



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



**Due to safety concerns, guidance and restrictions around the COVID-19 crisis, the April 8 Board Meeting was conducted via the online platform ZOOM, which was sent to all Board Members directly.**

**Monthly Board Meeting  
Wednesday, April 8, 2020 – 12:00PM-2:00PM  
VIA Zoom Conference**

## ***Minutes***

### **I. Roll Call and Introductions**

- Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 12:03pm by Norm V. Kuhr.
- Flag Salute
- Introduction of Guests
- Directors: Jay Bellach, Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell, Tom Petrucci, Norman V. Kuhr, Erik Herman, Tim Coelho
- Associate Directors: Mark Hutson
- Staff: Laurel Angell, Stefani Dias
- Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff-NRCS, Taylor Fridrich – NRCS, Priscilla Baker -NRCS, Stephanie Anagnoson- Madera County, Christina Beckstead, Madera County Farm Bureau Cole Karr, CSDA,

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

- April 2020 Agenda
  - Additions?
    - Motion was made by Mike D. to approve the April 2020 agenda as presented, there was a second from Matt A., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- March 2020 Minutes
  - Motion was made by Mike D. to approve the March 2020 minutes as presented, there was a second from Matt A., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

### **III. Correspondence & Mail**

- Correspondence
  - Received letters from Cal Pers, Stefani will scan to Laurel for review.
  - Two checks received: \$825 East Stanislaus RCD and \$20 CSDA
  - P.O. Box needs to be renewed
    - A motion was made by Tom p. to paid for P.O Box renewal, there was second by Erik H., and the motion passed unanimously by all present

directors.

#### IV. Financial Report

- Monthly Treasurer's Report
  - There was a motion made by Mike D., to approve the treasurer's report as presented, there was second by Matt A., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Incoming Income and Review & Approval of Expenses
  - **Incoming Payment:** ESRCD/Carbon Cycle Institute for \$825.00 (into county account)/\$20 reimbursement for Ethics training – remaining \$150 pending final certificates.
  - **Expense:** Laurel Angell (invoice – February 15 to March 15) \$1,000.00
    - There was a motion to accept Laurel's invoice for advisory work as presented by Matt A., there was a second by Tim C., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- New Outside Bank Account – updates
  - Type of Checking Account will to be determined so the account will be open by next month's meeting
    - Motion made by Tim C., to choose the account with less fees, there was a second from Matt A., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

#### V. Meeting Updates, Handout, and Public Comments

- Public Comments?
  - Cole Karr joined us to give update on what CSDA is doing during COVID-19. They have written to congressional leaders asking for increase in bank borrowing for small borrowers, for help with special districts affected by the pandemic and more. There was also a letter template that special districts could use to write to congressional leaders asking for support during this time.
- Handouts for this meeting - None
- Laurel update on meetings attended
- Pending meetings to be aware of? (info)
  - Meetings are on hold due to COVID-19
- Diversity, Inclusion and Equity work – DEI Training with CARCD
  - Laurel gave brief update on her work with Sharon Nance (NRCS) and serving disadvantaged communities.

#### VI. Discussion Topics and Action Items

- **Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water & Natural Resources, Madera County: Update on GSAs/GSPs/Advisory Board**
  - GSPs were submitted and all were accepted except for the Madera Subbasin.
  - There will be a water market strategy meeting on April 30, 2020 3:00pm-5:00pm via online conference.
- **UPDATE:** Strategy meeting to be scheduled between MAWA, RCD, FB, & County. Scheduled for May 18 (time and location TBD)
  - SWAT Analysis will be sent out and needs to be completed by board members. The meeting will be May 18<sup>th</sup>, all day , and location to be announced.



