full to the RCD.

**Prepaid Grant funds** - Received money upfront. This funding has been paid in advance of work being completed and is held in our accounts where, upon board approval, it is deducted from the balance.

**Current Bills To Pay** - Pay these bills now. These are bills where 1) the funder has provided payment, 2) the landowner/contractor cannot wait 60-90 days or 3) they support RCD operating expenses.



# MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Open Invoices

6/4/2025

Grantor	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 and over	Total
CA OPR Biomass	106,961	99,653			206,614
CA SCC Carbon	19,165				19,165
Carbon Cycle Institute				166	166
CDFA - HSP Block Grant (ZFP)	819				819
CDFA-CAPGP	13,489				13,489
Marin County Carbon Farming	63,173				63,173
Marin County Urban Streams	33,889				33,889
MMWD	230		2,939		3,168
North Coast Resource Conservation (UCOP)	11,474		12,012		23,485
SCC Wildfire	11,855				11,855
Straus Home Ranch LLC				226	226
USDA Climate Smart Commodities (SMACCC)	92,459				92,459
USDA Cooperative Grant 2024	14,319				14,319
USDA GLCI (Grazing Lands)			1,970	9,959	11,929
Wildlife Conservation Board 2022	104,533				104,533
<b>TOTAL OPEN INVOICES</b>	<b>\$ 472,363</b>	<b>\$ 99,653</b>	<b>\$ 16,920</b>	<b>\$ 10,351</b>	<b>\$ 599,286</b>
Retainers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,456	\$ 9,456
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 472,363</b>	<b>\$ 99,653</b>	<b>\$ 16,920</b>	<b>\$ 19,807</b>	<b>\$ 608,742</b>
	78%	16%	3%	3%	100%

Note: Aging is based upon the date payments are expected.

Total due 91 days and over	91 and over	
Carbon Cycle Institute	10/01/2024	166
Straus Home Ranch LLC	1/1/2025	226
USDA GLCI (Grazing Lands)*	6/30/2024	5,410
USDA GLCI (Grazing Lands)*	9/30/2024	4,549
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,351</b>
Retainers		9,456
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>19,807</b>

\* - Payment from the federal government is frozen.

# MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Bills to Pay

June 2025

Name	Date	Memo	Aging	Open Balance
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>				
Destination HR Consulting Inc	5/31/2025	Human Resources Consulting	4	\$ 598
Duncan, Preston	5/31/2025	Reimbursement	4	\$ 631
Epke, Gerhard	5/31/2025	Reimbursement	4	\$ 480
Horizon Cable TV	5/31/2025	Internet	4	\$ 134
Katuna, Michelle	5/31/2025	Reimbursement	4	\$ 36
Meggett, Marcus	5/31/2025	Reimbursement	4	\$ 60
Olson Rencho LLP	5/31/2025	Parcel Tax Measure	4	\$ 2,747
O'Neill, Fiona	5/31/2025	Reimbursement	4	\$ 367
Pt Reyes 4th Investors LLC	7/1/2025	May Office Rent	N/A	\$ 2,373
Scolari, Nancy	5/31/2025	Reimbursement	4	\$ 655
Skinker, Sarah	5/31/2025	Reimbursement	4	\$ 1,089
SubMerge Media	5/14/2025	Newsletter	21	\$ 400
Suronen, Elise	5/31/2025	Reimbursement	4	\$ 36
Smile Business Products	5/17/2025	Copier	18	\$ 150
US Bank Corporate	5/24/2025	Ring Central	11	\$ 312
US Bank Corporate	5/24/2025	QuickBooks Online fee	11	\$ 99
US Bank Corporate	5/24/2025	SpringAhead	11	\$ 330
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>				<b>\$ 10,497</b>
<i>Grant Expenses</i>				
Abudnance Ag Engineering	5/31/2025	CAPGP	4	\$ 11,633
Cohen-Hicks Property	5/31/2025	Somar Lands Fencing	4	\$ 17,236
Phillips, Sarah	5/31/2025	Reimbursement	4	\$ 2,035
Brewer, Kelsey	5/31/2025	Soil & Forage data processing, SHMP	4	\$ 3,200
Point Blue Conservation Science	5/31/2025	WCB Hedgerow Planting	4	\$ 23,615
Point Blue Conservation Science	5/31/2025	SCC Carbon Planting	4	\$ 9,695
Westview Petaluma	5/31/2025	Container Rentals	4	\$ 2,000
Winfield, Emilie	5/31/2025	Reimbursement	4	\$ 861
Yee, Orlena	5/31/2025	Marin Carbon Project Management	4	\$ 6,682
<b>Total Grant Expenses</b>				<b>\$ 76,957</b>
<b>Total Bills to Pay</b>				<b>\$ 87,454</b>

# MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES

May 2025

Name	Date	Memo	Open Balance
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>			
Amy Stork	4/30/2025	Strategic Planning Consultant	\$ 5,000
Destination HR	4/30/2025	Human Resources Consultant	\$ 1,426
Duncan, Preston	4/30/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 645
Epke, Gerhard	4/30/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 480
Farese, Lee	4/30/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 636
Horizon Cable TV	4/30/2025	Internet	\$ 134
Katuna, Michelle	4/30/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 36
Meggett, Marcus	4/30/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 60
O'Neill, Fiona	4/30/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 231
Pt Reyes 4th Investors LLC	6/1/2025	March Office Rent	\$ 2,373
Richard, Cora	4/30/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 117
Scolari, Nancy	4/30/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 630
Skinker, Sarah	4/30/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 732
Suronen, Elise	4/30/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 527
Smile Business Products	4/17/2025	Copier	\$ 150
US Bank Corporate	4/24/2025	Monday.com	\$ 2,544
US Bank Corporate	4/24/2025	QuickBooks Online fee	\$ 99
US Bank Corporate	4/24/2025	RingCentral	\$ 312
US Bank Corporate	4/24/2025	SpringAhead	\$ 330
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>			<b>\$ 16,462</b>
<i>Grant Expenses</i>			
Ascent Project Management	4/30/2025	Soil Symposium	\$ 431
CDW LLC	2/28/2025	OPR Biomass Project Management	\$ 29,378
CDW LLC	3/31/2025	OPR Biomass Project Management	\$ 28,647
Phillips, Sarah	4/30/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 636
US Bank Corporate	4/24/2025	4th Street Deli - Soil Hub	\$ 732
Point Blue Conservation Science	2/28/2025	WCB Hedgerow Planting	\$ 25,510
Point Blue Conservation Science	3/31/2025	WCB Hedgerow Planting	\$ 25,563
Point Blue Conservation Science	3/31/2025	SCC Carbon Planting	\$ 2,663
Spatial Informatics Group	3/31/2025	OPR Biomass	\$ 24,311
Winfield, Emilie	4/30/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 579
Yee, Orlena	4/30/2025	Marin Carbon Project Coordinator	\$ 5,122
<b>Total Grant Expenses</b>			<b>\$ 85,116</b>
<b>Total Bills to Pay</b>			<b>\$ 101,578</b>

