



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, October 9th, 2024**

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.

2. PRESENTATION 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Measure J ~ *Lewis Bernier, Yes on Measure J*

West Marin Housing Study ~ *Cassandra Benjamin, CSBC Consulting (this item must be presented after 10am)*

ACTION ITEMS: 10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

3. DISTRICT:

- A. Board approval of 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 Finance Committee members to be approved on an annual basis. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- D. Board approval of FY 24-25 Annual Budget ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*

4. INFORMATIONAL: 10:45 a.m.

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

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** Michelle Katuna will provide an update on recent site visits with the Tribe. The Graton Rancheria-MRCD/Point Blue Memorandum of Agreement is being reviewed by FIGR. The team held 1 site visit in September with FIGR to new projects and recently implemented projects at SoMar and TrueGrass. The next visit is to be determined. David Escobar was hired as a consultant on JEDI in Carbon Farming and continues to meet with staff, and will soon meet with the JEDI Committee to review our implementation process.

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** We started with a contact list of 393 in our listserv (consisting mainly urban streams folks with a few partners and ag producers); note this list was before we started the newsletter.

Newsletter Date	Subscribers Sent	Open Rate	Clicks	New Subscribers	Unsubscribed
March 2024	393	66%	9%	31	5
June 2024	401	61%	6%	?	0
Sept 2024	377	64%	9%	-1	2

On Sept 23rd we mailed out a postcard to the ag community asking for subscribers. We have 3 new subscribers - a total of 380.

- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is revising its greenhouse gas analysis chapter and its economic analysis chapter, which are respectively the third and fourth chapter of the Biomass Utilization Study. Work is underway to develop findings and recommendations from the Study and to draft the fifth and final chapter of the Study.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** Two phases of the COW program are in progress. COW MILC (phase VII) has been awarded a grant of \$1,000,000 from the State Water Board. The agreement has been finalized and is being circulated for execution. COW CCAF (phase VI) completed its original scope with seven management practices implemented. Before December 2024 close-out, staff will be doing small jobs to spend remaining construction funds, preparing the final report, and conducting post-implementation monitoring .
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** Green Gulch Farms (GG) is moving through the design, CEQA and permitting process with Prunuske Chatham Inc. (PCI) guiding the way and keeping MRCD and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) in the loop. PCI has received a letter of support from FIGR and plans to provide the MRCD Board with an update, maybe November of 2024. SPAWN has been working on its road decommissioning project. As of April 2024, Black Mountain culvert project is in the PCP and might be constructed next year, Staff checked in with the project consultant, Pacific Watershed Associates, and they said that Black Mtn has not expressed interest in building it this year.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC worked part time due to another loss in the immediate family. USC attended the annual Coho Confab (conference) on the Smith River, reviewing projects to improve instream habitat for coho salmon. She also carried out site visits and assisted partners with limited capacity. USC met with various officials at the County to address any needs they have in the USC Prgm. Juvenile salmonid monitoring with Marin Water District has kept Sarah very busy during the month of September and will come to a close in early October.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** The CF team is currently developing and planning design and implementation projects in partnership with Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW). STRAW’s riparian restoration monitoring and maintenance season is complete. The team has begun the next round of Carbon Farm Plan meetings with producers this fall. The

team is working on timelines associated with USDA Climate Smart Commodities in partnership with Gold Ridge and Sonoma RCDs. Healthy Soils Projects have been awarded via the ZeroFoodPrint Block Grant to be implemented this fall. On Sept 24, MRCD and STRAW staff reconnected with land managers, Tribal staff and citizens to re-visit implemented collaborative riparian restoration design projects at SoMar and True Grass Farms. We look forward to having a Board Member out at the next collaborative site visit, likely to happen before the end of the year!

- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah P. closed out this project with CDFW! Project team met with NOAA (National Marine Fisheries Service) to better understand why our proposal was denied funding. The project team will regroup in the near future to determine another funding source to apply for implementation funds.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Possible TBay grant to remove tires and new NACD grant for Soil Hub Director
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for October 15th, 2024. At the last Finance Committee meeting the members discussed the budget, the office lease, FDIC coverage, COVID funding and hiring an HR consultant. At the next meeting the committee is meeting with the HR consultant to get an update and review a revised health insurance policy.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on hiring and directing a new HR consultant, investigating Health Insurance options, analyzing bank insurance liabilities, preparing for audit
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 2 site visits, 8 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 4 landowners and/or partners were educated.
 - COW: 2-3 landowners assisted
 - CE: 6 landowners assisted

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Marin RCD is accepting applications for projects. [Apply here](#) at our website or call Sarah Skinker at (415) 780-2854.

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, September 11th, 2024**

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, Mike Moretti, Gerald Meral, and David Sherwood. Terry Sawyer absent

Associate Directors: Guido Frosini, George Clyde

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Cora Richard, Sarah Skinker, Marcus Meggett, Preston Duncan, and Gerhard Epke

Additional Attendees: Zach Mendes (MALT), Chad White (Marin Biomass), Jim Jensen (Audubon Canyon Ranch), Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Paul Ingle (Resident), Richard Holland (Agro-Forestry & Marin Biomass), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Lily Verdone (MALT Executive Director), Joe Deviney (new Marin Ag Commissioner), Ben Stocking (Point Reyes Light Reporter), and David Lewis (UC Cooperative Extension in Marin Co). Several local landowners attended to hear the Marin Water Reservoir presentation and departed thereafter.