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- **COVID 19 – updates and priorities (focus given the dramatic changes)**
  
- **DISCUSSION and BRAINSTORM:** Funding, the grants are on a long timeline so...
  - Approaching Almond Board with SGMA pitch (Laurel, Jay, and Matt)
  - Long-term and consistent funding streams/grants (Matt idea on Drones)
  - Short term fundraisers (since grants are taking some time)

- IRWM – how do we engage? (Jeannie’s note sent to Board)

Short-term capacity grants

- Other ideas

- **CIG and other grant opportunities from NRCS (discussion).**
- **AB 5 Update on new contractor law. Impacts on RCD. (discussion)**
- **M/CRCDs role on SGMA – ACTION ITEMS**
- **CHECKING ON STATUS:** IWM and Nutrient Management workshop -- May –MOU (East Stan – Invite from Trina Whalley) – **This workshop has been postponed to 2020 Fall.**
  - Lunch donation/Farm Bureau offices
  - From Trina: The class is to maintain their self-certification. The water coalition has to do the certification classes with a trained staff person from your local office. Once self- certification course is done once the producer has to do one credit a year or three within three years to maintain that certification.
- **Educational and Technical:**
  - Lining up and deploying technical team (MCRCD team, NRCS, NCAT, Point Blue)
  - Producer outreach and workshops; GSAs
  - Media project fundraising for matching fund
  - Partnership building/tapping and leveraging expertise

- **RCD Board Membership**

- Ethics Training – should be set.

## **VII. Grants (focused on priorities laid out in Annual Plan)**

### **Secured**

- Community Foundation Capacity Grant (grant for \$7.9k- needs depositing into new account)
- Carbon Cycle Institute Grant (\$2k/Travel paid for staff work on preparing a larger grant to be submitted in February to do a regional hub on healthy soils/carbon farming planning and implementation), \$1.2 million

- National CIG (RCD sent letter of support/for education assistance/award for \$1.2 million for five years, we will be convening soon to talk logistics of that. (awaiting information from ESRCDC)
- Central Valley Community Foundation/Impact Media Fund (Proposal accepted), \$100k matching, specifically earmarked for the media project. Initial amount of \$15K to start to be disbursed in late January into the Fund.
- CARCD – Bechtel funding for SGMA needs assessment (admin for Laurel)

### **Submitted and Pending**

- **The Nature Conservancy – Acceleration Grants – pre-grant due March 13**
- Carbon Cycle Institute Grant, Phase Two, Worked with ESRCDC to finalize proposal that will be part of a joint proposal to private foundations to be a Healthy Soils Hub housed at M/CRCD and ESRCDC; (final proposal will submitted with goal of funding by summer)
- RCPP with American Farmland Trust on recharge innovation and demo projects (pending decision in Spring)
- DOC/Prop 68 Working Lands and Riparian Corridors (applied with Regional partners/\$10K for planning) (pending decision)
- Water Foundation (proposing SGMA Strategy laid out in Dec Meeting as a pilot project; potential funding for SGMA work, proposal being reviewed – timeline of early spring)
- Water Funders Group (proposal submitted in December; potential funding for media project)
- CDFA Specialty Block Grants – for Next Gen Project, \$25k – requested more information
- *Campbell Foundation, Capacity Grant (\$10K/applied/pushed to Spring)*

### **Currently working on:**

- **The Nature Conservancy Acceleration Grant – March 13**
- **California Strategic Growth Council/Sustainable Ag Lands Conservation Program (SALC) – Due April but decision is not until August**
- Fundraising for CVCF grant
- Part of fundraising team the CCI/Healthy Soils hub regional proposal
- NEW: DOC/Prop 68 Grant with other RCDs and CARCD – East Stan lead

### **Updates on grant proposals that we did not get:**

## **VIII. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Staffing & Compliance**

- LA Contract – Advisory Contract. Need to approve 4/15 to 5/15
  - There was a motion to accept Laurel’s contract as presented by Tom P., there was a second by Erik H., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Legal description
  - On hold

## **IX. Old Business**

### **X. Reports**

- NRCS Report
  - NRCS National Air Quality Applications received about 80-90, 26 irrigation applications, and met with MID to discuss infrastructure needs (recharge). Applications to be reviewed and awarded in the next couple months.
- Madera Region IRWM/RWVG
  - No update
- Other—
  - CV SALTS group is forming the region to address upcoming challenges, needs, and strategy.



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**XI. Adjournment...**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1:20pm by Norman K. Kuhr.
- b. Next Meeting: May 13, 2020; 5:00pm Farm Service Agency Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera (unless still under emergency guidance with COVID 19)