## Marin RCD Grants

Done	Grant	Funding	Status	Lead	Purpose
	1 SWRCB 319h Water Quality on the ranches-dairies	\$ 800,000	Awarded 2020	Marin RCD	Implement projects on the ranches in TBay and Stemple watersheds
X	2 Campbell Drawdown Marin	\$ 10,000	Declined	Marin RCD	Fund participation in Drawdown Marin
X	3 CA Wildlife Cons Board Pacific Flyway	\$ 400,000	Declined	CARCD	Fund Corda restoration
X	4 CDFW Walker Creek Estuary	\$ 350,000	Awarded 04/2020	Marin RCD	Study Walker estuary for fisheries enhancement
n/a	5 Halleck Creek Horse Stables	TBD	directed to grant	Marin RCD	Manure composting
X	6 COM Keys Creek @ Highway 1 Road Project	\$ 7,100	Awarded 2020	Marin RCD	Work with STRAW and Colliss Ranch to stabilize landslide with willow stakes
X	7 CDFA Restore California - Stemple	\$ 3,126	Awarded 2020	Marin RCD	Work with stemple creek ranch to implement carbon project
n/a	8 Devils Gulch Restoration	TBD	On hold	Marin RCD	Work with CA State Parks on fisheries enhacement
X	9 Cambria/Jackson Wines	\$ 25,000	Awarded 02/2020	Marin RCD	MCP Coordination
X	10 Carbon Farm Plan Implementation	\$ 500,000	Declined	MRCD/STRAW	Implement wildlife projects in carbon farm plans
X	11 GrizzlyCorps Member	\$ 20,000	Awarded 10/2020	Marin RCD	College intern to help with outreach/education in the ag community
X	12 CA Wildlife Cons Board Technical Assistance	\$ 55,000	Declined	CARCD	Technical assitance to producers for carbon farming
X	13 CDFW Lower Lagunitas Assessment	\$ 26,000	Declined	SPAWN	Work with lower Lagunitas landowners and TAC on salmon enhanement opps
X	14 USDA Rancher to Rancher	\$ 25,000	Declined	CARCD	Soil monitoring for 1 ranch, training for staff, 1 rancher to rancher workshop
X	15 NACD TA2020 Regional Soil Health Hub Coordinator	\$ 109,000	Awarded 07/2020	Marin RCD	North Bay Soil Health Coordinator for RCDs. Coordinate programs and staffing
	16 DOC Riparian Restoration Corridor/Cons	\$ 430,000	Awarded 12/2020	Marin RCD	Stemple Creek Riparian Project at Rhigetti Ranch
X	17 MWMA Pyrphytic Plants from Marshall - Inverness	TBD	cancelled	Marin RCD	Remove broom, eucalyptus, jabada grass with 12 properties around the Bay.
X	18 PRNS Tech Assist for Ranchers	\$ 69,847	Awarded 03/2020	Marin RCD	Assistance to seashore ranchers for RDM sampling, conditional waivers, planning
X	19 Shovel Ready Projects	\$ 1,000,000	cancelled	NoCoRCDs	Provide legislators with a list of shovel ready projects in prep for stimulus \$
X	20 COVID	\$ 5,000	Awarded 07-2020	CARCD	Provide grants to producers for covid protection
	21 SWRCB 319H Water Quality in Lower Lagunitas	\$ 30,000	Awarded 05/2021	SPAWN	Assist with 2 road projects on ranches
X	22 GrizzlyCorps Member	TBD	Awarded 04/2021	Marin RCD	Intern to help with outreach, monitoring and DEI
	23 CDFA Technical Assistance	\$ 60,000	Awarded 08/2021	Marin RCD	Assist producers in applications to Healthy Soils Program
X	24 NACD TA2021 Regional Soil Health Hub Coordinator	\$ 114,000	Awarded 04/2021	Marin RCD	North Bay Soil Health Coordinator for RCDs. Coordinate programs and staffing
	25 COM Support for Carbon Farm Plans	\$ 50,000	Awarded 03/2021	Marin RCD	Development of 5 carbon farm plans plus match for grant #29
X	26 NFWF Monarch Habitat	TBD	Awarded 11/2021	Gold Ridge RCD	Support monarch habitat with landowners
	27 SCC Prop68 Climate Grant	\$ 1,000,000	Awarded 12/2021	Marin RCD	Farm plans, implementation, designs, ed workshops, no till drill and FIGR collaboration
	28 Beaver Dam Analogues	TBD	On hold	TBD	Install Beaver Dam Structures at select locations in the Walker Cr watershed
	29 Lagunitas Restoration @ Coast Guard	TBD	On hold	TBD	Potential collaboration to enhance Lagunitas at the Coast Guard reach
X	30 MCF-Kurland Marin Carbon Project Coordinator	\$ 50,000	Awarded 05/2021	Marin RCD	coordinate and scale carbon farming in Marin county
X	31 MRCD Internship/Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,000	Awarded 07/2021	Marin RCD	support young dissadvantaged interns wishing to learn on-the job-skills
X	32 Edwards Mother Earth Foundation	\$ 592,000	Declined	CARCD	[Soil Hub] expand agroforestry component of carbon farm plans in the north coast region
	33 PRNS Tech Assist for Ranchers	\$ 48,285	Awarded 09/2021	Marin RCD	Assistance to seashore ranchers for RDM sampling, conditional waivers, planning
	34 OPR Marin Biomass Project	\$ 500,000	Awarded 06/2022	Marin RCD	Develop recommendations for biomass recovery and utilization processes, infrastructure, and investment
X	35 MALT Carbon Farming	\$ 90,000	Awarded 03/2021	Marin RCD	2 carbon farm plans and carbon farming implementation
	36 COM Support for Carbon Farming	\$ 125,000	Awarded 12/2021	Marin RCD	support project develoment
X	37 UC Western SARE Soils Training	\$ 78,167	Awarded 03/2022	Marin RCD	[Soil Hub] Soil Health Assessment/Management Through California's North Coast Soil Hub
	38 WCB Monarch Pollinator Habitat	\$ 250,000	Awarded 09/2022	CARCD	Install and monitor monarch/pollinator plants in riparian or hedgerow areas
	39 USDA Climate Smart Commodities	\$ 3,585,745	Awarded 09/2022	Sonoma County	Plan, design, install, monitor GHG reduction and carbon sequestration projects
X	40 NACD TA2022 Regional Soil Health Hub Coordinator	\$ 124,000	Awarded 09/2022	Marin RCD	North Coast Soil Health Coordinator for RCDs. Coordinate programs and staffing
X	41 Planning Drought Resiliency	\$ 286,239	Declined	Marin RCD	Work with UCCE-MALT on drought resiliency watershed planning for producers
	42 NRCS Grazing Lands	\$ 25,000	Awarded 04/2023	Gold Ridge RCD	[Soil Hub] Staff training on prescribed grazing/ grazing mgmt plans, workshops and education for produce
	43 CDFA Conservation Planning (CAPGP)	\$ 182,000	Awarded 02/2023	Marin RCD	Carbon farm plans, grazing management plans, soil health management plans

