



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, July 14th, 2021**

PLACE: **Marin RCD Office, 80 4th Street, Suite 202, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956**

(Please let us know in advance if you plan on being physically present at our office so that staff can be available to sanitize and set up a computer station for you)

REMOTE OPTION: Due to the COVID-19 health emergency - and to protect our Board Members, staff, and members of the public - the regularly scheduled board meeting will be held remotely. Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81172149361?pwd=V0doK21odm80akVMQ0FpdHV4R1N2UT09>

or by phone: +16699009128,,81172149361#,,,,*646428# meeting ID#: 811 7214 9361 Passcode: 646428 Please contact Michelle Katuna at 415-787-7440 or michelle@marinrcd.org if you have concerns about accessibility.

1. Regular meeting opens at **9:00 a.m.** Roll call and introduction of guests.

ACTION ITEMS: 9:10 am

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS: 20 min

- A. Board approval of regular meeting Minutes.
- B. Board approval of Financial Report and bills to be paid.

3. MARIN WATER AGREEMENT: 10 min

- A. Board approval to execute a \$19,500 contract with Marin Water (AKA Marin Municipal Water District) to conduct fisheries monitoring services, low-flow habitat monitoring, landowner coordination, water quality monitoring, and habitat typing with large woody debris surveying.

4. DISTRICT: GIS PROJECT: 15 min

- A. Board approval to execute a 2-phase scope of work contract with a consultant, Green Info Network (GIN), to improve our Geographic Information System (GIS) file structure, software, and systems to meet organizational monitoring, tracking, and mapping needs.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: 10:00 a.m.

5. Presentations & Updates: 30 min

Partner Updates: 5 min each

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Petaluma Field Office Staff
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Taj Hittenberger, Point Blue Partner Biologist

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

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- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Possible Fee for Service Agreement to apply for permit assistance. Grant extension granted. 3.5 out of 5 sites completed! Two projects to be built in 2021.
- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** Check out our drought page <https://www.marinrcd.org/drought-assistance/>
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC attended several meetings including the June Lagunitas TAC meeting. USC carried out two (2) site visits, one in SGV to carry out a bird nesting survey prior to tree trimming along the creek and one in Novato with Marin County's stormwater program and the police department staff. USC attended the first CDFW North Coast Coho Project meeting specific to guiding future restoration efforts in Lagunitas Creek. Finally, Sarah has attended ongoing meetings with CDA and consultants regarding the roll out of the expanded SCA Ordinance for San Geronimo Valley.
- **Carbon Farming Program: Wildlife Conservation Board:** CFP design will be worked on from now to April 2022, in the order of project ranking. First site visit at Torliatt complete. Chileno Valley Ranch CFP underway. Educational materials: wildlife-friendly hedgerow pamphlet layout is being finalized. Expected to be published by the end of summer. **Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration:** Fence designs complete with NRCS and provided to landowner and USFWS. A "Funding for Carbon Farming Implementation" spreadsheet has been created. [Find here.](#)
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** The lead consultant at PCI has been out of town and has now returned and is working with Sarah to develop a revised schedule, scope of work, and budget to accommodate two changes; 1) the lack of data on water surface elevation due to a poor winter/rainy season and 2) the outcome of the first TAC meeting resulted in a desire for a more robust and engaging TAC process (which will cost more).
- **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** 5-year post-construction monitoring reports are due; Marin RCD secured an extension from the Army Corps of Engineers and Water Board to submit all final reports. Marin RCD hired SFEI to complete CRAMs, farmers hired PCI to complete wetland delineations, and Marin RCD monitored the riparian enhancement area. The riparian enhancement area has 75% survival; we met the goal of 60 plants alive and thriving! The majority of plants look healthy and vigor with most over 3 ft tall with several being at least 10 ft tall. Other reports include the Riparian Enhancement Area and Notice of Completion. Peter's pond still leaks! Peter is seeking funding to apply bentonite to pond embankments.
- **Grant Opportunities:**
 - Shared Forester. Gold Ridge/Sonoma/Marin are partnering in a shared forestry position. The proposal is submitted to the National Association of RCDs. *Pending*
- **Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee met and reviewed the draft annual budget which will be presented at the August meeting. The Salary Step Schedule is being revised pending bay area salary and retirement research.
- **District:** Darrylin is in the final stages of the FY 19-20 Annual Audit (Delays on the Auditor's side due to COVID), working on the FY2122 Draft Budget, comparing payroll companies, getting a Kaiser quote for a MRCD Group plan and meeting with a Financial Advisor to learn more about 401K investments for staff retirement savings. Hopefully arranging a Financial Advisor to come out and meet with staff. The Fiscal Year closed on June 30 so Darrylin is invoicing all funders to wrap up FY2021.

Staff met to discuss the production of the aforementioned 2022 calendar. The result of the meeting was a shift to produce a “Planner” instead of a calendar. Darrylin is working on a one month draft of the Planner. Upon completion staff will be called in to review.

- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Ag: 8 total - 0 requested CFPs and put on waitlist, 2 with drought assistance, 6 with other technical assistance. Urban: 12 total - 12 assisted with information, 2 via site visits, 4 total educated.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- A “Funding for Carbon Farming Implementation” spreadsheet: has been created to inform 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 here.](#)

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 9th, 2021**

PLACE: **Marin RCD Office, 80 4th Street, Suite 202, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956**

1. **A regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Sally Gale, President, at 9:06 a.m.**

Roll call of directors: Mike Moretti, Terry Sawyer, Bob Giacomini and Peter Martinelli.

Associate Directors: George Clyde, Guido Frosini & David Sherwood.

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Darrylin Mollath, Sarah Phillips, Elise Suronen, Michelle Katuna, Oia Walker-Van Aalst & Emilie Winfield.

Additional Attendees: Eric Rubenstahl (MALT), Zach Mendes (MALT), Kristan Norman (NRCS), Drew Loganbill (NRCS), Taj Hittenberger (NRCS) Carrie Luckacic (Prunuske Chatham) and Linda Righetti-Judah (Landowner-Daughter).

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT, MINUTES, FINANCIALS:

A. Board approval of regular meeting minutes.

MOTION: Bob; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve the minutes.

B. Board approval of RCD Financial Report and bills to be paid.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENTIONS: None, to approve the RCD financial report and bills to be paid. Terry Sawyer requests a Finance Meeting be scheduled soon.

C. Board approval of proposal to accept a \$50,000 donation to establish an endowment to be used by the Marin RCD to support its mission and activities of protecting and enhancing natural and agricultural resources in Marin County, including selected areas outside of the Marin RCD boundaries.

MOTION: Postponed.

3. STEMPLE CREEK RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT:

A. Board approval of fence design and to act as the local onsite project field manager for the Lazy R Riparian Fence Construction Project. Michelle Katuna, Marin RCD and Linda Judah Righetti, Lazy R Ranch.

MOTION: Peter; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Unanimous; NOES: None; ABSTENSIONS: None to approve fence design and to act as the local onsite project field manager for the Lazy R Riparian Fence Construction Project. Michelle Katuna, Marin RCD and Linda Judah Righetti, Lazy R Ranch..

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. Presentations & Updates:

- **Marin Permit Coordination Program Addendum** - Carrie Luckacic (Prunuske Chatham) and Elise Suronen give a presentation explaining the need for an addendum.

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- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Drew Loganbill shares that NRCS has a new Pathways Forestry Intern, Samuel Erickson and a new Forestry staff member, Joe Teal. Drew also mentions the NRCS Petaluma Office is hiring for an Archeologist position. Drew also introduces a new program: The EQIP-CIC initiative is a new program offering under the EQIP umbrella. It is intended as a bridge between EQIP and CSP for conservation minded producers. This initiative allows for implementing conservation activities typically found in CSP as well as common conservation practices typically found in EQIP. The EQIP-CIC allows for selective enrollment of fields based on the State’s initiative focus areas.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – Eric Rubenstahl mentions MALT’s monitoring season is off to a slow start as they divert their energy to the DRAWS Program which has been a huge success. He mentions that seven more easements are in the “pipeline”.
- **Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed** – Taj Hittenberger shares Point Blue is finishing up their rangeland monitoring network field season and moving on to analyzing the data gathered. He also mentions Point Blue has hired a new Soil Ecologist, Erica Foster, who will be managing their Rangeland Carbon Monitoring Project across California.

