



## AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, February 12, 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](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.

**ACTION ITEMS: 9:45 a.m.**

**2. 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 new Marin RCD Associate Director roles. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

**3. MARIN BIOMASS STUDY**

- A. Request that Board execute an amendment to Professional Services Agreement #C05-2022 (CDW LLC) that adds \$89,980 to the contract and extends the term of this contract for Marin Biomass project management services. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director and Chad White, Biomass Program Project Manager*

**4. MEASURE A**

- A. Board decision to request the County authorize the use of Measure A tax proceeds on National Park lands. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

**5. FORESTRY AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE**

- A. Board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the North Coast RCDs to cooperatively implement the State Coastal Conservancy North Coast Wildlife Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program, awarded to Humboldt County RCD. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

**6. CARBON FARMING/MARIN CARBON PROJECT**

- A. Board approval to execute a \$160,454 contract agreement between the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and Marin RCD to support the North Coast Soil Hub Director. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director and Emilie Winfield, North Coast Soil Hub Director*

## 7. 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
- Audubon Canyon Ranch - Jim Jensen, Tomales Bay Land Steward and Preserve Mgr

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **District Funding Research** - A look at a potential parcel tax to generate revenue for district programs.
- **Marin Water Expansion Alternatives** - Water District is analyzing water expansion alternatives, one of which includes increasing the capacity of Soulajule which would impact many ranching families.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW CCAF, phase VII of the COW program, has wrapped up. The final report and invoice has been submitted to the Water Board, and a summary of achievements is listed in the staff report. COW MILC, phase VIII, has begun. The agreement for \$1,000,000 is executed and applications for projects in the Stemple Creek watershed are being solicited through the end of February. The grant also funds practices in Drakes Bay watershed of the National Seashore and scoping for those projects is expected to begin later this spring. 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):** The next restoration site visit with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and STRAW is to be determined in early spring. David Escobar will soon meet with the JEDI Committee to review our implementation process.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** No articles specifically related to the RCD. Many related to Seashore Ranches. George informed PRLight of the Federal Funding Freeze and Nancy is providing updates.
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project has drafted its fifth and final chapter and has solicited feedback from the Marin Biomass Collaborative for review and feedback. Each technical report provided by the technical consultants is now being reorganized and revised into chapters of the Final Study. All planned technical work on the project has now been completed. Any remaining work will be related to preparing for chapter for integration into the Final study.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** Green Gulch Streamflow Enhancement Project is moving through design towards CEQA. 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 four (4) site visits to assist landowners with various support, all relating to the health of Marin's streambanks. Spawner surveying with Marin Water has begun and will continue through February, 2025. USC coordinated and carried out a successfully attended Soil Bioengineering workshop in San Anselmo in mid-January as well as a training for staff at the Gallagher Ranch in late January. USC coordinated and led the annual Lagunitas TAC field trip and assisted on a prescribed burn with Pepperwood Preserve staff. Finally, USC has been helping various watershed groups with fish identification upon sightings with photos, supporting Gallinas Watershed Council with meetings at the Civic Center re: Lagoon water quality, walking Miller Creek with Marinwood CSD to offer guidance, and

continuing communications with Supervisor Rodoni's office regarding the preparation of a study to assess the removal of tires from Tomales Bay.

- **Carbon Farming Program:** Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed's (STRAW) implementation season is underway for 5 hedgerow/windbreak projects funded by WCB/Measure A. The team is working towards completing 7 carbon farm plans by mid-June. 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 discuss SCC as a potential funding source to apply for implementation funds.
- **Funding Opportunities:** No update on Possible Tomales Bay grant to remove tires. Gerhard is looking into a new water quality grant opportunity. MALT/RCD are looking into grants to fix one of the Pine Gulch Instream Enhancement Project ponds.
- **Finance Committee:** The next finance committee will be held on Tuesday, February 18 at 10 am. The landlord has submitted a lease amendment for the office spaces we occupy. That amendment will be presented at the next finance committee meeting. An optional expansion into another office suite is on hold.
- **District:** Executive Director has been focused on meetings and communications related to the Federal Funding freeze and following up on the Point Reyes Seashore Buy-out. We have also been following up on securing a strategic planning consultant which we anticipate happening in February/March.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
  - Urban Streams (Dec.+ Jan.): 4 site visits, 25 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 98 landowners and/or partners were educated.
  - COW: 3 or 4 ranchers have received consultation, aside from the outreach happening in Stemple Creek related to COW MILC solicitation
  - CF: 10

#### 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Our priority funding window for projects implemented in Fall 2025 has closed, but Marin RCD is always accepting applications for projects. [Apply here](#) at our website or call Sarah Skinker at (415) 780-2854.

