



**Madera/Chowchilla  
Resource Conservation District  
Post Office Box 531  
Chowchilla, CA 93610**



**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 10, 2019 - 5:00 pm**

*Madera/Chowchilla Resource Conservation District  
Farm Service Agency Conference Room, Madera*

**I. Roll Call and Introductions**

- Flag Salute  
Directors: Norman V Kuhr, Sandra Faust, Tom Petrucci, Matt Angell, Jay Bellach  
Directors Absent: Catherine Machado, Tim Coelho  
Associate Directors: Jack Fry  
Staff: Jeannie Habben  
Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff, Madera NRCS  
Guests: Eric Herman, Spec Crop

**II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda**

- April 2019 Agenda
- March 2019 Minutes  
Tom P made the motion to accept the minutes and the agenda as presented. Jay B made the second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.

**III. Updates, Handout, and Public Comments**

- For all of our Forest Health and Fire minded partners – this looks like a good opportunity for learning. The effects of recent wildfires on California water agencies will be discussed during a webinar briefing on Tuesday, April 23. It will feature presentations from those who experienced the devastation of the fires. They will discuss lessons they learned regarding the federal response and the importance of working with State agencies. The registration deadline is Monday, April 22.
- This is a couple of months old – but still fairly recent. This is good information on the Tree Mortality issue. (the full presentation is attached) An Aerial Detection Survey was completed by USDA and the US Forest Service, and there are 147 million dead trees in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. 107 million are in 10 high priority counties, and almost 15.5 million of those are in Madera County.
- There are two Earth Day Celebrations in Madera (that I am aware of):
  - North Fork Earth Day Celebration at the North Fork Mill Site. With booths, music, food, and tire amnesty. From 9:00 to 2:00
  - Madera Youth Leaders – at the Inspirational Roots Community Garden (between Lake and 4<sup>th</sup> Street) in Madera from 9:00 to 12:00
- Sierra RCD received a grant award in the amount of \$235,000 to support the California Department of Conservation's Forest Health Watershed Coordinator program. This award will fund the District and their partners in developing a regional approach to address forest health challenges within the southern Sierra Nevada, and the protection and enhancement of our major watersheds. A separate notification will be sent out to our participating partners.
- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted the fourth Phillips Station snow survey of 2019. The manual survey recorded 106.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent (SWE) of 51 inches, which is 200 percent of average for this location. Statewide, the Sierra Nevada snowpack is 162 percent of average. California has

experienced more than 30 atmospheric rivers since the start of the water year, with 6 in February alone, and statewide snow water equivalent has nearly tripled since Feb. 1.

- Madera/Chowchilla RCD meeting is this Wednesday, April 10. During their Consolidation Process, I worked with Solid Ground Consulting and CARCD to complete the project and a Guidebook was created. If anyone is interested in a guidebook let me know, 100 were printed with grant funds from DOC.

#### **IV. Correspondence & Mail**

- Correspondence

The mail was opened and the following was received: LAFCO notice of hearing, two checks from DOC for the Invoice #6 for both RCD projects. The Certificate of Insurance showing the new RCD name.

#### **V. Financial Report**

- Monthly Treasurer's Report

The Monthly Treasurer's Report was distributed and explained. Jeannie H will be adding the two checks received to the account information.

- Invoices to be Paid

A reimbursement check was paid to Sandra F for \$64.00 to pay one-year's rent for the Post Office Box in Chowchilla. A Partial payment was made to Jeannie H for some of the October 2018 to December 2018 invoice. This will be paid in full when the final check is received from DOC.

#### **VI. New Business**

- Review DOC REV Grant – Final

Jeannie H shared that all of the invoices and reports have been completed for both the Chowchilla Red Top RCD Rev Grant and the Madera RCD Tier 1 Grant. Part of that funding was to create a book with all of the steps it took for the Consolidation. Jeannie H submitted information for this book, but it was completed by Solid Ground Consulting with additional input from CARCD. Jeannie H shared this book with the group.

- Website Update

- Maintenance Agreement

The board stated that they wanted to make sure there is information about the history of each RCD on the website so all of the past RCDs that have been consolidated to date created this RCD.

The board decided to ask Kristina P to the May meeting for the final review to release the website. They would like for her to come and review the website with them, and bring a Maintenance Agreement for them to review for the future. Jeannie H will contact her to arrange the meeting visit.

- Madera/Chowchilla RCD Consolidation

- Letter to Consolidate County Accounts

Each RCD is expecting one more check from DOC. This account needs to remain the same until both of the checks are received and deposited. Jeannie H has already created the letter, so when the time comes, she will change the date and get signatures to combine the County Account.

