



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, April 9, 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 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: 9:15 a.m.

2. 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 to send Congressman Huffman a letter in support of extending the deadline to relocate the Point Reyes National Seashore ranches.

3. TOMALES BAY TIRE SALVAGE PROJECT:

- A. Request Board approval to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a \$49,900 Professional Service Agreement with the County of Marin to complete Tomales Bay Tire Removal Assessment/Study. ~ *Karen Reyna, NOAA Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank Marine Sanctuaries and Sarah Phillips, Urban Stream Program Manager*

4. INFORMATIONAL: 9:50 a.m.

- **Overview of Point Blue/Marin RCD Planting Projects** - *Point Blue Crew*
- **North Coast Soil Hub** - *Emilie Winfield, North Coast Soil Hub Director*

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** - New maps show new water levels for Nicasio
- **Funding Opportunities Current/Future:** Chleno Creek Restoration, Zone 10 Flood Control, COWGIRL, Carbon Cycle Inst.(approved!), Prop 4/Climate Bond, Mitigation Funds, Ballot Initiatives and Measures

- **September Strategic Plan Retreat** - Pick a day in Sept!
- **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 six applications have been received for projects in the Stemple Creek watershed. The Technical Advisory Group has been meeting to review selection criteria, conduct site visits, and rank projects. 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 in May. David Escobar is working on several projects and will soon meet with the JEDI Committee after the next FIGR site visit.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Several National articles are pointing out the difficulties with the federal funding freeze associated with our USDA Climate Smart Commodities grant.
- **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 four (4) site visits to assist landowners with various support, all relating to the health of Marin's watersheds. Smolt surveying has begun with Marin Water and will continue through late May, 2025. USC along with Lee and Preston completed the tests and other requirements associated with recertifying as RT-130 Fire Fighters (Type II). USC led the quarterly Lagunitas TAC meeting, carried out a Site Assessment per Stream Conservation Area Ordinance, met with a funder and MALT at the Martinelli pond project site, and carried out a preliminary investigation to sediment issues in Zone 10 area of Inverness along fire roads. USC played an instrumental role in supporting Olema Campground with addressing immediate flooding needs with the emergency permitting process and securing an engineer to assist. 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 almost complete, and the team aims to have drafts available for landowners by late May.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** The project team will regroup in the near future to discuss SCC as a potential funding source to apply for implementation funds. USC reached out to partner USFWS about additional funding in support of the project.
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21, 2025. At the last Finance Committee meeting the members discussed federal funding, budgeting, indirect cost rates, State Controller Financial Transaction report, the office lease, and the financial statement and Measure A audits.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on budget projections, fundraising.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**

Urban Streams: 4 site visits, 14 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 50 landowners and/or partners were educated.

COW: 1 or 2 ranchers have received consultation, aside from the outreach happening in Stemple Creek related to COW MILC solicitation

CE: 64

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- May 14. Grazing Waiver Board Hearing

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

Associate Directors: Paul Ingle and John Dolcini

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

Additional Attendees: Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Liat Wilde (STRAW), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Sonya Hammonds (MALT), Rick Holland (Agroforestry), Martha Davis (Nicasio resident) Chad White (Biomass PM), Alex Cunha (North Coast RCD), Chase Garcia (NRCS Petaluma), Morgan Williams (SF Bay Water Quality Board) and Jim Jensen (Audubon Canyon Ranch)

2. PRESENTATION: Marin County Flood Control District Zone 10 ~ *Sarah Phillips, Urban Streams Program Manager*

The Flood Control District has an allocation of funds (roughly \$30,000) they would like to transfer over to Marin RCD and the Urban Streams program before the fiscal year is over. This presentation was to gauge the interest in this topic from the MRCD board before making it an action item and moving forward with County Counsel to transfer the money. There will be an agreement to review and sign at the April Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

3. DISTRICT:

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

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve February 2025 Board minutes.

B. Board approval of the Financial Report and update on Federal Funding Freeze. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager, Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

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

C. Board approval of amendment to office lease agreement. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*

MOTION: David; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve the amendment to office lease agreement.

D. Board approval of MRCD Conflict of Interest Policy. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve the MRCD Conflict of Interest Policy.

- 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*
MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to provide \$600 to CARCD to pay for federal lobbyists.
- 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*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve hiring an attorney to investigate a potential ballot initiative.

4. FIRE RESILIENCY

- A. Board approval to execute \$250,000 Member Grant Agreement with Humboldt County Resource Conservation District for the North Coast Wildlife Resilience Planning & Implementation Grant Program. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve executing the \$250,000 Member Grant Agreement with Humboldt County RCD.

5. INFORMATIONAL

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/

Partner Updates:

- **Marin Agriculture**- Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner
Not present this month.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff Chase Garcia was present for this meeting and started by apologizing for USDA and the federal funding problems, though everything that is happening is out of his control. No agreements have officially been cancelled, and Chase is following up on grant payments at least once a week. The staff at NRCS is barely getting any information from the federal gov. There have not seen any layoffs at NRCS Petaluma, but he did hear of layoffs which have happened at NRCS Napa. Aside from the federal problems, the deadline for EQIP grants is this Friday (3/14). There are currently 189 EQIP applications for over \$20 million in financial assistance. 16 EQIP applications are pre-approved.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
Scott Dunbar and Sonya Hammond, MALT's new Director of Conservation Programs, were present. Scott shared that the 4th round of the Small Grants Program is closing soon. MALT held office hours a few weeks ago, which Sarah Skinker attended. MALT is also planning to hire another Stewardship Associate.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff Libby shared that there are 3 days left in the restoration season this year. The Moreda/Poncia project is wrapped up. There is a new project at Hydron. Isaiah shared that recently STRAW has been working with Lee in conjunction with MRCD's carbon farming program. The STRAW group brought with them Liat Wilde to the board meeting today, their new Conservation Social

Scientist. In April they will bring a recap of their projects with photos to share at MRCD's board meeting.

- **Audubon Canyon Ranch** – Jim Jensen

ACR recently were awarded a fish and wildlife grant at Marks Ranch. They did a Walker Creek Estuary clean up last summer which aligns with Marin RCD's work in the watershed.

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

At the last Marin Municipal Water District meeting on February 25th John attended there was unanimous agreement to do an environmental study for the pipeline. Marin Water will be continuing with alternatives, as Soulajule was de-prioritized. The pipeline is a \$168 million project, and it would be 13 miles long.

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 and 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 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:** *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 finance committee will be held on Tuesday, March 18 at 10 am.
- **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 consultations, aside from the outreach happening in Stemple Creek related to COW MILC solicitation
CF: 6 landowners assisted

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- 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

Rich Holland let us know that the Agroforestry Network has had federal funding paused for them.

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