



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, January 14, 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, including a new guest, Greg Richardson, The Nature Conservancy's new Point Reyes Project Director.

ACTION ITEMS: 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

2. DISTRICT/ADMIN: (30 min)

- A. Board approval of FY24 Marin RCD Audit. ~*Paul Kaymark and Stacy Macias, Nigro & Nigro Accountants*
- B. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~*Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
- C. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~*Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
- D. Board approval to request \$125,000 from the County of Marin to support Marin RCD programs and to partially offset operational costs not covered by state or federal grants. ~ Nancy Scolari, Executive Director
- E. Board approval to form Ad Hoc Measure A Committee to plan for 2030 Measure A renewal. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- F. Board approval of Marin RCD ballot responses in the election of CARCD Board members, Bylaws and Resolutions. ~ *Jerry Meral, Marin RCD Director*

3. INFORMATIONAL: (10:15-10:45 a.m.)

- **Marin Biomass Update/Presentation** ~ *Chad White, Marin Biomass Project Manager*

Partner Updates: 3 min each

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)– Petaluma Field Office Staff
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) – MALT Stewardship Staff
- Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)– Point Blue Staff
- All Hands Ecology (AHE) - Jim Jensen, Tomales Bay Land Steward and Preserve Mgr
- Marin Farm Bureau - Farm Bureau Representative
- The Nature Conservancy - Greg Richardson, Point Reyes Project Director

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Nicasio and Water Expansion** - *John Dolcini, Marin RCD Associate Director*

- **Federal Funding Unfrozen:** The County of Sonoma has been provided with a USDA Contract. The Marin RCD will be a subcontractor to the County. The project funds will be provided directly to producers this year.
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project has completed a draft final report titled “The Marin Biomass Study: Pathways to Improved Biomass Utilization and a More Regenerative Economy.” It has been shared with the multi-stakeholder Marin Biomass Collaborative and is undergoing their review. Public release is planned for next month. Upon release of the Study, the team will launch outreach focused on key findings and recommendations.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW MILC is the most recent Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Board grant. Projects at dairies in the Stemple Creek watershed have been ranked by the Technical Advisory Group and design work is underway. 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 resubmitted to the Water Board in December.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Welcome Back! Sarah Phillips is back as of Dec. 8th. Activities for December, upon return, have included lots of catching up on the USC Prgm with Gerhard, reviewing and responding to six (6) months of emails and calls, coordinating meetings to get back in the flow on various projects and proposed contract agreements (Zone 10 and Tomales Bay). Sarah started to plan the Lagunitas TAC’s annual field trip and is providing support to Marin Water in conducting spawner surveys in San Geronimo Creek.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** The team is working on an update to the Project Application Portal on the RCD website to accommodate for upcoming project funding. STRAW Implementation season is underway, and the team is gearing up to visit and support at least 1 restoration day with students this winter.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** Several projects including the RCD’s Conserving Our Watershed Program and Carbon Farming as well as Green Gulch Farm’s Streamflow Enhancement projects completed CEQA this fall. Staff is currently reviewing a Vegetation Treatment Plan for Martin Griffin Preserve before a CEQA determination is presented to the board in 2026.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** JEDI Committee met 12/2 to discuss updates in JEDI work, the direction of the group, and the inclusion of JEDI focused language in the Strategic Plan. Michelle, Sarah and Nancy then met with Amy Stork to discuss incorporating this feedback into the Plan. The group will continue to meet regularly.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** We are working on a new newsletter for January. The RCD was also mentioned in the Point Reyes Light both in the Editors Note and in an article entitled, “*Dairy ponds refashioned as ranchers depart park*” - this is referenced on our website.
- **Funding Opportunities:** RCD staff is in communications with CalTrans regarding mitigation funds to fix one of the Pine Gulch Creek Instream Flow Enhancement ponds. RCD staff is also looking into a design proposal to be submitted to CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife for Lagunitas Creek. Gerhard submitted a water quality proposal to the State Water Resources Control Board to continue the Conserving Our Watersheds Program.
- **Finance Committee:** The Committee met in December to review the audit which is presented at this meeting.

- **District:** FY24 financial audit was completed (thank you Cora!). A Draft Strategic Plan was completed but will be delayed due to further editing. A holiday party was hosted (thank you Fiona!). Software migration is in the works for timekeeping and HR services.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 20 individuals requested assistance and were consulted, 5 educated, 0 site visits.
 - COW: Only 1 or 2 consultations besides program applicants this period
 - CF: 2

4. 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.

5. MEETING ADJOURNED



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, November 12th, 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, President, at 9 a.m.

