



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 14, 2021 – 5:00 to 7:00**

- I. Call to Order: 5:04PM by Norman Kuhr**
 - A. Director Roll Call
Attendance was in person and virtual on Zoom. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Matt Angell, Mike De La Guerra; Associate Director: Mark Hutson; Staff: Amy Siliznoff; Partners: Joy Hollingsworth (UCCE), Rebecca Ozeran (UCCE); Zoom attendance: Priscilla Baker (NRCS), Johnnie Siliznoff (NRCS), Christina Beckstead (MCFB)
 - B. Introduction of Guests – Guests in attendance were Joy Hollingsworth (UCCE), and Rebecca Ozeran (UCCE)

- II. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **Approval of Special Meeting Minutes** – No approval was made

- III. Correspondence & Mail** – SAM.gov renewal, CDFA mailers, and Central Valley Bank statements

- IV. Public Comments** – Mark Hutson updated the Board that the Arundo grant has been closed out and the county is working towards a 1602 Permit.

- V. Reports**
 - A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Christina Beckstead gave an update on behalf of Stephanie Anagnoson
 - SGMA Allocation – letters are circling around about concerns from the district.
 - B. NRCS Report – Priscilla Baker
 - Equip CIC roll-out, pilot program closed 7/14. This program includes reduced tillage, reduced irrigation improvements, cover cropping, need to process into contracts.
 - Forestry 9-10 contracts
 - 1-2 cropland practices
 - Matt Angell questioned Priscilla if the RCD can hire someone that can complete distribution uniformity testing to assist NRCS. Priscilla said a TSP Equip Contract is something that is available.
 - C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – Mark Hutson
 - There are grants available for domestic well testing
 - Prop 68 money is going towards well testing
 - Triangle T is implementing recharge area off of Avenue 7

D. Farm Bureau

- Ended Harvest Training on 7/13
- Farm Demo #2 – Journey to Advanced Automation will be from 11AM-12PM, a grower out of Hanford will be presenting on irrigation automation (demo)
- Ag United Celebration will be on October 24th – Tim the Dairy Farmer will be entertainment at the event
- CV Salts Nitrate Control Program is moving forward, there will be an in-person meeting on August 11th at 5:30PM.
- MCFB is working with Self-Help enterprises to address nitrates
- MCFB will be offering CPR classes
- Orchard Recycling Workshop with Madera/Chowchilla RCD will be scheduled in the next coming weeks.
- Will be scheduling another Ag-Recycling Program with Madera/Chowchilla RCD in late October/early November.
- New Ag Center on MCFB property
- MCFB is looking for new Board Members on their Board
- Chemical Disposal Program – MCFB is looking to schedule a date for this

E. News/Other Meeting Reports – None

VI. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

A. Update: Amy Siliznoff starting as Part-Time Manager – Amy Siliznoff
Lisbeth to be brought on as Bookkeeper

- Amy is excited to be working with the RCD and is working to establish Lisbeth as the bookkeeper.

B. Update: RCPP with American Farmland Trust – Amy Siliznoff

Irrigation and Nutrient Management Workshop with ESRC in Nov/Dec (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff

- Amy is meeting with Trina and Chris from East Stanislaus RCD on 7/15 to discuss the RCPP. Chris Yohannan will be the lead conservation planner on this project. The deliverables include 6,000-7,000 acres of implementation for recharge in Madera County.

C. Update: The Freshwater Trust (TFT) CIG – Amy Siliznoff

- The Freshwater Trust is looking for a wishlist of items to complete their GIS datasets. Their wishlist includes:
 - Existing tailwater systems, recharge basins, or berms
 - Fields that already use cover crops
 - Each field's irrigation type
 - Whether the field uses surface water or groundwater irrigation (or both, or neither)
 - Any subterranean soil texture data, such as impervious clay layers



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- D. Orchard recycling workshop in the fall with MCFB – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy will be in contact with Christina Beckstead in the next coming weeks to schedule a date for the Orchard Recycling Workshop in the fall. We are looking at setting a date in November.

- E. On-farm recharge workshop in the Fall – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy has reached out to potential presenters for the workshop and is looking to schedule the workshop on October 7th with a field demonstration on October 8th. These dates are tentative and will be confirmed once presenters have confirmed their availability.

- F. Monarch Butterfly Grant opportunity with CARCD – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy applied for a Monarch Butterfly Grant through CARCD on 7/5. This grant is for seed materials only and the deliverables include planting in the fall. She is waiting to hear back for the awarding date.

- G. Add Donation Tab to Website – Amy Siliznoff
 - Click & Pledge
 - Processing Fee is 3.75% + \$0.37 per transaction (this includes processing and platform costs)
 - It accepts payments from Visa, Mastercard, Discover, Am Express, Check/ACH
 - Account Deposits is \$1.50 per batch deposit (only occurs on days we receive at least one donation.
 - Sonoma County RCD uses this donation platform on their website
 - There's no contract to start using, we're not locked in so we can cancel our account at any time
 - Christina Beckstead mentioned Donor Box is another great site to use
 - No approval was made at this time

- H. Upcoming Grant applications
 - Amy explained there is currently a Revolving Loan Fund through CARCD. This loan fund assists RCDs with cash flow issues that are related to a grant program. The loan fund is intended to provide a temporary stopgap for RCDs in this position. It is a no-interest loan fund and is for Tier 1 RCDs who are working without a tax base or a very limited budget.

VII. Financial Report

- A. Monthly Treasurer's Report (I)

- County Account: \$2,635.51
- Central Valley Community Bank Account: \$7,439.16
- Incoming: from NRCS (will be auto deposited into Outside Account): \$12,772.76 (pending)
- **Total in all accounts: \$10,074.67**
 - **Total after incoming NRCS: \$22,847.43**

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

- Expenses: Sam.gov renewal, \$499
- Invoice for Laurel Angell May-June - \$3,500 (Final payment for May/June and transition)
- Invoice for Amy Siliznoff July - \$3,500
 - Amy explained that approval would be pending deposit of funds into the Central Valley Account and establishment of accounting with Lisbeth
 - On Laurel's final invoice, it did not include the time she was out – May 15th – June 14th. The invoice is for June 15th- July 15th. This is her final invoice.
 - No approvals were made at this time

VIII. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Old Business

A. All Board Members - Harassment and Ethics Training

- Amy is to send Board Members who have not completed the harassment and ethics training the CSDA link to complete the training.

B. Legal description (on hold)

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:23PM

- Next Meeting: August 11, 2021, 5:00PM