## Marin RCD Grants

	44	SWRCB 319h Water Quality on the ranches-dairies	\$	739,872	Awarded 07/2023	Marin RCD	Implement projects on the ranches in PRNS and Stemple watersheds
	45	FHA Anadromous Organism Passage (AOP) grant		TBD	Due 2/6/23	Mill Valley	Support Mill Valley StreamKeepers & City of Mill Valley with proposal for barrier retrofit for fish passage
	46	OPR Marin Biomass Project	\$	250,000	Awarded 05/2023	Marin RCD	Develop recommendations for biomass recovery and utilization processes, infrastructure, and investment
	47	UC SAREP CA Farm Demonstration Network	\$	53,730	Awarded 07/2023	UC SAREP (Conser	[Soil Hub] Development and monitoring of field trials, education and outreach on soil health and climate-
X	48	DOC Capacity Building	\$	681,445	Declined	Marin RCD	[Soil Hub] Tools and technology for program and project management - Salesforce integration; outreach
	49	CDFA Healthy Soils Block Grant w/Zero Foodprint	\$	22,500	Awarded 09/2023	Zero Foodprint	[Soil Hub] CDFA Healthy Soils Program technical assistance and implementation - block grant pilot
X	50	NOAA Fisheries	\$	8,000,000	Declined	Marin RCD	habitat restoration and coastal resilience. Focus on salmon restoration.
	51	MCF-Kurland Marin Carbon Project Coordinator	\$	50,000	Awarded 06/2023	Marin RCD	coordinate and scale carbon farming in Marin county
	52	NACD TA2023 Regional Soil Health Hub Director	\$	73,950	Awarded 01/2024	Marin RCD	[Soil Hub] North Coast Soil Health Coordinator for RCDs. Coordinate programs and staffing
X	53	OPR Enhancing Climate Resilience in North Bay	\$	127,000	Declined	Gold Ridge RCD	Urban rebate program to construct rainwater catchment systems
X	54	OPR Community Economic Resilience Fund		TBD	cancelled	Marin RCD	Feasibility study to build out biomass-related climate jobs (high road jobs)
X	55	MC Measure A FARE PRNS Weed Mgmt	\$	100,000	Declined	Marin RCD	Comparative methods of removal of Scotch Broom on PRNS rangeland
	56	North Coast Wildfire Resilience Block Grant	\$	250,000	Awarded 05/2024	Humboldt RCD	Equipment, fire prevention, training/workforce development, CEQA-NEPA permitting
	57	NRCS Soil Hub Director	\$	75,000	Awarded 06/2024	Marin RCD	[Soil Hub] Continuation of North Coast Soil Hub Director position
	58	NACD TA2024 Regional Soil Health Hub Director	\$	181,540	Awarded 12/2024	Marin RCD	[Soil Hub] North Coast Soil Health Director for RCDs. Coordinate programs and staffing. Also funds time fr
	59	Tomales Bay Tire Removal	\$	50,000	In Progress	Marin RCD	Possible contract with the county to remove old tires in Tomales Bay
	60	Zone 10-Inverness Flood Control	\$	30,000	In Progress	Marin RCD	Possible contract with county to address flood issues in Zone 10
	61	COWGIRL	\$	724,000	In Progress	Marin RCD	Continuation of COW water quality program
	62	Prop4-Climate Bond		TBD	In Progress	TBD	TBD
	63	Carbon Cycle Institute	\$	24,440	Awarded 03/2025	Marin RCD	Contract for North Coast Soil Hub director involvement in Bay Area Regional Climate Planning and statew
	64	WRA Mitigation	\$	250,000	Declined	Marin RCD	Possible funding source for Chileno Creek Restoration Project
	65	Private Foundation	\$	50,000	Declined	Napa RCD	[Soil Hub] Fill the federal funding gap for Soil Hub Director position
	66	USDA Advancing Markets for Producers	\$	2,000,000	In Progress	Marin RCD	Implementation of soil health practices

