



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 9, 2022 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

**I. Call to Order: 5:05PM by Norman Kuhr**

**A. Director Roll Call**

Attendance was virtual on Zoom. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Jay Bellach, Mike DeLaGuerra, Erik Herman, Tom Petrucci, Tim Coehlo; Staff: Amy Siliznoff; Associate Director: Mark Hutson; Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff (NRCS), Priscilla Baker (NRCS), Taylor Fridrich (NRCS), Dannamarie Acevedo-Velazquez (NRCS), Rafael OrtizVelazquez (NRCS), Stephanie Anagnoson (Madera County), Joy Hollingsworth (UCCE), Phoebe Gordan (UCCE)

**II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Presentation for Fresno El Peco Reclassification Project by Rafael OrtizVelazquez (NRCS) under RCD Report. Also, Conservation Planner Position was added under RCD Report as an action item. Motion to Accept was made by Tom Petrucci, there was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

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

**IV. Correspondence & Mail** – CSDA mailers, CARCD checks (\$3,500, \$600)

**V. Public Comments** – Phoebe Gordon (UCCE) announced two projects for collaboration. Background – almond farmers, pulling out and planting new ones. Fumigate soils to kill nematodes and treat for plant disease. Submitted a grant with nematologist to do research on cover crops. Research needs to be done on a field scale. Growers who are replanting, not fumigating, plant a few acres of cover crops. Will monitor water usage on a weekly basis. Will also monitor tree growth. They've applied for a DPR grant and project can possibly start next fall.

Second project is surrounding a pistachio orchard. UCCE will be placing remote ET senses to check how accurate they are. They need to find a pistachio orchard to put an ET Tower in and a professor will have a grad student to take measurements.

## **VI. Reports**

- A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Stephanie Anagnoson
- Big news on SGMA front, for the GSPs, they now have feedback on them in the Delta-Mendota and the Chowchilla Subbasin. All the plans in the valley are considered incomplete and plans will need to be revised over 6-month period. Does not stop plans of SGMA. Madera County is looking to collaborate with the RCD on the DOC Land Repurposing Grant.
- B. NRCS Report – Priscilla Baker
- Currently NRCS is gearing up for applications. 7 forestry projects were funded in Madera. Conservation project grant through Coarsegold RCD and several other mountain RCDs. They're wrapping up cover crop signups. 4 contracts were funded through that program. Also, they received an email last week on NRCS pilot program in Madera and Tulare areas. April is the funding deadline. They are happy Rafael was able to present at the RCD meeting. They will be completing soil sampling to update the SAGBY map. How does soil behave, is it going to recharge water, is the hardpan there, soil scientist has to show a scientific way of how it's going to change.
- C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – Amy Siliznoff
- Supervisor Wheeler re-elected as Chairperson and Carl Janzen re-elected as the Vice Chairperson.
  - Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grant is still dealing with material shortages which is delaying the progress. Grant was received at the end of 2019 and they are still waiting for parts to come in to start installing meters.
  - Elijah Banda is a student at Fresno State and also part of the California Water Institute. He created an ARC GIS map online (<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=377849cbc9c54046917d864a635e9674&extent=-120.0525,34.8083,-117.2593,36.0392>) which is an interactive map showing where WATER TANKS have been installed so far for residents in the 8 San Joaquin Valley counties. Elijah provided a short demonstration on this map during the meeting for group members.
- D. Farm Bureau – No update
- E. News/Other Meeting Reports – No update

## **VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics**

- A. Presentation for Fresno El Peco Reclassification Project by Rafael OrtizVelazquez (NRCS) (I) – Presentation was given by Rafael OrtizVelazquez on the reclassification project in the Madera region. The NRCS is working on a project to reclassify Fresno El

Peco Soils, which are in western Madera County. The soils scientists need access to farm and range sites in this soil where they can put a soil pit and describe it. Soil data will be provided to the landowner and will be used to update the publicly available soil information SAGBY. This project is in response to the Madera Chowchilla Resource Conservation District. We suspect an update will show the soil is better for groundwater recharge than current maps show. The RCD is assisting with outreach to local landowners in this area.

- B. Grant Writer Position (I) (A)
  - Amy mentioned to put this on hold because multiple grants have been applied for and will wait to hear back if they have been awarded. She is pursuing multiple other opportunities and will wait until all applications have been submitted to explore the position.
- C. NRCS Cost-Share Pilot Program for Recharge Projects – Outreach with Sustainable Conservation (I)
  - Amy is continuing meetings with Sustainable Conservation on ways to collaborate on outreach for the NRCS pilot program. MID and CWD will be exploring workshop events to inform landowners about the program.
- D. Monarch/Pollinator Opportunity with CA Wildlife Conservation Board (I)
  - Amy met with San Joaquin River Conservancy, Xerces, Partners for Fish & Wildlife, and Wildlife Conservation Board on January 14<sup>th</sup> on SJRC property to locate potential areas for wildlife habitat. She is working on finalizing the Site Plan and planting plan for the Tesoro site and is working with permitting requirements (if needed) for the project with Madera County.
- E. VFB Share Field Day for Cover Crop and Orchard Recycling (I)
  - Amy is working on the VFB Share Project with the Tulare, Kings, and Madera County Farm Bureau's. She will be assisting with finding a landowner to interview for the Cover Crop Demo. She will be assisting with outreach for the Orchard Recycling Field Day on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- F. Ag Recycling Day with Madera Farm Bureau (I)

Amy will be working with Christina on the Ag Recycling Day scheduled on March 28th. Amy will assist with the flyer and outreach for the event.
- G. Legal Description for MCRCD (I) (A)

The RCD needs to complete the legal description to complete consolidation of the Madera and Chowchilla RCDs with LAFCO. She is working with LACO Associates on a quote for the legal description update.
- H. 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 February 9, 2022 – March 9, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions (I) (A)
  - Tim Coehlo made a motion to approve the resolution, a second was made by Tom Petrucci. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- I. Upcoming Grants (I)
  - Amy is reviewing the DOC Land Repurposing grant and is collaboratively applying for funding for a CalOES FEMA grant with CARCD.

## **VIII. Financial Report**

### **A. Monthly Treasurer's Report (I)**

- County Account: \$1,596.98
- Central Valley Community Bank Account: \$42,456.00
- Incoming from DOC: \$10,500 (pending)
- Incoming from ESRC: \$10,000 (pending)
- Incoming from CARCD for November: \$3,500 (pending)
- Incoming from CARCD for December: \$5,000 (pending)
- Incoming from CARCD (Stipend): \$600 (pending)
- **Total in all accounts: \$44,052.98**
  - **Total after incoming: \$73,652.98**

- A motion was made by Mike DeLaGuerra to approve the Treasurers Report. A second was made by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

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

- Expenses: Monthly fee for CalTech Web - \$99
- Invoice for Amy Siliznoff - \$3,500
- **Total Expenses: \$3,599.00**

### **C. Total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid: \$70,053.98**

- Tom Petrucci made a motion to approve expenses, there was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

## **IX. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Old Business**

### **A. All Board Members - Harassment and Ethics Training**

## **X. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:27PM.**

Next Meeting: March 9, 2022, 5:00PM