



## AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, March 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.

### **2. PRESENTATION 9:15 a.m.**

Marin County Flood Control District Zone 10 ~ *Sarah Phillips, Urban Stream Program Manager*

### **ACTION ITEMS: 9:30 a.m.**

#### **3. DISTRICT:**

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ Cora Richard, Bookkeeper
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report and update on Federal Funding Freeze. ~Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager, Nancy Scolari, Executive Director
- C. Board approval of amendment to office lease agreement. ~Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager
- D. Board approval of MRCD Conflict of Interest Policy. Nancy Scolari, Executive Director
- E. Board approval to provide \$600 to California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to pay for federal lobbyists to represent California interests at the Federal level. Nancy Scolari, Executive Director
- F. Board decision to hire attorney to investigate the legality of the Marin Resource Conservation District being eligible for a ballot initiative. ~*Jerry Meral, Director*

#### **4. FIRE RESILIENCY**

- A. Board approval to execute \$250,000 Member Grant Agreement with Humboldt County Resource Conservation District for the North Coast Wildfire Resilience Planning & Implementation Grant Program. ~*Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

#### **5. INFORMATIONAL: 10:15 a.m.**

**Notice of opportunity to comment on Grazing Waiver Renewal.** SF Regional Water Board has a hearing on May 14th and public comment is open until March 24th on expansion of grazing waiver to Point Reyes National Seashore. ~*Gerhard Epke, Water Quality Program Manager* more info at [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public\\_notices/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/)

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):

- **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. Other alternatives are currently of higher priority.
- **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 eight applications have been received for projects in the Stemple Creek watershed and the Technical Advisory Group had its first meeting. 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.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The next visit with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria will take place this spring. David Escobar will soon meet with the JEDI Committee to review our implementation process.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** *Federal Funding Freezes and cuts start hitting West Marin, PRLight.*
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is revising its findings and recommendations chapter. All technical work has been completed. Work is now underway to incorporate all technical reports into the final Biomass Utilization 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 two (2) site visits to assist landowners with various support, all relating to the health of Marin’s watersheds. Smolt surveying is soon to begin in late March with Marin Water and will continue through late May, 2025. USC has been attending Pepperwood Preserve’s Learn and Burn (LAB) days for more experience with fire and is in the process of being recertified as Type II Fire Fighter. As well, USC attended and provided comments on Marin Water’s designs for their Phase II habitat enhancement project sites on Lagunitas Creek. USC has been working closely with Supervisor Rodoni’s aide, Morgan, to support efforts within Tomales Bay. USC has also been meeting with County Flood Control regarding a transfer of funds from Zone 10. Finally, USC has been helping various watershed groups, as requested.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed’s (STRAW) continues with their implementation season on 5 hedgerow/windbreak projects funded through WCB. Year 1 compost and rangeland seeding Healthy Soils Projects have been awarded and mostly implemented via the ZeroFoodPrint Block Grant. The 7 carbon farm plans funded by SCC, WCB, CDFA CAPGP and Marin County are 75% complete, and the team aims to have drafts available for landowners by late May.

- **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:** Tomales Bay Tire Removal, Chileno Creek Restoration, Zone 10 Flood Control, COWGIRL, Carbon Cycle Inst., Prop 4/Climate Bond, Mitigation Funds.
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2024.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on budget projections, fundraising.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
  - Urban Streams: 2 site visits, 14 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 7 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
  - CE: 6

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Marin RCD is accepting applications for projects. [Apply here](#) at our website or call Sarah Skinker at (415) 780-2854.
- March 26. Stemple Creek Ranch. Resilient Rangelands Workshop.
- May 14. Grazing Waiver Board Hearing

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, February 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 Sally Gale, President, at 9:05 a.m.**

Roll call of Directors: Sally Gale, Mike Moretti, Gerald Meral, and David Sherwood. Terry Sawyer was absent.

Associate Directors: George Clyde, Guido Frosini, Paul Ingle and John Dolcini

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Marcus Meggett, Preston Duncan, 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), Rick Holland (Agroforestry), Martha Davis (Nicasio resident) Chad White (OPR), Regina Pozzi (Marin Farm Bureau), Belle Cole and Bill Carney (Marin Biomass Project)

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**2. DISTRICT:**

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

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

ABSENT: Terry; to approve December 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.

A topic of conversation during the financial report was how the federal grant freezes are affecting Marin RCD. We have a few grants administered by USDA which are frozen right now.

C. Board approval of new Marin RCD Associate Director roles. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

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

ABSENT: Terry; to approve the new roles for Marin RCD Associate Directors.

**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*

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

ABSENT: Terry; to amend Professional Services Agreement #C05-2022.

#### 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*  
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally and David; NOES: None;  
ABSENT: Terry; to request the County authorize the use of Measure A tax proceeds on working ranches on public lands.

#### 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*  
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally and David; NOES: None;  
ABSENT: Terry; to approve a MOU between the North Coast RCDs to cooperatively implement the SCC North Coast Wildlife Resilience Planning and Implementation grant program.

#### 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*  
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally and David; NOES: None;  
ABSENT: Terry; to approve executing a \$160,454 contract agreement between the NACD and Marin RCD to support the North Coast Soil Hub Director.

#### 7. INFORMATIONAL

Partner Updates:

- **Marin Agriculture**- Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner

No significant update to share this month

- **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 just closed Parks Home Ranch in Tomales, their 98th easement! This makes nearly 59k acres protected. The Small Grants Program is officially open, the theme is resilience on working lands. The Small Grants Program is open to all agriculture in Marin Co.

- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff Libby says that they are deep in restoration season. STRAW has finished the SoMar project. The rain set them back, into March. All willows are budding! Jesse shared that they are halfway done with Poncia/Moreda. Isiah says STRAW is concerned about the federal funding freeze. STRAW is starting to think about next year's projects. They are midway through the WCB block grant. In April they will bring a recap of their projects with photos to share at MRCD's board meeting.

- **Audubon Canyon Ranch** – Jim Jensen

No ACR report this month

- **Marin Water Expansion** – John Dolcini (Marin RCD Associate Director)

John will now be following Marin Water's expansion plans and reporting back to us. The idea of a pipeline from Sonoma County seems to rank highest right now with Soulajule Reservoir being second. 3 of 5 directors for Marin Water seemed in favor of removing the Soulajule option. It does look like Marin Water is moving forward with raising the spillway on Nicasio Reservoir.

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 consultations, aside from the outreach happening in Stemple Creek related to COW MILC solicitation
  - CF: 10 landowners assisted

## 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- 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

Martha Davis, Nicasio resident, let us know that the second public meeting is taking place tomorrow (Feb 13<sup>th</sup>) for a drought plan for area not covered by water agencies. Does include West Marin. The meeting is at 5:30pm and there will be a link to the meeting on Marin Co. Public Works Plan website. Martha says she usually googles "Marin County Public Works Drought Plan" to find out more.

## 8. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:30 a.m.