# Marin RCD Staff Report

## June, 2025

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### *District*

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- **ED Report**
  - District
    - Conflict of Interest Policy requires one final edit
    - Strategic Plan - Identified 15 Strategic plan partners and sent emails to all
  - Personnel
    - Edited Draft Employee Handbook
    - Finalized Sabbatical Policy with HR
    - Check ins with staff
  - Contracts - Reviewed/Authorize/Signed contracts under \$50,000:
    - Culture Amp Personnel Review Software \$1,950
    - County of Marin - Tomales Bay Tires \$49,900
    - Abundance Ag Engineering \$50,000
  - Finance
    - Led weekly Staff Finance Meetings
    - Cancelled staff credit cards due to fraud, organized CalCard information
    - Organized Federal Indirect Cost Rate Information
    - Drafted Marin RCD Fee Schedule
    - Met with staff/partners to strategize funding (Zone 10, TB Tires, Prop4, COWGIRL, Chileno, 2 private funds, SCC Fire, MeasA,)
  - Newsletter/Website - Added Associate Directors and Regional Fire Program Mgr. Worked with Jerry and format editor on newsletter content and photos
  - Meetings/Conferences: North Coast RCD, North Coast Soil Hub, RCD Finance, RCD Staff Finance, Together North Bay Area Conference, Strategic Planning Committee, MALT ED & Stewardship Director, Supervisor Rodoni Aide
- **New Grants:** (See [grant status spreadsheet](#) for a full list of out-standing grants)

- **A “Funding Opportunities for Working Lands” spreadsheet:** informs local producers about cost-share and grant programs they can apply to for conservation projects. For most programs on the list, you do not need to have a Carbon Farm Plan to apply or qualify. Spreadsheet will be updated semi-annually. [Find at this link](#) or on the Carbon Farming page at [marinrcd.org](http://marinrcd.org).
- **District Operations & Financials:** *(FC: David Sherwood, Sally Gale, Terry Sawyer, Marcus Meggett, Nancy Scolari)*
  - It is mandated by the federal government that we get a “Single Audit” for the first time. We are looking at our options to comply with this standard.
  - For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 we are projecting a surplus. Revenue is less than projected and so are expenses. More details will be available as we wrap up the fiscal year.
  - The creation of FY25-26 Draft Budget has been completed and is slated to be reviewed by the Finance Committee in June 2025 and presented to the MRCD Board in July 2025.
  - A projection of Marin RCD’s ability to fund staff into the future based on currently secured grants was created by Elise, and has informed our strategy with open proposals.
- **Staff Development**
  - We are re-evaluating health insurance options with an HR consultant.
  - A complete list of staff training and take-aways can be [found at this link](#).
  - A new MRCD Employee Handbook is being prepared with HR consultant, Nancy, Elise and Marcus.
- **Diversity Equity, Inclusion and Justice**
  - The Carbon Farming team has hired David Escobar as a JEDI consultant, funded by the SCC grant. David continues to meet with MRCD staff and board, and will soon meet with the JEDI committee to discuss our implementation process in the coming months.
  - MRCD Carbon Farm Team and Michelle Katuna developed a scope of work with FIGR that outlines a workflow between the two parties and other partners such as STRAW. The draft was approved at the August 2023 board meeting. The final draft is currently going through the FIGR legal team channels for approval.
  - Nancy and Elise drafted a DEI analysis associated with RCD programs which David Escobar is currently reviewing.

- Through the North Coast Soil Hub, RCDs are collaborating on Spanish language education and outreach on soil health and climate-friendly ag and creating a regional outreach plan for small and underserved producers.
- Carbon Farming Staff visited Sembrando Vida, a brand new 1-acre Latinx crop farm incubator program located on Blue Marble Acres, to provide technical support. The goal of the program is to provide low-cost, culturally appropriate fresh food to the farmworker community in West Marin.

### See below for Marin RCD Studies, Programs & Project updates:

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#### *Walker Creek Study (Sarah Phillips, PM)*

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- **Lower Walker Creek Estuary Study (100% complete):** Closed on March 31, 2024. This grant from CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) was to study the Walker Creek estuary and evaluate opportunities for fisheries enhancement.
  - 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.
  - Phillips connected with the Bay Area grant manager at SCC to gauge interest in funding the lower Walker projects. The interest is there.
  - Phillips reached out to contact the US Fish & Wildlife Service to inquire about funding.

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#### *Biomass Project (Chad White, PM)*

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The Marin Biomass Project was developed in response to increasing biomass flow generated by wildfire prevention activities and by landfill diversion efforts in the County overseen, respectively, by the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) and by Zero Waste Marin (ZWM). It was also developed in response to the Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD)'s work to advance carbon farming and advance climate-smart practices as a member of the Marin Carbon Project. MWPA's work generates biomass flows. ZWM's work guides diversion of biomass flows from landfill and Marin's compost procurement responsibilities. MRCD's staff work with agricultural producers in west Marin whose operations are potential sites of compost application to land. The project looks for synergy



across the work of these organizations and the capacity to create a shared platform for sustainable utilization, rather than waste, of a range of biomass types: woody biomass from forests and woodlands, source-separated organics, and mixed construction and demolition materials, food scraps, yard trimmings, and agricultural biomass. The goal is to ensure that biomass utilization pathways support wildfire prevention and landfill diversion, while also reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The Project is designed to foster cooperation among stakeholders in biomass utilization, particularly the public authorities who oversee and the private organizations that manage biomass management infrastructure and processes. A forum called the “Marin Biomass Collaborative” was created to support rapid implementation of recommendations developed through the Study. The Marin Biomass Project is also in a cohort of five pilot projects selected in 2021 by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR). It has been awarded \$900,000 in grant funding to identify solutions that overcome barriers to biomass feedstock utilization. Technical analysis and project management funded under this grant have been awarded through RFPs for consulting contracts.

**Activity in the last month:**

- **Study Production. 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.
- **Contract Status.** 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.

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*Conserving Our Watersheds Program*  
*Gerhard Epke PM*

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- **COW (MILC) Phase VII funded by 319(h) Water Board (7 % complete)**
  - Water Board agreement executed and project initiated in January 2025
  - MRCD’s scope includes Management Practices at dairies that support the attainment of the Stemple Creek-Estero de San Antonio watershed Sediment & Nutrients TMDL and towards enhancing the high water quality of Drakes Bay Watershed.
  - In December project solicitation postcards were sent to all the known dairies in the Stemple Creek watershed. Responses turned into six applications. In March

the grant's Technical Advisory Group was assembled and began by reviewing project selection and ranking criteria developed in previous COW cycles, conducting site visits to all applicants, and ranking applications.

