



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



**Monthly Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 12, 2020 - 5:00 pm to 7:00pm**

*Farm Service Agency Conference Room, 425 N Gateway Drive, Madera*

**Minutes**

**I. Roll Call and Introductions**

- Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 5:04pm by Norm V. Kuhr.
- Flag Salute
- Introduction of Guests
- Directors: Jay Bellach, Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell, Tom Petrucci, Norman V. Kuhr, Erik Herman
- Directors Absent: Tim Coelho
- Associate Directors: Jack Fry
- Staff: Laurel Angell, Stefani Dias
- Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff, Taylor Fridrich – NRCS, Priscilla Baker -NRCS, Geoff Vanden Heuvel – Milk Producers Council, John Anderson

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

- February 2020 Agenda
  - Additions?
    - Addition of MOU vote of agreement of RCD/NRCS
  - There was a motion by Jay B. to accept the February 2020 agenda as presented along with addition, was seconded by Matt A., and passed unanimously by all present directors.
- January 2020 Minutes
  - There was a motion by Jay B. to accept the January 2020 minutes as presented, was seconded by Matt A., and passed unanimously by all present directors.

**III. Correspondence & Mail**

- Correspondence
  - NACD Mailer
  - COCO: After the Flames Conference and Workshop postcard
  - Checks from East Stanislaus RCD

**IV. Financial Report**

- Monthly Treasurer's Report
  - CCI money paid all of LA's contract this month, so minimal expenses while we continue to work on funding
  - Used \$1375 (from CCI) to open outside account
    - Check from East RCD for \$150 will also be used to open outside account.
- Incoming Income and Review & Approval of Expenses

- **Incoming Payment:** ESRCD/Carbon Cycle Institute for \$825.00 and \$996.72 mostly use to cover Laurel's contract for January. (recommend put into County Account)
  - \$825 check is not in and Laurel will be reaching out to East RCD about check.
  - \$385 check will be deposited in the county account as well as previously discussed.
- **Expense:** Laurel Angell (invoice – Dec 15 to Jan 15) \$1800.00
  - There was a motion to accept Laurel's invoice as presented by Mike D., there was a second from Jay B., and it passed unanimously by all present directors.
- New Outside Bank Account – updates
  - Signatories recently provided paperwork and bank account should be open by next month.

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

- Public Comments?
- Handouts for this meeting
  - Johnnie provided a handout of African American Farmers Conference happening later this month.
- Laurel update on meetings attended (specifically talk about county water market meeting)
  - Laurel is working on making sure she is tracking GSA updates, and interest of water market in the county.
- Pending meetings to be aware of? (info)
  - There will be a water market meeting held at the Madera Government Building on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor from 3-7pm on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Diversity, Inclusion and Equity work – NRCS; African American Farmers Conference
  - Laurel has been helping with the planning of this event that will be happening February 29<sup>th</sup> during Black History Month. They will be discussing SGMA, DAC communities amongst other topics.

## VI. Discussion Topics and Action Items

- Mike DeLaGuerra: Update on GSAs/GSPs/Advisory Board
  - Madera County will be out of compliance as all GSAs will not sign the coordination agreement. Chowchilla and Delta-Mendota GSPs have been submitted.
  - The Advisory board is forming committees to work on Demand Management and Domestic Wells.
- **M/CRCDS role on SGMA – ACTION ITEMS**
  - IWM and Nutrient Management workshops (East Stanislaus – Invite from Trina Whalley)
    - The board discussed partnering with East Stanislaus RCD on these workshops and want to partner with the FB possibly to hold the workshop in Madera County.
    - There was a motion made by Matt A. to accept working with East Stanislaus on this project, a second was made by Erik H., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
  - Next Steps on Letter to Carlos requesting a NRCS regional position
  - Capacity & Funding:
    - Long-term and consistent funding streams/grants
    - Other ideas
    - Updates on grant writer with County(?)/Watershed Coordinator; other?
      - Stephanie A. has sent out a job posting with the responsibilities of the



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watershed coordinator position. Follow-up will need to happen with Tom Wheeler and Carl Janzen.

- Stephanie A. also said the county was open to helping with grant writing.
- Assessment and Data (LA working with CCI)
  - Data is being collected to help understand the region's needs and how we can best serve our community based on the data.
- 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
- MAWA project
  - Matt A. and Mike D. discussed a meeting earlier this month between MAWA, Madera County, Farm Bureau, and M/C RCD about coming to together and working efficiently together on SGMA. RCD needs to work on projects that will have impactful results on watershed management in Madera. This can be better done through specific goals and possibly having a meditation meeting to figure out each agency's goals/actions. RCD awareness in the county is low, so more presence is important to help us with our plan of being a resource on SGMA.
- Partnership building/tapping and leveraging expertise
  - Jay B. can work on sending an outline to Almond Board of the RCD is and what we can do to serve growers by partnering together. A meeting will need to be organized.
- Monarch Block Grant – Finally have the RFP and discussion
  - There was discussion and a review of the application process but a decision was made not to pursue it.
- RCD Board Membership
  - Ethics Training (scholarships set up for Mike and Laurel (LA will register)
    - Erik H. submitted his paperwork.

## **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

ESRCD)

- 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**

- Carbon Cycle Institute Grant, Phase Two, Worked with ESRCD 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 ESRCD; (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 late winter)
- 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:**

- Monarch Grant
- Foundation Proposal(s)
- Fundraising for CVCF grant
- Part of team pushing out the CCI/Healthy Soils hub regional proposal

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

- USDA Conservation Collaboration Grants for 2020 – This one we did not qualify for as the partnership did not have enough matching funds between all the partners;
- Pacific Flyway Conservation Grant through the Wildlife Conservation Board (Submitted on 9/11 @ \$100K as part of regional RCD effort; the entire CARCD proposal was not accepted. No significant reason given, just a very competitive grant.

### **Waiting for RFP**

- Nothing right now

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

- LA Contract ends on 2/15. Recommend month by month for now will continue to work in an advisory role to doing compliance and putting together funding portfolio and setting up plan for hiring long term ED/Manager position once funding is secured.
  - Laurel is looking for more consulting the CARCD counsel to advise on new guidance under AB 5 contractor changes. CARCD is sponsoring a conversation with a lawyer to provide more clarification on issue.
    - There was a motion to accept Laurel's terms of advisor work as presented from Tom P., there was a second from Mike D., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Legal description
  - This is ongoing project.

## **IX. Old Business**

### **X. Reports**

- NRCS Report
  - We will sign MOU next meeting and Johnnie S. will provide the correct document.



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- NRCS hasn't heard when the next batching periods will be but possibly March. In June, jobs will be posted on the USDA jobs website.
- NRCS is out the following week for training.
- Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – No Update
- Other—
  - There was a motion made by Matt A. to approve Mark Hutson and Silas Rossow as associate directors for M/C RCD, there was second from Norm K., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

**XI. Adjournment...Meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm by Norm V. Kuhr.**

**Next Meeting: March 11, 2020; 5:00pm Farm Service Agency Office,  
425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera**