



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



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 - 5:00 pm to 7:00pm

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

I. Roll Call and Introductions

- Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 5:06pm 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 Jack Rice - MAWA, Christina Beckstead- MCFB, Dave Krietemeyer – NRCS, Mark Hutson, Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda

- January 2020 Agenda
 - Additions?
 - There was a motion by Matt A. to accept the January 2020 agenda as presented, was seconded by Jay B., and passed unanimously by all present directors.
- December 2019 Minutes
 - There was a motion by Matt A. to accept the December 2019 minutes as presented, was seconded by Mike D., and passed unanimously by all present directors.

III. Correspondence & Mail

- Correspondence (Stefani)
 - There was a check from East Stanislaus RCD for \$1,375.00 and a packet to comment on the Gravelly Ford Annexation.
 - Magazines and other mailers.

IV. Financial Report

- Monthly Treasurer's Report
 - The balance for the Madera/Chowchilla RCD County Account was \$11, 795.62.
 - There was a motion by Matt A. to accept the January 2020 treasurer's report as presented, was seconded by Jay B., and passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Suggest putting the CVCF Capacity funding into this account now (\$7.9k), CCI money paid most of LA's salary this month, so minimal expenses while we continue to work on funding

- Incoming Income and Review & Approval of Expenses
 - Incoming Payment: Carbon Cycle Institute for \$1375 (use to open outside account)
 - Incoming Payment: CARCD Soil Health Terrace Stipend for Jay Bellach (\$150 pending)
 - Incoming Payment: CARCD Annual Meeting Refund for 4th registration (\$385 check mail/Stefani)
 - Expense: Laurel Angell (invoice – Nov 15 to Dec 15)
 - Expense: LA needs approval to spend \$85 x 3 for ethics training for new members; this will be reimbursed in full by SLDF, as Laurel put in for scholarships.
 - There was a motion by Matt A. to approve the spending of \$175 for ethics trainings of new board members, was seconded by Erik H., and passed unanimously by all present directors.
- New Outside Bank Account Letter (needs signature) – open with CCI funding check and now CARCD \$385/\$150 refunds. Stefani was to provide paperwork, make appt for Norm and Matt to open account.
 - This will be completed in the next month prior to the next board meeting as Stefani finishes submitting paperwork.

V. Meeting Updates, Handout, and Public Comments

- Public Comments?
 - There are trainings available at the Madera County Farm Bureau in next couple months (CPR/First Aid, New Laws, & Ag Hazmat.)
 - It was requested that the Madera/Chowchilla RCD meetings be included in the Madera County Water & Natural Resources website.
- Handouts for this meeting: SGMA Strategy Priorities
- Laurel update on meetings attended (not many mtgs to speak of post-Board meeting in December because of holidays.
- Pending meetings to be aware of? (info)
 - If any relevant meetings are occurring, please let Laurel know.
- Calendar reviewed of important civil holidays for January 2020
- Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity work – NRCS; Laurel
 - Laurel is working with the CARCD as a representative on their DEI committee. She will also be at the African-American Farming Conference in February.

VI. Discussion Topics and Action Items

- Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water & Natural resources, Madera County: Update on GSAs/GSPs/Advisory Board – Chowchilla subbasin GSP is in the process of state submittal and Madera’s will begin soon to meet submittal deadline. The county is still trying to get a joint coordination agreement signed and hope all parties will come together at the table.
- **M/C RCDs role on SGMA – ACTION ITEMS – GETTING TO WORK.** We will spend most of the meeting using the underlying strategy/business plan handed out at December meeting and memo with potential priorities to define action items, funding asks, and roles and responsibilities for launching our SGMA work:
Action Plan Handout was reviewed and discussed to help/ support SGMA implementation
 - Capacity & Funding:
 - Long-term and consistent funding streams/grants
 - grant writer with County/ Watershed Coordinator; other
 - There was a motion to support submitting a letter to the NRCS for funding that would support M/C RCD staff having fulltime staff for the start of a SGMA support by Matt A., there was a second by Jay B., the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
 - Assessment & Data
 - Educational and Technical
 - Lining up and deploying technical team (MCRCD team, NRCS, NCAT, Point Blue)



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- Producer outreach and workshops; GSAs
- First round of technical support for our farmers
- Media project fundraising for matching fund
- Recharge projects, (specifically talk about White Area proposal with Jack Rice)
 - Jack attended and discussed the M/C RCD possible role in supporting recharge projects for white area growers.
- Partnership building/tapping and leverage expertise

...as we work to build both our capacity and resources internally, while getting to work on the ground to get rolling with our technical team and show we can do this effectively to leverage further buy in and support for long-term sustainability.

- RCD Board Membership
 - Ethics Training for new members (need to do ASAP) – Mike, Laurel, Erik to take Ethics Training; Laurel applied for SLDF scholarships to cover costs of each. Can take online. Erik is set as he took the training.

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 (application accepted – \$2k is pending for staff work on preparing for work around a larger grant to be submitted in February to do a regional hub on healthy soils/carbon farming planning and implementation)
- 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. (read letter 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 early January into the Fund for our use.
- 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 a part of a joint proposal to private foundations to be a Healthy Soils Hub housed at the M/C RCD and ESRCD; (final proposal will be submitted in February 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/decision pending)
- Pacific Flyway Conservation Grant through the Wildlife Conservation Board (Submitted on

9/11 @ \$100K as part of regional effort; decision pending)

- 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 – decisions early winter
- *Campbell Foundation, Capacity Grant (\$10K/applied/pushed to Spring)*

Currently working on:

- USDA Conservation Collaboration Grants for 2020 – Due Feb. 7th, between \$250k and \$1Million
- California Resilience Challenge Grant, Due Feb. 7th, exploring this one. Potential of up to \$200k (will need letters of support)
- Friends of NACD (due Jan. 15th) \$2k capacity?

Waiting for RFP

- Block Grant from CARCD on Monarchs (still pending with CARCD, early winter – they keep moving on this one)

VIII. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Staffing & Compliance

- LA contract ends on 2/15. Because of new state law, will need to look at other options for Manager Role – Part time for now, can do paperwork through another RCD as Jean Okuye and Julie Konno do.
 - LA will report back in February about this.
- Website ADA Compliance under new rules – all but one piece and am working on it or will transition to CARCD template.
 - Need to also look into a website person.
- Board Member compliance – Sexual Harassment & Ethics Training
- Legal description
 - This is an ongoing project to complete.

IX. Old Business

X. Reports

- NRCS Report
 - The budget was established and they are moving forward. They will be getting a Range Co. person in the Madera Office. The office will be losing Cat Prince.
 - Taylor reported there will be a fire resiliency event happening soon at the Oakhurst Library.
- Madera Region IRWMP/RWMP
 - The IRWMP is looking for an individual to work with them part-time to find grants, resources, perform duties of treasurer/secretary. This position will be open beginning in January and is still available.
- SGMA
- Other--

XI. Adjournment... The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 by Norm V. Kuhr.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2020; 5:00pm Farm Service Agency Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera