



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 8, 2021 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

- I. Call to Order: 5:05PM by Amy Siliznoff**
 - A. Director Roll Call
Attendance was virtual on Zoom. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Jay Bellach, Mike DeLaGuerra, Tom Petrucci, Tim Coehlo; Staff: Amy Siliznoff; Associate Director: Mark Hutson; Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff (NRCS), Priscilla Baker (NRCS), Dannamarie Acevedo Velazquez (NRCS), Stephanie Anagnoson (Madera County), Jacob Roberson (RWMG), Mikayla Train (Sustainable Conservation)

- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Corrections to date for Resolution (January 12th end date), addition to Financial Report: \$600 incoming stipend, \$121.02 and \$611.52 GoDaddy Domain Expenses.

- III. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **Approval of November Meeting Minutes** – Motion was made by Tom Petrucci to approve the Meeting Minutes, there was a second by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

- IV. Correspondence & Mail** – Central Valley Community Bank statement, CSDA mailers, NCAT donation letter, CARCD Check \$3,500

- V. Public Comments** – Cristina Murillo Barrick with UCANR wanted to share the following: UC ANR will be hosting another virtual event in late January, an engaging workshop meant to explore barriers and opportunities to accessing State funding in the Central Valley. Cristina and her colleague, Dr. Chandra Richards, will use this information to inform their outreach and engagement plan. Cristina will send out dates once they are finalized. The California Department of Conservation has a new program titled the [Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program](#), it allocates \$50 million dollars to fund groundwater sustainability projects that reduce groundwater use, repurpose irrigated ag land and provide wildlife habitat. The guidelines are currently being drafted but it will be rolling out quickly in 2022, for more information you can check out the website.

- VI. Reports**
 - A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Stephanie Anagnoson
 - o SGMA implementation is in high gear. Both subbasins have big grants for recharge and are going through preliminary design work. It will take until next September,

assuming all permits go well, then construction can begin. Rate Workshop was December 7th for the Board Meeting. There was feedback for different rate designs. Another update will be in January. Rate included recharge for the Madera County GSA, Land Repurposing, Augmentation.

B. NRCS Report – Priscilla Baker

- Priscilla – Sit with grower and look at soil moisture monitoring graphs for the year. If they see anything (water running past root zone, etc.) they look at flow meter report and totals, how much water was applied, etc. They've been dealing with expiring contracts; they're getting them rolled over or terminated. They've been completing forestry applications. They're getting applications rolled over from 2021 to 2022. Dennis Dudley got an award with Madera County Cattlemen Award with Madera County Cattlemen Association. It went out in the State Newsletter. Emily Hatch is new archeologist for NRCS.
- Johnnie – conservation security numbers. NRCS wants these numbers to go up. They would like to encourage landowners to sign up for conservation security numbers. They currently have 9 applications but want those numbers to go up to 25.

C. Madera Region IRWM/RWMG – Jacob Roberson

- During their meeting last month, they had the GSAs from all subbasins report out on their GSPs. The DWR allocated 5 mil dollars to RWMG, 5 mil to San Joaquin river area. Split along 9 different regions \$550,000 each. Disadvantaged community drought relief projects.
- Madera County well testing. Self-help and Madera County. 12-month agreement with Contra Costa. DWR also released live water website.
- Hosted a tour along scenic byway along North Fork area. Stopped off at different areas to discuss history from then to now and what we need to plan for in the future.

D. Farm Bureau – No updates

E. News/Other Meeting Reports – Meeting with Irrirwatch – Mark Hutson

Stephanie set up a meeting with Irrirwatch to discuss cover crops and their monitoring. Researchers can help them get the model better. Amy will talk to Silas to see who has planted cover crop in White Area. Find ranchers that we can compare cover crop to non-cover crop.

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

A. Meetings with GSA's about Soil Health & Recharge Projects (I)

- Amy met with Madera County, Madera Irrigation District, Chowchilla Water District, Root Creek Water District, Gravelly Ford Water District, Triangle T Water District, City of Madera, and Madera Water District to discuss healthy soils and potential collaboration on recharge and creating BMPs in Madera County.

- Amy also met with Self-Help Enterprises to introduce the RCD and its current work and to see if there's any opportunity for collaboration.
- B. RCPP with American Farmland Trust (I)
 - Amy is continuing outreach for the RCPP and is having monthly meetings with AFT to discuss progress. The two-year short-term agreement is forthcoming and will have more information as far as timeline in the beginning of the year.
- C. Monarch/Pollinator Opportunity with CA Wildlife Conservation Board (I)
 - Amy met in-person with Xerces and Partners for Fish and Wildlife on December 1st to discuss the Tesoro Site Plan and planning options for the project.
 - Amy will be meeting with San Joaquin River Conservancy, Xerces, Partners for Fish & Wildlife, and Wildlife Conservation Board on January 14th on SJRC property to locate potential areas for wildlife habitat.
- D. Cover Cropping for Drought Resiliency Workshop with ESRCD & EMRCD (I)
 - This workshop is December 16th, the workshop will be offering 1.0 DPR and CCA credits to farmers who attend.
- E. VFB Share Field Day for Cover Crop and Orchard Recycling (I)
 - Amy will be meeting with Ian Vietti with Innovative Ag Services on December 14th to discuss collaborating with Tulare, Kings, and Madera County Farm Bureau's VFB Share Project on a field day for cover crop implementation and whole orchard recycling.
- F. 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 December 8, 2021 – January 12, 2021 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions (I) (A)
 - Jay Bellach made a motion to approve the resolution, a second was made by Tom Petrucci with correction to the date (end date January 12th). Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- G. Approval of modification to ESRCD Contract - \$4,000 additional for SWEEP assistance (I) (A)
 - Norman Kuhr mentioned approval is not needed from the Board. Amy will send him the contract following the Board Meeting for signature.
- H. Grant Writer Position (I) (A)
 - Amy discussed two potential candidates to assist the RCD with grant writing so they can be aggressive towards applying for multiple grants. The Board agreed it was a great idea and to have a candidate attend the next Board meeting for questions.
- I. RCDs Next Steps & Plan of Approach (I)
 - Amy discussed finalizing short-term and long-term plan for the RCD. She wants to focus on creating new partnerships with Ag Commissioner and UC Cooperative Extension, and multiple local partners in conservation.

VIII. Financial Report

- A. Monthly Treasurer's Report (I)
 - County Account: \$1,596.98

- Central Valley Community Bank Account: \$21,360.27
- Incoming from DOC: \$10,500 (pending)
- Incoming from ESRC: \$10,000 (pending)
- Incoming from CARCD for October: \$3,500 (pending)
- Incoming from CARCD for November: \$3,500 (pending)
- Incoming from CARCD (Stipend): \$600 (pending)
- **Total in all accounts: \$22,957.25**
 - **Total after incoming: \$51,057.25**

B. Review and Approval of Expenses (I) (A)

- Expenses: Monthly fee for CalTech Web - \$99
- Invoice for Amy Siliznoff November - \$3,500
- GoDaddy Website Domain Renewal - \$121.02
- GoDaddy Wordpress and Info Email Account - \$611.52
- Reimbursement for Amy Siliznoff (DPR Application Fee) - \$45
- **Total Expenses: \$4,376.54**

C. Total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid: \$46,680.71

- Jay Bellach made a motion to approve expenses, there was a second by Mike De La Guerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IX. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Old Business

- A.** All Board Members - Harassment and Ethics Training
- B.** Legal description (on hold)

X. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:23PM.

Next Meeting: January 12, 2021, 5:00PM