#### 9. 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.

#### 10. MEETING ADJOURNED



## MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, December 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, David Sherwood and Terry Sawyer

Associate Directors: George Clyde, Guido Frosini, Paul Ingle

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

Additional Attendees: Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Joe Deviney (Marin Co Ag Commissioner), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Morgan Williams (SF Bay Water Board), David Lewis (County Director University of CA Co-op Extension), Orlena Yee (Marin Carbon), Rick Holland (Agroforestry), and Jim Jensen (Audubon Canyon), Martha Davis (Nicasio resident).

### PRESENTATION:

**2. University of CA Cooperative Extension Update:**

**Presented by David Lewis, County Director**

The Marin County branch of the UC Cooperative Extension aims to help sustain agriculture and environment by providing University of CA research-based information. Due to an amazing amount of support, the Marin Cooperative Extension is bigger than David ever thought it could be. Some of the exciting programs they offer are: Marin Master Gardeners (many classes given on gardening knowledge), Agritourism in Marin (the chance to stay a night or two on a working farm in Marin and learn about their approach to agriculture), Environmental Horticulture, and Marin County 4-H! They will be adding community groups this year that are open to youth.

For more information about the Cooperative Extension in Marin and the programs and groups they offer please visit <https://cemarín.ucanr.edu/>

### ACTION ITEMS

**3. DISTRICT**

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

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

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

MOTION: David; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, Terry and David; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve the Financial Report.

**4. Marin Carbon Project**

- 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*  
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, Terry and David; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve Contract Amendment #2 for Contract #C10-2022

## 5. INFORMATIONAL

Partner Updates:

- **Marin Agriculture-** Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner  
Joe gave us an update about the weed cost share program, the pilot program has one year left. As there is still money remaining Joe would like to expand the program or extend it or both. Joe also let us know that regarding sudden oak death the county does inspect all nurseries or incoming plant material to try and prevent SOD.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff  
No NRCS report this month.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff  
Scott shared that MALT is winding down the monitoring season. Monitored 83 of 93 ranches. Getting ready for round 4 of the small grants program. Always looking for new grant program ideas. MALT is about to close Parks Home Ranch in Tomales, the 98th easement!
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff  
Jessie Ditmore presented and shared that STRAW spent December working on student restorations at SoMar Farms (windbreak planting + silvopasture planting), willow installation at Moretti, and prepping for January/February restorations at Barinaga, Moreda, and True Grass. There has been extensive work taken on by staff to help prevent the spread of phytophthora and they would be happy to act as a resource for anyone with questions. They welcome all partners to come attend their restorations in January and February as well!
- **Audubon Canyon Ranch** – Jim Jensen  
Right now grazing is best tool in managing landscapes (to prevent wildfires). Audubon is working with public lands partners where applicable. They now have communications staff, and social media is a great tool for getting information out. They also host trainings on burns.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Division 9 of the Public Resources Code** - Jerry will keep us updated on the effort to revise Division 9 of the CA Public Resources Code, removing the requirement that RCD Directors be landowners. Jerry is attending these meetings as an individual, not as a representative of the MRCD board.
- **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 visit, 9 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 65 landowners and/or partners were educated.
  - COW: Aside from the grant recipients, 1-2 landowners assisted
  - CF: 3 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**

Martha Davis, Nicasio resident, announced that Marin County is developing a drought plan for West Marin, but there is no focus on planning for the rural areas who are dependent on wells. She's on the water committee for the Nicasio landowners' association. She encourages folks to follow along or attend the county's public meetings on this matter so that we are as resilient as possible.

#### **8. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:50 a.m.**