



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 10, 2021 – 5:00 to 7:00**

I. Call to Order: 5:07 PM by Norman Kuhr

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was virtual on Zoom. Directors: Norm Kuhr, Matt Angell, Tim Coehlo, Tom Petrucci, Erik Herman, Jay Bellach; Associate Director: Mark Hutson, Staff: Laurel Angell. Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff (NRCS), Joy Hollingworth (UCCE), Phoebe Gordon (UCANR), Christine Beckstead (MCFB), Stephanie Anagnoson (Mad. County). Michael Naito (MCFB), and Sharon Nance (NRCS) joined later in the meeting.

B. Introduction of Guests: Laurel introduced Nathan Newberry (CalTech Web) who joined at 5:15.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda

A. February 2021 Agenda

- Motion was made by Matt A. to approve Feb 21 agenda, there was a second from Tom P. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

B. December 2020 Minutes

- December 2020 Special Board Meeting minutes were reported out in Dec 2020 meeting
 - Motion was made by Matt A. to approve Dec 2020 Board Meeting minutes, there was a second from Tom P. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
 - There was a motion to approve the Dec. 20 special board meeting minutes, per a compliance request from Christina B. Motion from Matt A. to approve, second from Tom P, passed unanimously by all present directors.

III. Correspondence & Mail - none

IV. Financial Report

A. Monthly Treasurer's Report

Laurel read the monthly financial report provided by Madera County. There is \$2500.00 in the County Account. There was no update on the CVCB account. When the \$25K from the Water Foundation grant comes in it will be placed in the County Account. We can start invoicing against the NRCS grant. No motion was made to approve the financials.

B. Incoming Income

- **Incoming Grant:** \$25,000 from Water Foundation (expected in mid-March – will go into county account)
 - **Incoming Grant:** \$60,000 from NRCS, secured and ready for invoicing
 - **Incoming Grant:** \$25,000 from DOC, secured and ready for invoicing
- Laurel will provide an overall annual budget for Board review for March meeting.



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C. Review & Approval of Expenses:

- **Expense:** Invoice for Laurel Angell - Dec-Jan for \$3500 (invoiced to NRCS grant per work plan)
 - Motion was made by Jay B. to approve invoice, there was a second by Tom P. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- **Expense:** Invoice for Laurel Angell – Jan-Feb for \$3500 (invoiced to DOC/Water Foundation)
 - Motion was made by Jay B. to approve invoice, there was a second by Tom P. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- **Expense:** \$1,020.00 for Farm Bureau for notetaker services – July 2020 to December 2020. (invoice to County account)
 - Motion was made by Jay B. to approve invoice, there was a second by Tom P. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

V. Meeting Updates, Handout, and Public Comments

A. Public Comments

Mark H. asked Matt A. about Xeriscaping and where that project was at. Matt said it got bogged down when Covid 19 hit, but it would be worth focusing back in on that. Mark H also brought up the Green Waste and asked the Board to consider what role the RCD could take in the addressing that issue. Mark H. mentioned Farm Bureau would also be doing a recycling event. Agreed it could be brought up on future agendas.

B. Handouts for this meeting - None

C. Pending Meetings:

- Farm Bureau hosting a hazmat training on 2/23 (in person) thus need to sign up early.
- Stephanie A. brought up the Madera Subbasin All GSA workgroup meeting on 2/11 at 10am.
- Joy H. said working with extension and Ruth Dalquist-Willard on a cover crop webinar for small farmers. No date yet, just a heads up. Details will follow. Matt A. said he would send along the recorded Spanish webinar presentation that the RCD did in December. And Matt A. also recommend that Joy look to the work CAFF has been doing.
- Jacob mentioned the CFAP applications coming up in end of March and mentioned reaching out to NRCS – this round focused on livestock/another round in fall(?) wasn't sure.
- SGMA meeting on 2/18 at 10:30: hosted by DWR and State Water Resources Control Board; focused on GSP evals, timeline and approach to assessments on GSPs that were submitted to DWR at end of January.
- April 14 – Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program focused on CV Salts.

D. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – No Report



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VI. Discussion Topics and Action Items

A. Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water & Natural Resources, Madera County: Update on GSAs/GSPs/Advisory Board

Four meetings in the past month for the county GSA related to SGMA. First was a water market simulation launch that included 56 people who will participate in a simulation; County is working on simplifying what they do each month to make it easier. County had a webinar on land repurposing, retirement, and easements – there was a lot of interest on developing an incentive structure. County had a webinar on satellite technology to measure evapo-transpiration; and last week did a webinar on the recharge study. County trying to wrap up some projects so they are done for a rate study and that will go out for the public to vote – just the county GSA.

B. Discussion of Building the RCD - Capacity, hiring and next steps: Laurel, Mike, Matt, & Eric

- Web manager proposal – Presentation: Nathan Newberry, CalTech Web

Nathan was one of several website contractors RCD staff reached out to help re-energize and manage the RCD site, so we can be more proactive with it and use it to support our educational mission. The Board engaged Nathan in a number of questions, but was happy with the idea that this would be affordable and efficient. Nathan gave rates to do monthly posting and help us to build and strategically target content. The Board was in favor of putting a motion forward to approve the hiring of Nathan, but it was not an Action item on the agenda. It will specifically be put on the March agenda as an action item.

- Confirmation for Farm Bureau to end notetaker contract (which ended in 2020)
 - i. Need action from Board to confirm official notice of ending contract

The notetaking contract with Farm Bureau ended in 2020. It has been month to month. Farm Bureau wanted official Board action to end the notetaking contract. There was discussion about who would do notetaking services; it was agreed it would be recorded – and posted with new website person; and we continue to take notes. Norm said he will oversee any funding coming in for now, given FB said they were depositing checks under their contract. There was also discussion around the management of the CVCB records/checkbook given that was in FB possession. Norm said he would oversee. Laurel will continue to manage the processing of invoices with Madera County (MC provides reporting/accounting on that side).

- A Motion was made to end the contract by Jay B. and a second by Matt A. The motion was passed unanimously by all present directors.
- A motion was made to confirm that all records and files will be turned over to the President,



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Norm Kuhr, by Matt A. and second by Jay B. The motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

- Norm will provide a notice in writing to FB to end the contract, and will deliver that and pick up all appropriate records and files from Farm Bureau.
- Report on hiring committee meeting
 - A Budget will be presented to the Board in March meeting

Positions/position descriptions – a packet of information was given to the Board that included draft position description and salary surveys for a Manager and Scope of Work descriptions provided for positions that will likely be contract: Bookkeeper/Tech Provider/Website provider. No action can be taken at this time. Materials will be reviewed and Board members should provide comment to the hiring committee, specifically on the manager position. Mike D. suggested identifying/“search out” 2 to 3 bookkeeper candidates to bring to hiring committee for interviews before next Board meeting. Tom P. noted he would like to see the salary range for that be less. Tech provider be contracted as part of workshops/grant. Board needs to provide any comments on manager PD to hiring committee. Posting and action on that will be discussed at the next meeting. Tom P. noted that he appreciated the overall packet and it was well done.

C. Early spring Workshop:

- Mark H. and Matt A. will talk about Dec workshop and passing along that information for a spring one. Reminder to coordinate with FB as well who has a grant.

D. RCPP launch update: Recharge with AFT, NRCS and RCDs: Laurel

- No updates

E. Training: All Board Members - Harassment and Ethics Training – see email to sign up/do ASAP

- Board Members have information; need to reach out to Laurel with any issues.

F. Arundo updates: Mark Hutson (on behalf of subcommittee on Arundo)

- Brought up that county is working on 1602 permit. Waiting on that.
- Also having monthly meeting on CV Salts that we really need to pay attention to.

VII. Grants – No updates

VIII. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Staffing & Compliance

- Legal description (on hold)
- Compliance – checklist for Tier One Requirements



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○ **RCD Board Membership & Compliance**

- Form 700 – link sent to all Board Members in several emails; if you have not done please do so and send to Laurel now.

IX. Old Business – None

X. Reports

- NRCS Report – No report
- Madera Region IRWM/RWVG (Mark – RCD Rep) - No Report

XI. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:23PM

- Next Meeting: March 10, 2021; 5:00pm Farm Service Agency Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera OR
ZOOM