- List of Next Steps

- Notify Project areas of Name and Status Change

- Army Corp of Engineers - Eastman Lake
- County Parks – Jack Ass Ridge/Camp ground
- JPA – Chowchilla Water District, City of Chowchilla

None of these have been completed – the JPA would have to be rewritten and re-signed by all parties.

- Change: DONE
  - Mailing information with Post Office -
  - Post Office Box – add and combine names  
Sandra F changed the name on the PO Box and added Madera RCD.  
Tom P completed change of address paperwork at the PO.
- Outside checking account -
  - Change name
  - Add new signature cards
  - Order checks  
This will have to wait until all checks are in and cleared. The group decided to combine their names on this account and get new signatories, removing Jack F and Sandy F.
- Combine County Account -
  - Request reports with two account totals
  - Write letter with information of authorization
  - Submit LAFCO paperwork  
This will have to wait until all checks are in and cleared.

The board discussed the two bank accounts and whether they would keep them both or just one. After discussion, they chose to keep them both. Matt A made the motion to keep both bank accounts; Jay B second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

- Insurance - DONE
  - Change name with insurance company
  - Fill-out new groups information
  - Request refund from one of the policies  
Sandy F contacted the Insurance Company and explained the change/consolidation. The Insurance Company contacted Jeannie H to get copies of the LAFCO paperwork and all other details. This is done and all of the information has since been sent to their auditors department to see if a refund of any amount is forthcoming.
- Dues - DONE
  - Pay dues where necessary in new name  
The board paid CARCD and Area IX under new name.
- Complete any projects under the old names to close out obligations  
DONE – This was the Rev Grant and the Tier One grant – both completed.
- Presentation to the County Board of Supervisors  
The Board discussed this again and decided that this is something they can do right away. Johnnie S will check on getting an updated map and Matt A and Norm K will go to the April 16 County BOS meeting and present the new board at Public Comment.
- Moving Forward Sub-Committee -  
A sub-committee met to discuss their thoughts on goals for the RCD in the future. They asked, “Where does this board see themselves in 10 years?” They decided that water quantity is the issue that they need to target as they go forward. To do this, they decided that they need an Executive Director and a staff person. Matt A met with Christina B from the Madera Farm Bureau and they discussed possible partnerships with the Farm Bureau, the East-Side Coalition, SGMA groups, and FSMA (Food Safety Management Act) groups and training.

Matt A approached his sister, Laurel about creating a “Blue Print” of what she feels the RCD should look like. They will meet again next Thursday at Madera Pump to further discuss this.

## **VII. Old Business**

- Area IX – San Joaquin Valley Region – Executive Board Positions  
San Joaquin Valley Area IX will be having their Spring meeting on May 10 from 9:00 to 2:00 at the Clovis Memorial Building. It will be hosted by SRCD at the Clovis Veteran’s Memorial Building.
  
- NRCS Report  
Funds were released from the 2019 Farm Bill so the Madera Field Office has been working on Batch 2; they will start Batch 3 about mid-June. They will soon begin on the RCPP funds for the Tree Mortality Project with CARCD, there is about a million dollar back log that they are waiting for a Cultural Archeologist to do the Cultural Resource Review in the areas around the trees. This is a State position and there are very few of them to do the work.
  
- Madera Region IRWMP/RWMP – Report
  - April 8 – Oakhurst
  - May 13 - ChowchillaThe RWMP is working on their Project List for the next round of funding from DWR for Prop 1 projects. The 1<sup>st</sup> invoice covering July 2016 to January 2019 has been submitted. The Plan Update is back to QK for revisions to attempt to get DWR to approve it. Jeannie H explained that the IRWMP RWMP talked about partnering with the RCDs – Coarsegold RCD in the foothills and Madera/Chowchilla RCD in the Valley to create a “Pumpers Group.”  
In cooperation with the Regional Water Management Group and the Coarsegold and Madera-Chowchilla Resource Conservation Districts, the Groundwater Pumpers Group will have twice yearly meetings to educate residential water users about wells and pumps. Twice a year, the Groundwater Pumpers Group of the Foothills and of the Valley could conduct workshops on domestic wells. Topics for the workshop might include:
  - Anatomy of a well and pump
  - Depth of Wells
  - Aquifers v. Fractured Bedrock
  - Position of the Well (on property) related to the septic tank
  - Water quality testing
  - Troubleshooting
  - Common Questions and AnswersThe RCD agreed this was a good idea. Jeannie H will explain this at the Coarsegold RCD meeting at the end of the week.

## **VIII. Items for Next Meeting: May 8, 2019; 5:00pm**

**Farm Service Agency Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera**

## **IX. Adjourn: 7:50pm**