RCD Program Updates:

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program:** Possible Fee for Service Agreement to apply for permit assistance. Grant extension granted. 3.5 out of 5 sites completed! Two projects to be built in 2021.
- **Messaging/Outreach/Education:** Check out our drought page <https://www.marinrcd.org/drought-assistance/>
- **Urban Streams Program:** USC attended several meetings during the month of May including one with Marin Water regarding a partnership to support their monitoring efforts. USC carried out three (3) site visits, two in SGV and one in Mill Valley. USC was invited by CDFW to serve as an advisor for future restoration efforts in Lagunitas Creek, providing guidance.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Wildlife Conservation Board: Chileno Valley Ranch Carbon Farm Plan (CFP) to be completed by Fall 2021. CFP designs: first site visit scheduled with Progressive Pastures/GT Ranch for June 23; designs will be worked on from now to April 2022, in the order of project ranking. Educational materials: wildlife-friendly hedgerow pamphlet content has gone through an extensive technical review and sent to tribal groups for review. Department of Conservation-Stemple Creek Restoration: Staff seeks Board agreement on fence design, to allow us to move forward with USFWS match funding. Landowner’s daughter continues to explore best options for water development, and with Staff, is exploring funding through MALT and NRCS. Other: Staff is working to restructure GIS files, software, and systems to meet organizational monitoring, tracking, and mapping needs. A “Funding for Carbon Farming Implementation” spreadsheet has been created. [Find here.](#)
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** The lead consultant at PCI has been out of town but upon return, she will work with Sarah to develop a revised schedule, scope of work, and budget to accommodate two changes; 1) the lack of data on water surface elevation due to a poor winter/rainy season and 2) the outcome of the first TAC meeting resulted in a desire for a more robust and engaging TAC process (which will cost more). A fourth progress report and third invoice for this project are currently being developed.

- **Pine Gulch Creek Project:** 5-year post-construction monitoring reports are due; Marin RCD secured an extension from the Army Corps of Engineers and Water Board to submit all final reports. Marin RCD hired SFEI to complete CRAMs, farmers hired PCI to complete wetland delineations, and Marin RCD monitored the riparian enhancement area. The riparian enhancement area has 75% survival; we met the goal of 60 plants alive and thriving! The majority of plants look healthy and vigor with most over 3 ft tall with several being at least 10 ft tall. Other reports include the Riparian Enhancement Area and Notice of Completion. Peter's pond still leaks! Peter is seeking funding to apply bentonite to pond embankments.
- **Grant Opportunities:**
 - Shared Forester. Gold Ridge/Sonoma/Marin are partnering in a shared forestry position. The proposal is submitted to the National Association of RCDs. *Pending*
 - Marin Carbon Project Coordinator. A donor has awarded MCP \$50,000 to fund a part time coordinator. *Awarded!*
- **Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee met and reviewed the proposed donation in preparation for the RCD Board meeting. Investment options will need to be explored further.
- **District:** Darrylin is in the final stages of the FY 19-20 Annual Audit (Delays on the Auditor's side due to COVID), working on the FY2122 Draft Budget, comparing payroll companies, getting a Kaiser quote for a MRCD Group plan and meeting with a Financial Advisor to learn more about 401K investments for staff retirement savings.
- **New landowners/stewards assisted:** Ag: 7 total - 0 requested CFPs and put on waitlist, 2 with drought assistance, 1 with educational event, 4 with other grant-related work. Urban: 7 total - 4 assisted with information, 3 via site visits. 15 total educated.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- June 16th, 1-3:30 [UCCE Dairying, Ranching and Climate Management](#)
- June 29th, 9-12 [UCCE Drought Webinar](#)
- Restore CA by Zero Foodprint:
Producers can apply on their own. Next round in Fall 2021. Details for current and future rounds are available here: <https://www.zerofoodprint.org/apply>. Currently, applications are ranked based on 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.
- A "Funding for Carbon Farming Implementation" spreadsheet: has been created to inform 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 here.](#)

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 at 12:00 p.m.