



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 14, 2022 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:04PM by Norman Kuhr

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was virtual on Zoom. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Matt Angell, Tim Coehlo, Mike DeLaGuerra, Jay Bellach Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes; Partners: Priscilla Baker (NRCS), Chris Yohannan (East Stanislaus RCD), Jacob Roberson (RWMG), Cristina Murillo-Barrick (UCANR)

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Update to financial section: Received \$14,500 check from DOC, Add line item under RCD Report – Workshop Supplies (I) (A)

Motion to approve updates: Matt Angell made a motion to approve the changes, there was a second by Mike De LaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. **Approval of November Meeting Minutes** – Motion was made by Mike DeLaGuerra to approve the Meeting Minutes, there was a second by Matt Angell. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IV. Correspondence & Mail – Check from DOC \$14,500 and Financial Transactions Report Letter from the State

V. Public Comments – Cristina Murillo Barrick with UCANR gave an update on the SALC applications that were submitted, and which applications were recommended for funding. Four total applications were recommended for funding and Cristina will send out an email for the projects awarded. She updated the meeting that another round of funding for MLRP will be opened next year.

VI. Reports

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – No update

B. NRCS Report – Priscilla Baker

- Deadline for Equip is Dec 16th for applications. A lot of interest in the RCPP, 20-30 compost applications, and 3-4 water connection projects. Construction is currently underway for the recharge basins that were funded for under the NRCS recharge

pilot program. They're running the recharge pilot funding program again and more growers have signed up for it (more on-farm recharge projects). Well testing was completed this last month to show baseline well reading on water levels and doing nitrate samples – it will be information for the growers and tracking results for the recharge projects.

C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – Amy Siliznoff

- No meeting in December. Next meeting is scheduled for January 23rd at 1:30 pm on Zoom.
- Still currently testing domestic wells for contaminants. Chowchilla Management Zone is the organization they have partnered with to do the outreach and testing. Testing is currently funded through June 2023.
- 2023 officer nominations were made during the November meeting. Carl Janzen with Madera Irrigation District was nominated for Chair and Kristi Robinson with Water Wise/Chowchilla Management Zone/Triangle T Water District was nominated for Vice-Chair. Elections will be held during the January meeting.
- The Madera RWVG has a new website that was designed by CalTech Web (thanks Amy for the recommendation). The new website is www.maderarwvg.com
- IRWM Round 2 grant application is being submitted by the Madera County Department of Public Works. Application is due on February 1st, and Indian Lakes will have a project submitted for the improvement of their water system, and North Fork Rancheria may have a project submitted for the cleanup of their Muddy Falls area.

D. Farm Bureau – No update

E. News/Other Meeting Reports – No update

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

A. RCPP with American Farmland Trust (I) – Chris Yohannan

- Deadline for applications has been extended to February 3, 2023. Roughly 21 applications have been submitted for the Madera office. The majority of applications are for compost and cover crops, but we're anticipating more applications to come through. Applications are currently being worked through databasin.

B. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Kevin Reyes

- In November we completed 4 evaluations to finish off. Kevin is still processing the reports, he anticipates them to be completed by next week. We're planning an Irrigation & Nutrient Management Workshop January 17th from 9-11AM at the Madera County Farm Bureau.

C. NRCS Groundwater Grant (I)

- Our RCD completed a site visit on 12/12 at Davis's farm, we had a great discussion surrounding the need for a water consultant. The RCD is moving forward on templating the information received from the site visit and should

have the first draft completed by the end of this week. The RCD, along with East Stanislaus RCD has drafted our Groundwater Conservation Plan Template. We are moving forward with previous irrigation evaluation landowners as well as RCPP applicants to start developing the Groundwater Conservation Plans. We are to reach 35 plans by September of 2023 but feel we will reach this number before that time.

D. NRCS Equity Grant (I) (A)

- Amy is holding on scheduling the workshop date until we figure out next steps for Kevin. We will need to draft an MOU agreement with East Stan for Kevin to complete work under this grant. We will need to plan 2 workshop events as well as 2 demonstration events aimed towards disadvantaged farmers.