Roll call of Directors: Terry Sawyer, Gerald Meral, David Sherwood, Mike Moretti and Melissa Williams. Jerry attended remotely for just cause per Gov Code Section 54953.
Associate Directors: George Clyde, John Dolcini and Paul Ingle
Staff: Nancy Scolari, Cora Richard, Preston Duncan, Gerhard Epke, Lee Farese, Fiona O'Neill, Elise Suronen, Emilie Winfield
Additional Attendees: Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Nick & Trevor (STRAW Technicians), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Martha Davis (Nicasio resident), Jim Jensen (All Hands Ecology), Tristan Brenner, Rodd Kelsey (The Nature Conservancy), Chad White (OPR Biomass), Amy Stork (Amy Stork Consulting), Michael Neumann, Claire Herminjard (Marin Sun Farms), Robert Stenberg (Measure A Oversight Committee, Resident)

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT:

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: David; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to approve October 2025 Board Minutes
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: Melissa; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to approve the Financial Report.

3. INFORMATIONAL:

- A. Marin RCD Strategic Plan ~*Amy Stork, Amy Stork Consulting*
Amy facilitated group discussion mostly between MRCD board and staff (with partner input) about the MRCD Draft 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

Partner Updates:

- **The Nature Conservancy**- The new Point Reyes Project Director for The Nature Conservancy, Greg Richardson, introduced himself. He has been on the job for 7 weeks so far. He said there is a lot going on with the PRNS settlement agreements. The current focus is developing transition plans in the areas of science & monitoring, restoration, targeted grazing and infrastructure.
- **Marin County Agricultural Commissioner**- Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner
Joe was not present at this meeting.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**- Petaluma Field Office Staff

NRCS Petaluma staff are currently furloughed because of the federal government shut down.

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

Scott shared MALT is currently hiring for a Director of Conservation Programs. 86 of 98 easements are being monitored. MALT's small grants program will be open January 7th to February 13th. This year \$400k is available.

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

STRAW brought 2 of their new techs with them to the meeting, Nick & Trevor. They are on week 3 of restoration, all teachers have been contacted for restoration projects. There will be 25 restorations with students at Libby and Jessie's sites. Over 100 restorations total in the bay area. Currently there is a lot of seed and acorn collection happening to plant in restoration sites. Inoculum supported restoration, a new project where they are experimenting with inoculating plants, is going full throttle.

- **All Hands Ecology (formerly Audubon Canyon Ranch)** – Jim Jensen

All Hands Ecology has a new Director of Prescribed Fire, Julia Berkey. They will be having another Marin Prescribed Burn meeting this winter. AHE will also be part of the Measure A oversight presentation tomorrow (Nov 13). Jim let us know that MALT will be hosting an "Ag Coffee" gathering on Nov 21st at Thornton Ranch.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Nicasio/Water Expansion**: Martha Davis met staff from Marin Water on October 29th to figure out how they work together moving forward

- **Federal Funding Freeze**: The proposal is at the highest USDA office and waiting approvals but there is now a government shutdown

- **Fire and Forestry Liability**: All Hands Ecology re-worked the language in the Contract and clarified release of liability forms, contract is in our hands for signing.

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW)**: COW MILC, the most recent Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Board grant, is in design phase. 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 began this summer and the CEQA comment period is closing after this meeting. 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 delivered 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)**: Several projects including the RCD's Conserving Our Watershed Program and Carbon Farming as well as Green Gulch Farm's Streamflow Enhancement projects completed CEQA this fall. Staff is currently reviewing a Vegetation Treatment Plan for Martin Griffin Preserve and a CEQA determination for that might come before the board in 2026.

- **Urban Streams Program**: No report. Sarah Phillips is on leave with Gerhard/other RCD staff filling in through November. Other activities include 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 and support in Stinson Beach Flood Zone 5.

- **Carbon Farming Program:** No report
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** No report
- **Funding Opportunities:** Staff are looking into several funding opportunities related to monitoring and project implementation on ag lands.
- **Finance Committee:** The previous meeting focused on providing updates related to fulfilling RCD financial obligations through existing staff and hired consultants in the absence of a Fiscal Manager. Cora's hours will increase and a consultant contract will be amended to complete the work of assisting with our audit. The next FC meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2025. An agenda will be posted this week.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on financial audit, personnel reviews and re-organizing staff roles with limited staff. Fiona has been organizing our RCD Holiday Party in December!
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: two individuals and two agencies requested assistance and were consulted
 - COW: Only 1 or 2 consultations besides program applicants this month
 - CF: none reported

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

6. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:45 a.m.