



## AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, December 11, 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](mailto: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 a.m.

**University of CA Cooperative Extension Update - David Lewis, County Director**

### ACTION ITEMS: 9:45 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

#### 4. MARIN CARBON PROJECT

- A. A. Board approval of Contract Amendment #2 to Orlena Yee Contract #C10-2022 in the amount of \$60,000 to extend the contract and coordination services of the Marin Carbon Project. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

#### 5. INFORMATIONAL: 10:30 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
- Audubon Canyon Ranch - Jim Jensen, Tomales Bay Land Steward and Preserve Mgr

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Division 9 of the Public Resources Code** - Jerry will update us on an effort to revise Division 9 of the CA Public Resources Code, removing the requirement that RCD Directors be landowners.
- **UPDATE! Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** Two phases of the COW program are in progress and the next is in development. COW MILC (phase VIII) 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. This grant applies to the Stemple Creek and Point Reyes areas which requires thoughtful planning. COW CCAF (phase VII) completed its original scope with seven

management practices implemented. The final report has been drafted and sent to the funder. Before December 31, 2024 close-out, staff will be doing small jobs to spend remaining construction funds and conducting post-implementation monitoring. The State Water Board has opened the application period for additional 319h funding, therefore staff is preparing an application for projects in the Tomales Bay watershed.

- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The next visit with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria is to be determined in January and will be located at a local ranch. David Escobar will soon meet with the JEDI Committee to review our implementation process. Sarah will reach out to JEDI committee members with an update.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** New newsletter was sent out! Focus was on fisheries and the urban streams program. North Coast Soil Hub newsletter highlighted Healthy Soils Projects in the region: <https://conta.cc/4igHa4a>
- **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.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** SPAWN has completed its road decommissioning project. As of April 2024, Black Mountain culvert project is in the PCP and might be constructed next year.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC carried out 1 site visit to assist a landowner in Sausalito with creek bank erosion. USC continues to communicate with Supervisor Rodoni's office regarding the preparation of a study to assess the removal of tires from Tomales Bay. Spawner surveying with Marin Water has begun and will continue through February, 2025. USC coordinated and carried out a successfully attended Lagunitas TAC meeting. Finally, USC is planning 2 soil bioengineering workshops for January, 2025; one for staff and one for landowners.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed's (STRAW) riparian restoration monitoring and maintenance season is complete. The team is almost finished with the current round of Carbon Farm Plan meetings with producers this fall. The team is working on a website and marketing materials associated with USDA Climate Smart Commodities in partnership with, Ag Institute of Marin, Gold Ridge and Sonoma RCDs. Year 1 compost and rangeland seeding Healthy Soils Projects have been awarded and implemented via the ZeroFoodPrint Block Grant.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah P. closed out this project with CDFW. The project team will regroup in the near future to determine another funding source to apply for implementation funds.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Possible Tomales Bay grant to remove tires.
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2024. At the last Finance Committee meeting the members discussed human resources, the office lease, the audit and the content of meeting minutes.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on financial audit (federal spending), HR audit and investigating health insurance options. Nancy will attend a Day at the Capitol with the other North Coast RCDs on December 9th. The Strategic Planning Request for Proposals was sent out and we are waiting for proposals.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**

Urban Streams: 1 site visits, 9 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 65 landowners and/or partners were educated.

COW: 1 or 2, besides the COW CCAF grant recipients

CE: 3

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

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.

8. MEETING ADJOURNED



## MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, November 13th, 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: George Clyde, Guido Frosini, John Dolcini, Paul Ingle

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

Additional Attendees: Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Paul Ingle (Resident), Joe Deviney (Marin Co Ag Commissioner), John Dolcini (Resident), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Martha Davis (Resident), Chad White (OPR Biomass), Chase Garcia (NRCS), Alondra Mattias (NRCS)

### PRESENTATION:

**2. AIM & Marketing:**

**Presented by Andy Naja-Riese & Meleyna Nomura, Agricultural Institute of Marin**

AIM operates 9 certified farmers' markets in the Bay Area. Their long-term project is to create the "Center for Food and Agriculture" in San Rafael near the Civic Center. AIM showed us renderings of what the center would look like and what it would encompass, and their funding goals. There will be bathrooms, a coffee shop, demo kitchen, exhibitions and an update of the lot being used for the farmers market. Currently they are almost halfway funded. The project is broken up into two phases, with the first starting in April 2025 to construct the new space for the soon-to-be 3 times weekly farmers market. AIM has negotiated a 40-year lease with Marin County for this space.