E. DOC MLRP (I)

- The contract for the MLRP went to the Board of Supervisors on December 6th and was approved. I've received the notice to proceed from the County and will need approval under the contracts section of the agenda. The NTP is for December 6th, but we are not ready to start until all contracts are signed, which will be sometime in February. If we attend any meetings with DOC, we will keep track of our time and charge it to the grant.

San Joaquin River Conservancy O&M (I)

- SJRC has sent out an official RFP for improved and expanded operations and maintenance for their facilities. Amy discussed the list of maintenance being requested with the Board, and asked the Board for their thoughts on pursuing this opportunity. Matt Angell said it would be best to set up a meeting with John Shelton to discuss more details and have available Board members attend to ask questions. Amy said she would set the meeting for January and send out an email to all Board members to check their availability to attend the meeting.

F. CARCD 77th Annual Conference (I) (A)

- Amy attended the ET meeting hosted by Sustainable Conservation on November 30th in Sacramento. She then attended the 77th Annual Conference with Kevin Reyes on December 1st and 2nd. Amy presented on the Equity Grant at the conference. The conference was very informative and was a great networking experience, both Amy and Kevin learned a lot of important information attending.

G. MCRCD Policies (I) – Amy Siliznoff

- Amy will be reaching out to Madera County to request if the RCD can receive legal services at no cost to assist with reviewing the draft Policies before having the Board approve. She will be reaching out next month to confirm if the RCD can get assistance.

H. Upcoming Workshops (I) – Amy Siliznoff

- The RCD is planning a Healthy Soils Workshop, the date is still tentative. The RCD will also be hosting an Irrigation Workshop January 17th with East Stan and East Merced RCD, we will include outreach for RCPP as well as our Groundwater Conservation Plan grants.

I. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)

- Amy reviewed the DOC MLRP NTP with Madera County with the Board.

There was a motion by Jay Bellach to approve the DOC MLRP NTP with Madera County, Matt Angell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

- J. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy is exploring the CDFA SWEEP Block Grant to see if the RCD would be a good fit for the funding opportunity.
- K. 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 14, 2022 – January 11, 2023 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions (I) (A)
 - Mike DeLaGuerra made a motion to approve the resolution, a second was made by Matt Angell. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- L. Workshop Supplies (I) (A)
 - Amy is looking to get a banner, tablecloth, and shirts made for the RCD. She requested approval to move forward on ordering these supplies for the upcoming Irrigation Workshop at the Farm Bureau on January 17th. The Board discussed that if Amy found a good estimate to move forward with that estimate.

Mike DeLaGuerra made a motion to approval Amy moving forward with placing an order for the workshop supplies, Jay Bellach seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

VIII. Financial Report

- A. Monthly Treasurer’s Report (I)
 - County Account: \$1,603.49
 - Central Valley Community Bank Account: \$31,308.27
 - Incoming from RCPP Invoice #1: \$2,035
 - Incoming from RCPP Invoice #2: \$407
 - Incoming from IFF (September Invoice): \$250
 - Incoming from IFF (October Invoice): \$250
 - Incoming from CDFA Invoices #1-#3 (July-Sept Work): \$17,370.68
 - Incoming from DOC: \$14,500
 - Incoming from CARCD: \$130
 - **Total in all accounts: \$32,911.76**
 - **Total after incoming: \$67,854.44**
- B. Review and Approval of Expenses (I) (A)
 - Expenses: Monthly fee for CalTech Web - \$99
 - QuickBooks TSheets (Grant Tracking) - \$28
 - Mileage Reimbursement for Kevin Reyes - \$185
 - Invoice for ATS Consulting - \$3,500
 - CARCD Conference Hotel Stay Amy Siliznoff - \$213.80
 - CARCD Conference Hotel Stay Kevin Reyes - \$106.90
 - **Total Expenses: \$4,132.70**

○ **Outstanding Checks: \$6,000 (for MCRCO Audit)**

C. Total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid: \$57,721.74

- Jay Bellach made a motion to approve the financial report, there was a second by Matt Angell. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Matt Angell made a motion to approve the expenses, there was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:39PM.

Next Meeting: January 11, 2023, 5:00PM at the Vineyard Restaurant in Madera. The RCD will be hosting a celebratory dinner in honor of Tom Petrucci retiring and his service to the RCD.