



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, August, 13, 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: 9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

2. DISTRICT:

- A. Board approval to consider candidates and make an appointment to fill a vacant seat on the Marin RCD Board of Directors (15 min). ~Nancy Scolari, Executive Director
- B. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes (5 min). ~ Cora Richard, Bookkeeper
- C. Board approval of the Financial Report (10 min). ~Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager
- D. Presentation of Marin RCD vacancies, recruitment, retention and adoption of FY25-26 annual budget (20 min). ~Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager
- E. Board approval to enter into a \$36,000 Fund Transfer Agreement with Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to administer and implement bank stabilization projects that benefit and protect property owners of Flood Zone 10 (15 min). ~Gerhard Epke, Water Quality Program Manager; Tony Swan, Hannah Lee, Marin County Flood District

3. INFORMATIONAL: 10:30 a.m.

- **2024 Annual Crop Report and Report of Total Economic Contributions of Marin Agriculture (20 min)**- Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner

Partner Updates: 3 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
- Farm Bureau - Regina Pozzi, Marin County Farm Bureau

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Marin Water Expansion Alternatives** - John Dolcini, Marin RCD Associate Director
- **Federal Funding Freeze:** USDA is reviewing our proposed amendment to fit the new Advancing Markets for Producers grant program.

- **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. 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. Design work began this summer with biology and topography surveys. 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. The team is planning another day of site visits in September. David Escobar is working on tangible recommendations for JEDI improvements to complete before the grant ends in December.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Second newsletter was sent out! 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. There are two upcoming partner projects. Green Gulch Streamflow Enhancement Project was informational at the July meeting and will be coming back for a Board action at the September meeting. Staff are reviewing vegetation management plans for ACR reserves and expect to bring an action to the board also in the coming months.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Sarah Phillips is on leave 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 underway. The team recently finished 7 carbon farm plans and has scheduled follow up meetings with those producers to discuss next steps.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** No report
- **Funding Opportunities:** Staff continues to meet with Emilie and other north coast RCDs to strategize around Prop 4 funding through SCC and WCB. Sarah is working on a pre proposal for WCB's upcoming grant.
- **Finance Committee:** No report
- **District:** Nancy completed the Request for Proposals to secure an auditor.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 3 or 4 individuals requested assistance and were consulted this month
 - COW: Only 1 or 2 consultations besides program applicants this month
 - CF: 3

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- None

5. 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.

6. MEETING ADJOURNED



MINUTES

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

Roll call of Directors: Terry Sawyer, Gerald Meral, David Sherwood and Mike Moretti. Sally Gale was not present after stepping down effective June 16th.

Associate Directors: George Clyde, John Dolcini, Paul Ingle, Guido Frosini

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Marcus Meggett, Cora Richard, 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), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Rick Holland (Agroforestry), Martha Davis (Nicasio resident), Chase Garcia (NRCS), Melissa Williams (candidate board member), Kyle Johnson (PCI Ecological), Joe Deviney (Marin Co Ag Commissioner), Sara Tashker (Green Gulch Farm), Regina Pozzi (Farm Bureau), Carrie Lukacic (Environmental Planner PCI), and Justin Bodell (Landscape Architect PCI)

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT:

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

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Sally; to approve June 2025 Board minutes.

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

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

3. FOREST AND FIRE HEALTH:

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

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, David & Mike; NOES: None; ABSENT: Sally; to approve this \$75,000 contract with Audubon Canyon Ranch but before signing contract investigate insurance requirements for MRCD to be directly involved with the burning to know our potential liability.

4. INFORMATIONAL

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

Green Gulch Farms is located near Muir Woods. The 112-acre holding is currently being taken care of by the San Francisco Zen Center since 1972. Currently there is a stream restoration project ongoing on the property, the estimated completion is 2027. The main project goal is to restore streamflow volumes in Green Gulch during the most critical time of the year, when the farm pulls its summer water withdrawals. They are at about a 5-6 million project cost as of today, and the next stage of the project is estimated to be 1 million. They are mostly funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

North Coast Soil Hub ~ Emilie Winfield, North Coast Soil Hub Director

Emilie gave us a brief update on how the Soil hub is doing, and what their longer-term goals are. The main goal of the Soil Hub is to promote soil health using education and collaboration, inspire implementation and drive applied research in soil health. Their 2025 priorities are to strengthen Technical Assistance and to get proposition 4 funding to continue their work. Earlier this year the soil hub hosted soil symposiums which were a big success!

Partner Updates:

- **Farm Bureau-** Regina Pozzi, Farm Bureau Manager

The farm bureau is continuing to monitor issues that would affect farmers, ranchers, etc. They have an upcoming event at Marin French Cheese on October 6th- their annual VIP and membership appreciation lunch.

- **Marin Agriculture-** Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner

Joe Deviney was not present at this point in the meeting.

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

Chase shared that NRCS has 55 EQIP applications that have been preselected for funding, 37 of which are obligated so far. They have 7 preapproved RCPP applications, and 28 preapproved CSP applications. Currently they have 262 active contracts from the office in Petaluma on over 100,000 acres, with a total of obligations over 20 million.

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

Scott said that MALT will have completed about 20 projects for FY 24-25. SAP program is now open for this fiscal year with a little bit of a lower budget than the year before. It will be open until June 30th or until the budget is capped out. They are preparing for the next round of small grants. New stewardship associate Jen Smartley just started.

- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)–** Point Blue Staff

Libby shared that STRAW is just monitoring and watering. Melissa Pitkin is now their new CEO!

- **Audubon Canyon Ranch –** Jim Jensen

Jim Jensen was not present.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Marin Water Expansion –** John Dolcini (Marin RCD Associate Director)

John shared that there is no draft EIR yet. MMWD is still taking public written comment until August 4th. Their last meeting was on June 26th with the Nicasio Landowners Association which he felt was productive. Martha Davis has created a website you can visit:

<http://nicasio.net/flood>. There will be another Zoom meeting on July 15th at 1pm.

- **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

CF: none reported

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Associate director Paul Ingle asked if the Marin RCD should have a presence at the Marin County Fair

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