PRESENTATION:

2. Marin Water Reservoir Expansion:

Presented by Ranjiv Khush (President of Marin Water Board)

Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) serves 191,000 customers and they have recently started thinking ahead on how to expand their water storage in the event of another drought. Current water supply is good, reservoirs are at 85%.

The last time a water emergency was declared was in October 2021, right before CA had torrential rain which brought us out of the water emergency. Before the rain a new pipeline was approved and purchased to go across the San Rafael-Richmond Bridge, which ended up being put on hold.

MMWD considered many options for a long-term water supply increase. Currently short-term fixes have been implemented, such as raising the prices in an effort to sway people to use less water. MMWD Board is now leaning towards expansion of a reservoir (Kent or Soulajule) or creating a new reservoir (Upper Nicasio) to expand water supply.

Many ranchers are against the expansion of Soulajule Reservoir as this would result in land being taken from families. Carol Dolcini offered their perspective at their website: savehicksvalley.org. MMWD is expected to decide to investigate one of the options in the next couple months.

ACTION ITEMS

3. DISTRICT

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

MOTION: Sally; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Jerry, David, Sally and Mike; NOES: None; ABSENT: Terry; to approve August 2024 Board minutes.

- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~*Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, and David; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to approve the Financial Report.
- C. Board review and approval of Marin RCD FY 24-25 Annual Budget. ~*Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
After discussion motion was changed.
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, and David; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to change the FY 24-25 budget by adding in reserve expense accounts, then have the finance committee review and recommend approval to the board.
- D. Board approval of response to Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report. ~*Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, and David; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to approve the response to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report.
- E. Board Approval of response to the Draft California Association of Resource Conservation District Bylaws. ~*Nancy Scolari, Executive Director and Jerry Meral, MRCD Director*
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, and David; NOES: None;
ABSENT: Terry; to approve the response to the Draft California Association of Resource Conservation District Bylaws.

4. INFORMATIONAL:

Partner Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff
No staff present at this meeting. They passed on a short update through Nancy: With new pre-approvals they are up to 8.3 million across 103 pre-approved applications.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
Scott Dunbar shared that MALT has 22 active projects right now between SAP and the small grants program. They are still accepting applications for the SAP program. Fall submission for the small grants program just wrapped up, with a hopeful date of announcing awardees October 4th. They have a couple of upcoming events such as 2 hikes- one in Tomales and one in Point Reyes. MALT is also spending time on the “No on Measure J” campaign.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff
Jessie Ditmore presented and shared that Isiah is back from his paternity leave. Over the next month they will be doing maintenance at 5 sites. STRAW is onboarding 8 new apprentices and 4 new technicians. Their new projects will start around late November.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** No activity.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The Graton Rancheria-MRCD/Point Blue Memorandum of Agreement is being reviewed by FIGR. The team is planning site visits with FIGR to new projects and recently implemented projects. David Escobar was hired as a consultant on JEDI in Carbon Farming and continues to meet with staff, and will soon meet with the JEDI Committee to review our implementation process.
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is working to revise the greenhouse gas analysis of biomass utilization pathways and the economic analysis of biomass utilization pathways, which are respectively the third and fourth chapter of the Biomass Utilization Study. Work is now underway to bring forward findings and recommendations from the work and

develop the fifth and final chapter of the Study.

- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** Two phases of the COW program are in progress. COW MILC (phase VII) has been awarded a grant of \$1,000,000 from the State Water Board. The agreement has been finalized and is being circulated for execution. COW CCAF (phase VI) completed its original scope with seven management practices implemented. Before December 2024 close-out, staff will be doing small jobs to spend remaining construction funds, preparing the final report and conducting post-implementation monitoring.
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- **Urban Streams Program:** The month of August USC worked part time due to another loss in the immediate family. Work will continue part time until further notice. USC attended STRAW's Watershed Week for the first day then provided assistance to Marin Water District with relocation efforts. USC met with a landowner in San Geronimo to assess two fallen trees in the creek. Juvenile salmonid monitoring with Marin Water District has begun and will keep Sarah very busy for the coming six to seven (6-7) weeks.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** The CF team is currently developing and planning design and implementation projects in partnership with Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW). STRAW's riparian restoration monitoring and maintenance season is complete. The team is scheduling the next round of Carbon Farm Plan meetings with producers this fall. The team is working on timelines associated with USDA Climate Smart Commodities in partnership with Gold Ridge and Sonoma RCDs. Healthy Soils Projects have been awarded via the ZeroFoodPrint Block Grant to be implemented this fall.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah closed out this project with CDFW! We are currently coordinating a meeting with the National Marine Fisheries Service to better understand why our proposal was denied funding. That will likely take place in mid-October.
- **Funding Opportunities:** \$60,000 in funding was awarded by the Kurland Foundation to support Orlena Yee, our Marin Carbon Project Coordinator!
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for Sept 17th, 2024. The Finance Committee discussed the budget, the office lease, FDIC coverage, COVID funding and hiring an HR consultant.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on financial matters, setting up new project management software, personnel reviews and finalizing our newsletter.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 1 site visit, 4 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 3 landowners and/or partners were educated.
 - COW: 2-3 landowners assisted
 - CF: 4 landowners assisted

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Marin RCD is accepting applications for projects. [Apply here](#) at our website or call Sarah Skinker at (415) 780-2854.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

MRCD Director Jerry recently did a radio interview about Marin RCD. George Clyde thought it was very complimentary to the RCD.

8. MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:05 p.m.