### ACTION ITEMS

**3. DISTRICT**

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

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: David; AYES: David, Sally, Jerry and Mike; NOES: None;

ABSENT: Terry; to approve October 2024 Board minutes.

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

MOTION: Mike; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally and David; NOES: None;

ABSENT: Terry; to approve the Financial Report.

C. Board approval of revision to Marin RCD Associate Director Policy and candidate Associate Directors. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally and David; NOES: None;

ABSENT: Terry; to change our Associate Director Policy, excluding residency in the district as a requirement, and to accept Paul Ingle and John Dolcini as Associate Directors of MRCD in addition to current Associate Directors George and Guido.

- D. Board discussion and decision to pursue increase in number of director seats ~*Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*  
 MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally and David; NOES: None;  
 ABSENT: Terry; to put off discussion of this matter until early 2025.
- E. Board approval of Marin RCD representative to Marin County Sea Level Rise Steering Committee. *Chris Choo, Marin Community Development Agency Assistant Director & Emily Schwimmer, AECOM Climate Advisory Associate Principal*  
 MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally and David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Terry; to appoint Marin RCD Associate Director George Clyde to sit on this Steering Committee
- F. 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*  
 MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally and David; NOES: None;  
 ABSENT: Terry; to request \$125,000 from the County of Marin to support Marin RCD programs as we do each year.
- G. Board Approval to enter into a Collateral Agreement with Wells Fargo to protect District deposits in excess of the FDIC limit. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*  
 MOTION: Mike; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally and David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Terry; to enter into collateral agreement with Wells Fargo to protect District deposits in excess of the FDIC limit.

#### 4. INFORMATIONAL:

Partner Updates:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff Chase gave us an update on NRCS to say that they are currently in a holding pattern but have received 40 applications recently. He introduced us to new NRCS soil conservationist Alondra who is from Puerto Rico. NRCS is having some uncertainty over their IRA funding as president elect Trump said he might “de-obligate” funds that have not been assigned to projects yet.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff Scott shared that MALT is very happy about the non-passage of Measure J in Sonoma County and the passing of Prop 4. MALT has a new director of conservation programs and their first day was November 12<sup>th</sup>. They have 9 active SAP projects. So far MALT has accounted for 70% of their budget and they think they will allocate the remainder very soon. 79 of 93 easements are being monitored.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff Jessie Ditmore presented and shared that her and Libby just got back from the Sierras. STRAW recently had their 4<sup>th</sup> workshop of the year which was a 3-hour workshop on carbon farming entirely in Spanish.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI)**: The Graton Rancheria-MRCD/Point Blue Memorandum of Agreement is being reviewed by FIGR. The staff 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 will soon meet with the JEDI Committee to review our implementation process. Sarah will reach out to JEDI committee members in November to

schedule the next meeting.

- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** New newsletter is being drafted. Focus will be on fisheries and the urban streams program.
- **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 VIII) 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 VII) completed its original scope with seven management practices implemented. The final report has been drafted and sent to the funder. Before December 2024 close-out, staff will be doing small jobs to spend remaining construction funds 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. SPAWN has completed 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 in 2024.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC carried out three (3) site visits to assist landowners and supported many partners and landowners with various requests. USC has been meeting with Supervisor Rodoni's office regarding the preparation of a study to assess the removal of tires from Tomales Bay. Juvenile fisheries monitoring wrapped up with Marin Water, spawner surveying will begin in November. USC attended various stakeholder meetings. Finally, USC is planning two (2) soil bioengineering workshops; one for staff and one for landowners.
- **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 almost finished with the current round of Carbon Farm Plan meetings with producers this fall. The team is working on a website and marketing materials associated with USDA Climate Smart Commodities in partnership with, Ag Institute of Marin, Gold Ridge and Sonoma RCDs. Healthy Soils Projects have been awarded via the ZeroFoodPrint Block Grant to be implemented this fall. Lee is currently working with producers to get these projects implemented.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah P. closed out this project with CDFW. The project team will regroup in the near future to determine another funding source to apply for implementation funds.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Possible Tomales Bay grant to remove tires. Prop 4 Climate Bond is passed.
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2024. At the last Finance Committee meeting the members discussed health insurance, maternity leave benefits, the office lease, the Wells Fargo collateral agreement and the content

of meeting minutes.

- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on financial audit (federal spending), HR audit and investigating health insurance options
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**  
Urban Streams: 3 site visits, 12 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 9 landowners and/or partners were educated.  
COW: Aside from the grant recipients, 1 rancher assisted w/ water quality plan, 1 with willow stakes  
CF: 7 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

Hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving!

## 8. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:45 a.m.