- Five dairy projects in Stemple Creek have moved into design phase.
- In Point Reyes National Seashore, staff conducted site visits to the three departing dairies within Drakes Bay watershed. Despite the termination of the dairy operations, some beneficial project opportunities remain viable and beneficial to downstream waters, particularly decommissioning manure ponds.
- Professional services agreements are being developed for engineering, biology and cultural resources consultants.

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*Marin Permit Coordination Program*  
*Gerhard Epke PM*

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The Marin Permit Coordination Program (PCP) refers primarily to an Initial Study- Mitigated Negative Declaration used by Marin RCD to conduct CEQA approval of projects. The PCP prescribes environmental protections for a suite of NRCS conservation practices, thereby streamlining the design and approval process for landowners and ranchers pursuing restoration projects. The term of this ten-year program ends in 2027 and staff are currently fundraising for a renewal. Other aspects of this program include being contracted as a CEQA lead agency for other restoration projects and assisting landowners with permits for public trust agencies.

- The 2025 PCP project list is expected to include COW MILC and carbon farming practices but has not yet been compiled.
- **Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) CA Vegetation Treatment Program Plan**
  - MRCD was contracted by ACR to act as CEQA Lead on a field management plan funded by the CALFIRE and managed by ACR. MRCD scope of work is limited to CEQA document drafting, review and submission.
  - ACR has started their Project Specific Analysis Draft 1 and are in touch with MRCD staff as they develop a plan for Coastal Commission permits.
  - A recent emergency proclamation from the governor suspending CEQA and Coastal Act for critical fuels reduction projects may impact RCD's scope.
- **Green Gulch Streamflow Enhancement Project**
  - MRCD was contracted by Green Gulch to act as CEQA Lead on a streamflow

enhancement project funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board and managed by Green Gulch and Prunuske Chatham Inc (PCI). Project involves a Section 1707 Water Rights change, pond installation, pond enhancement and pond decommissioning/restoration. All permitting will be conducted by PCI.

- MRCD conducted a site visit with FIGR.
- Designs at 95%, construction cost estimates, and specifications a/o 3/2024
- Met with Cutting the Green Tape (2).
- Suronen, on behalf of MRCD, sent a formal request to consult with FIGR on the project in 08/2023. A CEQA consultation meeting was held with FIGR, PCI and Green Gulch Farms, and FIGR gave their support along with next steps for coordinating with them as PCI moves forward with the permitting of the project.
- Hunt for implementation dollars continues - they hope to apply to WCB in 2025/26.
- Designs have changed due to seismic concerns a/o April 2024.
- Another meeting was held with FIGR Feb 27, 2025 to present the design changes
- PCI has developed a draft Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) for CDFW Cutting the Green Tape, will present the SERP Findings to MRCD Board for approval to submit for CDFW concurrence at an upcoming RCD board meeting

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*Carbon Farming Program (Sarah Skinker, Lee Farese, Preston Duncan, Fiona O'Neill)*

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- **MALT Stewardship Assistance Program (SAP-100% complete):** The MRCD interacts with the SAP program funding in two ways which is through interagency projects or through conflict of interest projects. 4 projects have been completed and the partnership is currently on an indefinite pause.
- **Restore CA by Zero Foodprint (ZFP):** ZFP's Restore CA program will generate funds from restaurants charging diners with a 1% donation to support regenerative agriculture. Local producers can apply for the grant on their own, but must designate a local RCD as their technical assistance provider. Please contact Marin RCD well in advance of the application deadline to discuss our technical assistance budget. Past applications have been ranked by the "total carbon removal per dollar" which is calculated as the requested grant amount divided by the total metric tons of modeled CO2e (calculated using COMET Planner). Priority also given to historically underserved applicants. Currently, Marin RCD staff are coordinating with other North Coast RCDs to discuss improvements to grant process with ZFP.

- Marin RCD provided TA on 1 additional ZFP application, completed
  - Marin RCD participated in submitting a CDFA Healthy Soils block grant, alongside 8 additional RCDs, with ZFP serving as the administrative grantee. 6 projects at 4 ranches were approved by CDFA for implementation in Fall of 2024. Implementation will be ongoing through 2026.
  - Zero Foodprint now also runs a Compost Connector program. [More information can be found here.](#)
- **Marin Carbon Project (ongoing):** The MCP now has a new Strategic Plan and Charter to guide overall coordination of carbon farming activities in the county and beyond.
    - MCP is working on the following topics:
      - Carbon farm plan accessibility
      - Carbon farming practice implementation
      - Monitoring and verification
    - MCP has created a Compost Working Group to ID barriers to composting. She is also identifying funding sources to support compost systems.
    - Orlena is working on Climate Financing with Marin Climate Action Network
- **State Coastal Conservancy – SCC (85% complete):** This grant funds the Carbon Farming (CF) technical support team for the RCD while building county-wide capacity to accelerate adoption of the Marin County CF Program. The RCD and eight partners will expand Marin County’s existing CF Program by: implementing 15-20 shovel-ready CF practices on 6–8 ranches, designing 15–20 more CF practices (planning for future implementation), and writing 6 new CF plans (CFPs) on newly participating farms (planning).
    - Carbon Farm Planning and Design update(s)
      - Carbon Farm Plans are 95% complete
      - 12 applications were submitted for design with STRAW. Rankings were approved by SCC and Marin County in early June and will be presented to the board as an informational item due to the conflict of interest policy.
    - Tribal collaboration Buffy McQuillen and Matthew Johnson attended October 2023s board meeting for an open discussion about the collaboration. The CF Team met with STRAW and FIGR representatives in late June 2024 to discuss upcoming opportunities for collaboration. On May 9th, 2025 MRCD and STRAW staff reconnected with land owners and managers, and Tribal staff and citizens to re-visit implemented collaborative riparian restoration design projects at Toluma and Straus, and to receive input on new designs. Tribal staff expressed interest in

another site visit to Straus Home and Toluma in the near future, and to continuing collaboration.

- 4 of 6 WCB design recipients were implemented last fall/winter: TrueGrass, Straus, Toluma, Cohen. Planting has begun. Mahrt is not moving forward with implementation due to the current avian flu conditions. Torliatt has chosen not to move forward with implementation in this grant, but rather implemented herself last winter. Maintenance and monitoring continues at the implemented sites.
- **WCB 2022 (30% complete):** MRCD staff will collaborate with PB STRAW to implement and maintain 3-5 hedgerow/windbreak projects, work with Walker Creek Ranch to construct an ADA accessible pollinator and planting garden, and complete 1 Carbon Farm plan.
  - Carbon farm plan almost completed
  - Hedgerow/windbreak implementation complete. MRCD Board heard design and plant palette updates in August 2024. STRAW continues on through implementation season on all projects.
  - Sarah continues to meet with Walker Creek Nursery team, including WCR naturalists and contract designers.
    - WCR is going to reapply for the FARE grant this summer for a naturalist that would staff the new space.
    - STRAW nursery team met with WCR nursery designer onsite in September 2024 to discuss infrastructure considerations, and again in March to review design drafts.
    - Educational resources will be developed in coordination with Emilie and regional RCDs (North Coast Soil Hub)
- **USDA Climate Smart Commodities – SMACCC (15% complete):** *We are currently not billing this grant due to the federal funding freeze. Work has paused until we receive more clarity from USDA on how to move forward.*
  - Emilie is co-leading the Regional Carbon Finance Working Group. This group is evaluating current Carbon Farming finance mechanisms and producing policy recommendations for improving the efficiency and efficacy of funding streams.
  - EW, SS, LF and PD are part of Implementation and MMRV project teams. EW is serving as lead for the MMRV team.
  - The Implementation Team has established Technical Advisory Committees for a Marin/Sonoma joint range/dairy TAC and joint Crop/Specialty Crop TAC.

- Sarah is leading the Dairy/Range TAC across 3 RCDs and finalized the review criteria in October.
  - Pasture-based projects (planting, stream restoration, compost application etc.) application window has closed as of January 31st, and we received 12 new applications containing over 30 practices. Ag team is reviewing applications to determine SMACCC eligibility before ranking and presenting to TAC in late February. The team will present rankings for approval by the board in March.
    - Measure A is funding all implementation, SMACCC provides staff time
  - EW is serving on the SMACCC Crop Support Organization Working Group for small and underserved producers.
- **CDFA Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program – CAPGP (95% complete)**
    - This grant will fund 7 Carbon Farming Plans (CFPs), 7 grazing management plans, and 7 soil health management plans.
    - This grant began on 7/1/23. All plans are near completion and will be submitted by 6/14/25
    - Lee is working with Tom Hammond at Abundance Ag Engineering to develop DIAs, designs for grazing management practices.
    - Fiona is working with Kelsey Brewer to develop Soil Health Management Plan templates for each plan.
    - Marin RCD staff are meeting regularly with North Coast RCD planners to develop templates together and share resources/tools around planning.
  - **No-Till Drill**
    - Rentals of the No-Till Drill are paused until Fall 2025. We are grateful that it is housed at Mike Moretti's place.
    - The drill was rented for a total of 7 days in the fall of 2024. We are adjusting our outreach strategy in 2025 to contact more producers.
    - In an attempt to get more users, we reduced the cost in 2024 from \$250/day to \$200/day, a rate consistent with other local RCDs.
  - **Technical Capacity Building and Training**
    - Fiona is participating in the Chico State Center for Regenerative Ag and Resilient Systems Technical Assistance Provider certification program through the end of August 2025. 🎓
    - Fiona earned a California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) certification for monitoring wetland condition from San Francisco Estuary Institute in May 2025.

- **National Association of Conservation Districts (5th year is 17% complete) and NRCS Cooperative Agreement (30% complete) - North Coast Regional Soil Hub**

The Soil Hub created a revised Strategic Plan for 2025-2029. Shasta Valley RCD has joined the North Coast Soil Hub. A big focus of 2025 is regional grant proposals to secure funding for soil health and climate-beneficial ag, partnership development, education, and wrapping up a few regional grants.

Outreach/communications/events:

- Coordinating outreach and education deliverables for the region through WCB Implementation Grant, NRCS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative grant, UC SAREP CA Farm Demonstration Network grant, and Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities.
  - North Coast Regional Soil Symposium 2025 took place in March-April. See [summary report](#) here.
  - RCDs in Marin and Sonoma partnered with Point Blue and Rancher to host an event on April 18 at Freestone Ranch.
- Working on education and outreach for the Soil Hub. Currently developing a series of implementation stories for carbon farming practices. The goal is to have a series of stories showcasing regional implementation activities for the purpose of informing other farmers and ranchers and being a source of inspiration and empowerment.
- Working with Hub members to assemble information on soil testing labs, soil sampling protocols, sources of compost and compost spreaders, native plants, equipment, etc. to share on the Hub website.
- Writing an article on NRCS CSP program for North Coast farmers and ranchers.
- Attended two Napa RISE Climate and Wine workshops on water efficiency and soil health in early May.
- Tabled with RCDs at Together Bay Area Conference in San Francisco.

Partnerships and working groups:

- Facilitating a North Coast carbon farm planning peer learning group with regional RCDs to build technical capacity for CF planning.
- Facilitating a Soil Health Management Planning committee with North Coast RCD planners.

- Participating in statewide ag and climate hubs cohort group with other regional coordinators and CARCD. Attending biweekly meetings.
- Participating in statewide policy workgroup for RCD Ag & Climate program advancement.
- Attended CA Farm Demonstration Network Meetings.
- Serving on the Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan: NWL Technical Stakeholder Group; working to develop Natural and Working Lands climate action measures and coordinating input from RCDs.
- Attended two day gathering at Paicines Ranch with the statewide regional ag and climate hub coordinators, Carbon Cycle Institute, and CARCD.
- Data from the regional vineyard soil health database was shared with the CA Air Resources Board to support their modeling and validation efforts for working lands.

#### Technical capacity building and training:

- Identified staff priorities for training and professional development for 2025.
- Partnered with Point Blue to host a training on virtual fence at Magruder Ranch in Mendocino County on May 22.

#### Hub Governance:

- Attending monthly North Coast Durable Collaboration meetings.
- Next Hub governance meeting is June 2025.

#### Funding opportunities:

1. North Coast RCDs are exploring ag-focused regional grant proposals in 2025 to access Prop 4 Climate Bond dollars and other funds. Emilie is hosting meetings and coordinating North Coast proposals to SCC, WCB, CDFA, and NFWF.
2. NACD TA and Outreach Program for a 5th year of funding for Emilie's position in October. - *Awarded, contract in place*
3. Submitted a proposal to a local foundation to provide support for the North Coast Soil Hub. *Awarded*
4. Proposal to foundation to provide support for North Coast Soil Hub shared staff. *Declined*
5. Secured small contract with Carbon Cycle Institute to support Emilie's time for climate action initiatives, policy workgroup to advance climate-beneficial ag, and statewide RCD regional hubs network participation.



- Phillips provided assistance on the following during the months of April & May:
  - Site Visit: Met with board member of Sleepy Hollow to review creek conditions, community center infrastructure near the creek bank, and followed up with resources and contact information for engineers, if need be.
  - Assisted a plethora of partners and landowners with miscellaneous requests.
- Helped carry out and attend the annual Salmonid Restoration Federation fisheries conference in Santa Cruz, CA.
- Attended the Marin Prescribed Fire Cooperative and provided updates on behalf of MRCD, as well as Preston. I introduced Lee to the group, who attended virtually, and is now officially part of the cooperative moving forward.
- Smolt monitoring on Lagunitas (with Marin Water) and Walker (with CDFW). Numbers lower than expected in Lagunitas, but still good turnout of smolts with nearly 100% trap efficiency documented.
- Presented USC Prgm to BOS aides as there are many new ones now at the County. This allowed me to give an overview and speak to the various benefits the program has provided to the county and streamside residents.
  - Followed up with one of the aides in a one-on-one meeting to provide assistance.
- Attended monthly Marin Project Coordination (MPC) meetings with follow up action items carried out.
- Attended the UCCE CA Tree School re: fire and forestry as well as defensible space via FireWise presentations.
- Attended SFEI's Sediment Solutions webinar.
- Ongoing meetings with NOAA and Sup Rodoni's office re: Tomales Bay Tires project whereas I've nearly completed the RFP and been in communications with Pt Reyes Light about the project. This will be passed off to MRCD staff upon my departure to contract a consultant to complete the assessment.
- Ongoing support to the formation of a Tomales Bay TAC/Working Group with Sup Rodoni's office and agencies. Facilitated meeting on May 16th to help determine a Charter, a focus for the group, and what the next steps may look like for future meetings.

- Attended the Occidental Arts & Ecology Center's Beaver Co-Existence webinar.
- Meetings with Nancy to review sabbatical and temporary leave, including developing a 6-month plan of tasks to be handled in my time away.
- Met with Gerhard to discuss any tasks from USC Prgm being passed off to him and square away any loose ends.
- Organized, led, and facilitated the Lagunitas TAC meeting before departing.
- Attended a FLAME meeting with North Bay partners at East Bay Regional Parks to review their fuels reduction projects and connect with fire folks.
- Call with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) about Redwood Creek and potential for a water pipeline project. TNC would like Marin RCD's support in whatever capacity is available. I joined a partner meeting on the topic (CalTrout, Trout Unlimited, TNC, MCL) to help brainstorm funding sources and partners to work with that aren't in attendance.
- Assisting Gallinas Watershed Council with reviewing their proposed management plan for Civic Center Lagoon and property. Provided a LOS for their proposal to NBWA (North Bay Watershed Association).

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### *Stemple Creek Project (Preston Duncan)*

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**Department of Conservation Riparian Restoration at Lazy R Ranch (99% complete):** Marin RCD, in collaboration with Point Blue Conservation Science's Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW) program, received funding from the Department of Conservation to restore approximately 4,260 linear feet of degraded riparian area along Stemple Creek at the Lazy R Ranch (Righetti). STRAW is a key subcontractor and will be responsible for implementation, plant establishment, and monitoring.

- Third year of monitoring and maintenance is beginning soon.
- Final Reporting and invoicing is being submitted this week, and this grant will close.

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### *Pine Gulch Project (Gerhard Epke, Sarah Phillips)*

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- All ponds are working except for: Pond 1A is leaking at Peter Martinelli’s farm and Pond 2 is leaking at New Land Fund.
- Peter Martinelli has hired Stetson Engineering and identified installation of an impervious liner as the preferred solution to abate the leaks. He has met with regulators and is planning to move ahead with permits and construction.
  - “The bentonite application we did to the pond bottom in 2018 worked well, however once the water goes above that bottom area (about 1-2 ft.) it quickly seeps out.” - Peter M.
  - MALT and MRCD staff are helping Peter locate potential grants to offset construction costs.
  - Sarah P. brought USFWS out to view site conditions 3/24/25 to inquire about funding for the project.

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*Fire and Forestry (Gerhard Epke, Lee Farese, Preston Duncan)*

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- **State Coastal Conservancy – SCC Fire and Forest Resiliency:** This Block grant, hosted by Humboldt RCD, funds capacity building for MRCD staff, outreach and education, and implementation in partnership with Audubon Canyon Ranch’s (ACR) Fire Forward Program.
  - Contract and MOU has been signed between participating RCDs.
  - Capacity Building:
    - Staff have been attending Pepperwood Preserve “Learn and Burn” days when possible to increase knowledge
    - Lee, Preston, and Sarah P. have officially recertified for their Firefighter Type II in March, which will allow them to participate in burns across the region.
  - Staff has been meeting with ACR to develop a work plan and a path forward to getting more fire implemented in the region. The Carbon Farming team will work to integrate this topic into plans, and have been seeing interest from producers for weed abatement, shrub encroachment, forest resilience. They will be trying to schedule some site visits with ACR in the coming months to discuss feasibility.

- **PRNS Monitoring:**
  - PRNS Monitoring has concluded for the Water Quality Monitoring window- PRNS contract renewed for final year.
  - Dylan, Gerhard, and Preston met about Scope of Work for 2025.
    - Monitoring opportunities:
      - vegetation monitoring in the late spring to collect baseline data during Park grazing transitions.
      - RDM August/Sept
      - Water Quality Monitoring complete, with possibilities of MRCD contribution to summer monitoring window.
- **Project Tracker:**
  - Fiona has been updating Project Tracker entries 🗨️
- **Wildlife Monitoring:**
  - Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas has completed its monitoring window for this edition 🦉
  - Preston has continued to attend Marin Monarch Working Group meetings when possible
- **GIS:**
  - Preston has begun working with regional RCDs in a GIS working group to hopefully get more coordination and consistency across district lines.
  - Preston has been updating GIS data across programs (COW, CF, SAP) to reflect what projects and practices are occurring and have occurred on the ground. He hopes to be able to accurately quantify RCD project footprints across programs.
  - As development of CFP updates continues, Preston is developing automated calculations from COMET emission reduction coefficients, in order to increase ease of reporting and writing/updating CFPs into the future.
  - CFP team is meeting regularly for GIS Training sessions, with other Staff to join soon.
  - MRCD has 2 iPads for data collection with an app called Field Maps, which connects directly back to our GIS remotely. MRCD staff can update spreadsheets, maps, and photos in the field, and all of those data connect back to our Google Drive or ArcGIS Online.
  - Preston has been meeting with MALT to identify areas where we can get standardized and consistent data structures to more easily share data across organizations.
  - Preston is building out more system updates to increase our efficiencies on the user end- Fiona is assisting with standardizing our data and narrowing down our data fields to be more useful
- **Carbon Quantification/reporting:**

- Preston networking and getting assessment of regional interest to develop standardized protocols for County Climate Action Plan reporting.

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*Staff serving on committees or attending regular meetings*

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Nancy Scolari

- Marin Carbon Project Steering Committee, Implementation Working Group
- MRCD Finance Committee
- North Coast RCD Durable Collaboration
- Sonoma-Marín Climate Smart Commodities
- North Coast RCD Soil Hub Executive Committee

Marcus Meggett

- MRCD Finance Committee (Facilitator)

Sarah Phillips

- Tomales Bay Technical Advisory Group
- Marin Prescribed Fire Collaborative
- Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee (Chair)
  - Large Woody Debris Subcommittee
  - Membership Subcommittee (Chair)
  - Aquatic Toxicology Subcommittee
  - Marin Water's TUCP (Temporary Urgency Change Petition) Subcommittee
  - Marin Water Stewardship Plan Subcommittee
  - Prop 68 Lagunitas Watershed Enhancement Study Subcommittee
- Sonoma-Marín Weed Management Area Meetings
  - WMA Steering Committee
- Marin County Project Coordination Program (permitting)
- Gallinas Watershed Council (Advisor)
- Technical Advisory Group San Geronimo Commons Restoration (former golf course)
- MKAT (Marín Knotweed Action Team)

Sarah Skinker

- A-Team
- North Coast Soil Hub
- Marin Carbon Project (MCP) Implementation Working Group
- SMACCC Implementation and TAC Working Groups
- California Farm Demonstration Network

Gerhard Epke

- Regional Water Quality Control Board Grazing Waiver Technical Advisory Committee

- Tomales Bay Foundation Advisory Committee
- Sonoma Farm Bureau Animal Resource Committee
- Marin Prescribed Fire Collaborative
- Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee (Alternate MRCD Rep to SP)
- Marin County Project Coordination Meeting
- A-Team

Preston Duncan

- A-Team
- Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee (Alternate MRCD Rep for Sarah P)
- North Coast Soil Hub
- Marin Monarch Working Group
- Marin Prescribed Fire Collaborative
- Carbon Farm Planning Portal Advisory Group
- Good Fire Alliance (North Bay's Prescribed Burning Association) Steering Committee

Emilie Winfield

- North Coast Soil Hub (Coordinator)
- CARCD Ag Technical Assistance Task Force
- Regional Carbon Finance Core Working Group
- Western Cover Crops Council CA State Cover Crops Selection Tool Committee
- California Farm Demonstration Network
- RCD Statewide Ag & Climate Hubs Coordinators Cohort
- RCD Ag & Climate Hubs Partnership Policy Workgroup
- Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan: NWL Technical Stakeholder Group

Chad White (special consultant)

- Marin Biomass Steering Committee/Collaborative (Project Manager)

Orlena Yee (special consultant)

- Marin Carbon Project (Coordinator)

Lee Farese

- Sonoma-Marín Weed Management Area Meetings
- A-Team
- North Coast Soil Hub
- Marin Carbon Project (MCP) Implementation Working Group
- Marin Prescribed Fire Collaborative

Fiona O'Neill

- A-Team
- North Coast Soil Hub
- California Farm Demonstration Working Group

## Measures A and Q Cheat Sheet

Marin County Measure A		Santa Cruz Measure Q
<b>Tax</b>	Sales Tax - quarter-cent	Parcel Tax - \$87
<b>Term</b>	9 years (exp june 2031)	In perpetuity
<b>Amt \$</b>	\$640-675k annually for RCD	\$700k annually for RCD
<b>Purpose</b>	Supports parks, open spaces, and sustainable agriculture in Marin County. 65% goes to parks and open space for maintenance, wildfire risk reduction, and land acquisition. 20% is for sustainable agriculture, supporting conservation easements, grants for food systems, and programs. 15% is allocated to cities and towns for grants supporting parks, open space, and recreation facilities. Of the 20% for sustainable agriculture, 20% is directed to the Marin RCD to implement carbon farm plans, support and enhance water quality, soil health, biodiversity, wildlife corridors, riparian zones, erosion control, climate, pollinators.	Supports projects that manage open space, protect water sources and reduce fire risk in Santa Cruz County. 60% of the money would be split between the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, the four city governments in Santa Cruz County and the county's Department of Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Services. 20% to the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (\$700k) and a nonprofit partner. 20% of funds, about \$1.5 million annually, to cities within Santa Cruz County, split proportionally by population. 20% to the county Department of Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Services and the county Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience for projects outside of cities.