



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, July 09, 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.

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT: 9:15 a.m.

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*

3. FOREST AND FIRE HEALTH:

- A. Board approval to execute \$75,000 contract with Audubon Canyon Ranch for capacity building, burn planning, and implementation of prescribed fire ~ *Preston Duncan, GIS and Monitoring Manager*

4. INFORMATIONAL: 9:45 a.m.

- **Green Gulch Farm:** Streamflow Enhancement Project design and CEQA update. Project summary and consideration of future Notice of Determination for concurrence with the Statewide Restoration General Order and Program Environmental Impact Report
~ *Gerhard Epke, Water Quality Program Manager, Carrie Lukacic, Env. Planner, Justin Bodell, Landscape Architect, Prunuske Chatham Inc., Sara Tashker, Green Gulch Farm*
- **North Coast Soil Hub** - *Emilie Winfield, North Coast Soil Hub Director*

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, MRCD Associate Director*
- **Federal Funding Freeze:** County of Sonoma is working on contract amendment with USDA to continue \$9M in federal funding.
- **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 is beginning 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):** No update.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Physical newsletter was sent out (link to it is [posted on our website](#)) to all mailboxes in our District, except we accidentally missed Muir Beach and north Marin ranches with Petaluma addresses. We have corrected this for the 2nd physical newsletter that Jerry, Nancy and Elise are currently finalizing. Staff will co-create a draft Communications Plan and compile MRCD's accomplishment data in Aug 2025 with a goal to present this draft info come Sept 2025 to coincide with the Strategic Planning process so both plans can inform each other. The North Coast Soil Hub newsletter highlighted Healthy Soils Projects in the region: <https://conta.cc/4igHa4a>
- **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):** The RCD's COW and Carbon Farming 2025 program projects will be put through the PCP in the coming months. Upcoming partner projects include Green Gulch Streamflow Enhancement Project (today's agenda) and vegetation management plans for ACR reserves. No update on Black Mountain culvert project.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah Phillips is on leave until Dec 2025 with Gerhard and other RCD staff filling in through the end of the year. Activities include landowner consultations, Marin Project Coordination meetings (agency permits), and various partnerships with the County such as the Tomales Bay tire removal project with NOAA, a new Tomales Bay TAC/Working Group, dissolution of the Inverness Flood Control District Zone 10, and support in Stinson Beach Zone 5.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed's (STRAW) riparian restoration monitoring and maintenance season is beginning. The team finished 7 carbon farm plans in mid June.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** No activity
- **Funding Opportunities:** Nancy/Preston completed submission of information to Sonoma RCD for a block grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to complete 3 carbon farm plans. 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 July 21, 2025. The last Finance Committee meeting was canceled.
- **District:** Nancy has been communicating with County Elections regarding the filling of Sally's vacant seat. Admin staff have been focused on creating a new Employee Handbook. Marcus has been working on a new Indirect Cost Rate approval with a consultant. The Strategic Planning process is underway: Directors, staff and partners are being interviewed. Strategic Plan retreat is scheduled for Sept 2025. Admin staff are beginning to evaluate MRCD operations

platforms and assessing how to upgrade and consolidate platforms to improve information flow and documentation.

- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**

Urban Streams: 4 individuals requested assistance and were consulted

COW: Only 1 or 2 consultations besides program applicants this month

CE: none reported

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- A Marin RCD Vacancy Announcement will be distributed to fill Sally's seat.

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, June 11th, 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, John Dulcini, Paul Ingle

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Marcus Meggett, Preston Duncan, Emilie Winfield, Elise Suronen, Gerhard Epke, Lee Farese, Sarah Skinker and Fiona O'Neill

Additional Attendees: Chad White (Marin Biomass Project), Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Rick Holland (Agroforestry), Martha Davis (Nicasio resident), Sebastian Tsocanos (NRCS), Jim Jenson (Audubon Canyon Ranch), Johanna Rivera (MALT), Amy Stork (Amy Stork Consulting-Presenter), Lisa Lurie (Santa Cruz RCD-Presenter) and Eric Lombardo (Land Trust of Santa Cruz-Presenter)

2. GUEST PRESENTATIONS

A. Marin RCD Strategic Plan Kick off- Amy Stork Consulting

Marin RCD has hired a strategic planning consultant, and she is conducting interviews of board, staff and partners to figure out MRCD's vision for the future. Amy is based in Portland OR and focuses on working with environmental type groups along the West Coast. She shared with us her process of building a strategic plan, of which we are currently just beginning. In September Marin RCD board and staff will meet to have a strategic planning retreat. After the retreat Amy will draft our high-level strategic direction, which will then go through board approval to be implemented. She hopes to begin implementing this strategic direction in January 2026.

B. Santa Cruz RCD and their Parcel Tax- Lisa Lurie, Santa Cruz RCD and Eric Lombardo, Land Trust of Santa Cruz

Lisa and Eric shared with us Santa Cruz RCD's decade long journey of creating what ultimately became Measure Q, a water and wildfire protection ballot initiative which did pass in 2024. Santa Cruz RCD lacked enough funding for conservation and long-term stewardship for the service area. They did polling to gauge interest in funding for natural areas in 2023 and 2024. Water quality was deemed most important by the polling group. After many drafts they decided to do a flat parcel tax of \$87 per parcel. The money collected was broken up into: a grant program, funds to the four incorporated cities, water and fire resilience and public benefit projects.

See Measure Q slide deck and cheat sheet in Board Packet for summary of Measure Q and Measure A.

For more information visit www.bit.ly/MeasureQCode

ACTION ITEMS:

3. DISTRICT:

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry, Mike & David; NOES: None;
ABSENT: None; to approve April 2025 Board minutes.
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager,*
Nancy Scolari, Executive Director
MOTION: David; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry, Mike & David; NOES: None;
ABSENT: None; to approve the Financial Report.

4. INFORMATIONAL

COW Water Quality Program- *Gerhard Epke, Water Quality Program Manager*

Gerhard gave us an overview of the budget for Marin RCD's COW MILC grant and let us know that the majority of funds were going towards the Stemple Creek Watershed and Drake's Bay Watershed. They are slated to complete 4 or more practices, 2 (or more) in each watershed. They have 2 years left to complete this.

2025 Restoration Projects- *Sarah Skinker, Carbon Farm Program Manager*

8 applications were considered, 4 were selected based on deliverables and available budget. Sarah gave us an overview of all 4 projects: Stubbs Vineyard, DeBernardi, Blue Marble and SoMar. All the projects that Sarah shared will be funded by the State Coastal Conservancy. STRAW will be leading the designing, implementation, maintenance and monitoring of these projects. They hope to be implementing in winter 2025.

Partner Updates:

- **Marin Agriculture-** Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner
Joe Deviney was not present.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)–** Petaluma Field Office Staff
Sebastian said NRCS has 46 EQIP applications that have been preselected for funding. They have 6 preapproved RCPP applications, and 30 preapproved CSP applications. The total preapproved obligation for their office is about 5 million dollars.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP –** MALT Stewardship Staff
Scott said that MALT will have completed about 20 projects for FY 24-25. They recently awarded 5 projects in their small grants program. They have an agricultural happy hour June 12th in Tomales. Johanna introduced herself as a new stewardship associate for MALT.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)–** Point Blue Staff
Jessie shared that STRAW has had very high valley oak success at their projects. They recently said goodbye to most of their summer interns but did promote two of them to be techs. They will get 15-20 new summer interns from a program at SRJC.
- **Audubon Canyon Ranch –** Jim shared that fire forward is continuing to connect with local landowners in Marin. There will be another Marin collaborative prescribed burn meeting in August and September.
- **Marin Water Expansion –** John Dulcini (Marin RCD Associate Director)
John shared that the pipeline from Sonoma to Marin will be moving forward. It will cost \$168 million and be 13 miles long with a 3-foot diameter. The pipeline will pull Russian River water into Marin via the Nicasio Reservoir. MMWD just awarded the engineering design contract for this project. Next was the update on Nicasio spillway: they want to raise the spillway about 5.5

feet, and it would cost about \$15 million. There were some public meetings, and the most important concern brought up was flooding. Other concern was inundation of septic systems, impacts to property values, increase in homeowners insurance.

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 consultations, aside from the outreach happening in Stemple Creek related to COW MILC solicitation
 CF: 7

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:50 a.m.

Sally adjourned the meeting with an announcement. After nearly 30 years of being on the Marin RCD Board, she stated that she was resigning and she is proud of the work that has been done over the years. She suggested finding a replacement that has ties to the agricultural community, is a team player, values the environment and can be a bridge to the community we serve.