



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

- I. Call to Order: 5:05PM by Norman Kuhr**
 - A. Director Roll Call
Attendance was virtual on Zoom. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Jay Bellach, Mike DeLaGuerra, Erik Herman, Matt Angell Staff: Amy Siliznoff; Associate Director: Mark Hutson; Partners: Rob Roy (NRCS), Dannamarie Acevedo-Velazquez (NRCS), Christina Beckstead (Madera Farm Bureau)

- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Area 9 Meeting Discussion was added to the RCD Report, and \$3,500 check was added for incoming under financial report.

- III. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **Approval of March Meeting Minutes, March 16th Special Meeting Minutes, and March 25th Special Meeting Minutes** – Motion was made by Matt Angell to approve the Meeting Minutes, there was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

- IV. Correspondence & Mail** – CSDA mailers, CARCD checks (\$3,500, \$5,000)

- V. Public Comments** – Christina Beckstead with Madera County Farm Bureau mentioned a Central Valley Community Foundation Grant that was previously discussed to be awarded for the RCD. This will be an action item on a future meeting.

- VI. Reports**
 - A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Stephanie Anagnoson
 - Revisions are underway for GSPs in the Chowchilla and Delta-Mendota Subbasins
 - County GSAs (“white area”) had a draft rate study approved on 4/12 to move ahead with noticing; notices would be mailed to landowners in the white area around 5/1 with a public hearing 6/21
 - The County is submitting the DOC multi-benefit land repurposing grant application and all collaborating agencies are partnered for both preparing the plan for land repurposing and public workshops on the actual funding.

- B. NRCS Report – Dannamarie AcevedoVelazquez
 - AFT grant is running, Chris Yohannan is working on the first EQUIP, 38 pre-approved for application. Deadline was April 1st. Working with Groundwater recharge pilot program. 20 applications for this program. Sustainable conservation is heading the planning process. They are trying to figure out a way to plan these applications and get them screened. They're short in time and staff and trying to do their best.

- C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – Amy Siliznoff
 - No update

- D. Farm Bureau – Christina Beckstead
 - FB is hiring 2 positions at the office
 - They've postponed their annual scholarship/wine tasting event, usually in May but pushing later in the month
 - During the day they do a golf tournament and later they do wine tasting, it will be May 25th or 26th
 - \$50,000 in scholarships to 11 students
 - Candidate forum coming up, May 11th
 - Water forum they're working on, June 1st, topics include water quality and SGMA. Goal is to have folks how to continue to do with less. Almond and Pistachio industry to present on research they've done, continue to maintain production even with water reductions.
 - Just wrapped up with Ag recycling event, was very successful.
 - They are very engaged in the SGMA process, dealing with the new rates that are coming out.

- E. News/Other Meeting Reports – Mark Hutson
 - County 1602 Permit was approved by Fish & Wildlife for Arundo removal
 - Talk to WCB about an Arundo grant

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

- A. Area 9 Meeting (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy mentioned this meeting will be to discuss what the farm bill will look like. It's a regional working group, and Carlos Suarez with NRCS will possibly be at the meeting. They are looking at setting a date for end of May or early June in Madera, Tulare, or Clovis.

- B. Monarch/Pollinator Opportunity with CA Wildlife Conservation Board
 - Amy met with Partners for Fish & Wildlife with Mark Hutson on April 6th. She is working on completing a budget and confirming site access and irrigation for the site.

- C. Ag Recycling Day with Madera Farm Bureau (I)
 - Mark Hutson assisted with the event. There was 25 (cotton trailer worth) 62,000lb of material recycled. Over 25 people signed up for the event. Took over 3 weeks to complete the recycling event.

- D. Legal Description for MCRCD (I) (A)
 - Amy met with LACO Associates and David Braun with LAFCO on April 13th to discuss the next steps for completing a legal description for the RCD. David confirmed the boundary map is sufficient for identifying the RCD boundary and the RCD would only need to complete a legal description for our own purposes, LAFCO is not requiring the RCD to submit a metes and bounds legal description.
- E. Agricultural Conservationist/Project Assistant Position (I)
 - Amy reached out to three applicants for interviews. One applicant was a no-show, and one did not respond. The hiring committee and Amy interviewed an application on April 12th but has decided to continue looking for additional applicants to interview.
- F. Upcoming Workshops (I)
 - The RCD is hosting a “Strategies for Recharge on Your Farm” Workshop on April 20th from 10AM-12PM with Sustainable Conservation, the Almond Board of California, and NRCS.
 - The RCD is collaborating on the VFB Share Cover Crop Webinar on April 22nd from 10AM-12PM.
- G. Upcoming Grant Applications (I)
 - Amy is working with Madera County, Madera Ag Water Association, and Madera County Farm Bureau on the DOC Land Repurposing Grant application. All collaborating agencies are partnered for both preparing the plan for land repurposing and public workshops on the actual funding.
- H. Adoption of Resolution No. 2021-01 – Proclaiming a Local Emergency, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Newsom on March 4, 2020, and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of Madera/Chowchilla Resource Conservation District for the period of April 13, 2022 – May 11, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions (I) (A)
 - Erik Herman made a motion to approve the resolution, a second was made by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

VIII. Financial Report

- A. Monthly Treasurer’s Report (I)
 - County Account: \$1,596.98
 - Central Valley Community Bank Account: \$49,011.50
 - Incoming from DOC: \$10,500 (pending)
 - Incoming from CARCD for December: \$5,000 (came in and is being deposited into CVCB)
 - Incoming from CARCD for January: \$3,500
 - **Total in all accounts: \$50,608.48**
 - **Total after incoming: \$69,608.48**
- A motion was made by Jay Bellach to approve the Treasurers Report. A second was made by Matt Angell. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Review and Approval of Expenses (I) (A)
 - Expenses: Monthly fee for CalTech Web - \$99

- QuickBooks TSheets (Grant Tracking) - \$10
 - Invoice for Amy Siliznoff - \$3,500
 - Invoice for Cost-Share VFB Videography - \$3,000
 - **Total Expenses: \$6,609**
- **Total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid: \$62,999.48**
- Erik Herman made a motion to approve expenses, there was a second by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IX. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Old Business

- A. All Board Members - Harassment and Ethics Training**
- Amy will follow up with Board members that are still outstanding for Harassment and Ethics Training.

X. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:57PM.

Next Meeting: May 11, 2022, 5:00PM