



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, October 8, 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/ADMIN: (30 min)

- A. Board approval of special and regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
- C. Board approval of Marin RCD positions of President, Vice President & Treasurer. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

3. PROGRAMS: (45 min)

- A. Board approval of finding the Green Gulch Farm Streamflow and Water Storage Improvement Project within the scope of the State Water Resources Control Board's Programmatic Environmental Impact Report of the Statewide Restoration General Order (SRGO PEIR) and directing staff to issue a Notice of Determination. ~ *Gerhard Epke, Water Quality Program Manager*
- B. Board approval to open a 30-day review of the 2025 proposed environmental enhancement projects into the Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program (PCP) and accept the proposed projects on November 12, contingent upon receiving no public comment. ~ *Gerhard Epke, Water Quality Program Manager*
- C. Board approval to award \$18,000 in matching Measure A funds to clear an emergency creek obstruction along a tributary to Keys/Walker Creek. ~ *Sarah Skinker, Carbon Farming Program Manager*

4. INFORMATIONAL: 10:45 a.m.

- **Down and Dirty - Summer Field Season Highlights** - *Fiona O'Neill, Soil Conservation Technician*

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
- Marin Farm Bureau - Farm Bureau Representative

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Federal Funding Freeze:** The proposal is at the highest USDA office and waiting approvals
- **Fire and Forestry Liability:** Update from Marcus and/or Preston on subcontractor coverage
- **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 report
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Our next newsletter will be published this month.
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is finalizing its integrated Study and expects to release it in the next month. Upon release of the Study, the team will emphasize work to implement Study's 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 with Gerhard/other RCD staff filling in through November. 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:** No report
- **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. A funding proposal was developed with UC Berkeley to study compost applications on rangelands.
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2025. An agenda will be posted this week.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on financial audit. A Draft Strategic Plan was presented to the Steering Committee. It will be edited by Amy Stork and edited by a writing committee consisting of Jerry and Nancy before coming to the Board in November.
- **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. 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, September 10th, 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 David Sherwood, Treasurer, at 9 a.m.

Roll call of Directors: Gerald Meral, David Sherwood, Mike Moretti and Melissa Williams. Terry Sawyer was absent.

Associate Directors: George Clyde, John Dolcini and Paul Ingle

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

Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Martha Davis (Nicasio resident), Joe Deviney (Marin Co Ag Commissioner), Chad White (Biomass Project) and Chase Garcia (NRCS)

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT:

- A. Administer Oath of Office to new Director, Melissa Williams ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
Director Melissa Williams took the oath of office, administered by Nancy Scolari, Executive Director
- B. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Melissa; AYES: Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to approve August 2025 Board minutes with the correction that Moretti abstained from the vote on item 2A.
- C. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager, Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to approve the Financial Report.
- D. Discussion of auditor selection process, highlights of each firm and approval of new auditors. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Melissa; AYES: Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to select Nigro & Nigro as Marin RCD's new auditor.
- E. Board approval of 2025 Marin RCD Employee Handbook ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director & Dena Grunt, Destination HR*
MOTION: Melissa; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to approve the new employee handbook and make it effective retroactively to July 1, 2025.

3. PROGRAMS:

- A. Board approval of Contract C09-2025 with Point Blue Conservation Science Teachers and Students Restoring a Watershed for implementation, maintenance and monitoring of 4 riparian restoration projects. ~*Sarah Skinker, Carbon Farming Program Manager*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Melissa; AYES: Jerry, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: Terry; ABSTAIN: Mike; to approve contract C09-2025.

4. INFORMATIONAL:

- **Roundtable discussion on a recent report on the Total Economic Contributions of Agriculture in Marin.** ~*Joe Deviney, Marin County Ag Commissioner*
A thorough discussion was had where some points brought up in relation to the shrinking number of economic contributions from Ag producers were: how difficult it is to be an Ag producer in CA & more support systems should exist for the Ag producers.
- **Rooted in the Land: The Legacy of the Marin Resource Conservation District.** ~*Elise Suronen, Impacts and Operations Director*
Elise gave an insightful presentation with the conclusion that Marin RCD's legacy results in quiet changes to the landscape. We quietly hold everything in place.

Partner Updates:

- **Farm Bureau-** Regina Pozzi, Farm Bureau Manager
No Farm Bureau staff present at this meeting.
- **Marin Agriculture-** Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner
Joe led the roundtable discussion earlier in the meeting.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff
Chase shared that they are finalizing 3 new preapprovals and have obligated 91 contracts. They had a great Local Work Group meeting but wish more people had been in attendance.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
Scott said that the MALT stewardship assistance program is still open. They have received 10 applications, 5 are approved.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff
STRAW is hiring 8 new apprentices, and they are starting in September and will be with straw until next May.
- **Audubon Canyon Ranch** – Jim Jensen
No Audubon Canyon staff present at this meeting.
- **Marin Water Expansion** – John Dolcini (Marin RCD Associate Director)
MMWD officially dropped the spillway modification plan!
Martha Davis has created a website you can visit for updates: <http://nicasio.net/flood>.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Federal Funding Freeze:** No update
- **Fire and Forestry:** Marcus reported that he contacted our insurance agency, and they said our policy will cover us in the event of a prescribed burn, but they encouraged us to get a certificate of insurance from the contractor which he has requested. He will follow up with the contractor.

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW MILC, the most recent Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Board grant, is in the design and permitting phase. The Technical Advisory Group has visited and approved sediment and manure management projects at six dairies in the Stemple Creek watershed. The grant will also help the Park Service decommission manure ponds at three outgoing dairies in Drakes Bay watershed of Point Reyes. An application for COW GIRL phase IX was submitted to the Water Board in 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 site visit for early October. David Escobar has shared his review of our implementation process. Sarah is scheduling the next JEDI meeting to take place after the upcoming FIGR site visit.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Jerry, Elise and Nancy working on next quarterly newsletter
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is nearing completion of its integrated study and planning to release it this fall. The team is also planning and working toward implementation of the study's recommendations.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** CEQA and permit coordination is occurring on several RCD and partner projects this fall. A Notice of Exemption will be posted for the RCD's four riparian restoration projects discussed at today's meeting. COW projects in design might be entered into the PCP soon, as initiated by a future board item and 30 day comment period. The Green Gulch Streamflow Enhancement Project is also expected to come before the RCD board next month. A CEQA determination for this item was scheduled for this September meeting but delayed because of some continuing consultation with the water rights division of the State Water Board. Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) has finished a draft of their vegetation management plan for the Martin Griffin Preserve to tier off of the State's CalVTP EIR, and Marin RCD has begun initial review.
- **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 stakeholder group, dissolution of the Inverness Flood Control District Zone 10, and supporting local watershed groups such as Mill Valley Streamkeepers with technical assistance.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed's (STRAW) riparian restoration monitoring and maintenance season is underway. The team has completed 7 carbon farm plans this year.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** The project team will regroup in the near future to discuss the State Coastal Conservancy as a potential funding source to apply for implementation funds.
- **Funding Opportunities:** A revised Federal grant amendment was submitted to USDA and we are awaiting their response to continue our \$2M grant proposal. 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 September 15, 2025. The last Finance Committee meeting was canceled. The finance committee has received 2 proposals for audit services and a recommendation for an auditor is being made.

- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on financial audit (federal spending), Employee Handbook and new timekeeping-HR software.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
Urban Streams: 3 individuals and 3 organizations requested assistance and were consulted this month
COW: Only 1 or 2 consultations besides program applicants this month
CF: 4

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:00 p.m.



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025
PLACE: 14000 Pt. Reyes - Petaluma Rd, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
TIME: 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

ATTENDEES:

Directors: Terry Sawyer, David Sherwood, Mike Moretti, Jerry Meral, Melissa Williams
Staff: Nancy Scolari, Emilie Winfield, Preston Duncan, Sarah Skinker, Fiona O'Neill, Gerhard Epke, Cora Richard, Marcus Meggett
Consultant: Amy Stork

A quorum of directors was present at this special meeting.

A Special Meeting of the Marin RCD took place at **9:00 am** to begin development of a Strategic Plan. This was a working session that was facilitated by a strategic planning consultant to discuss district priorities.

No action items were proposed or made in this meeting.

Approval of a Strategic Plan, once drafted, will happen at a regularly scheduled public meeting.

No public comment was provided and meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.