



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



**Due to safety and health guidance and continued changes due to the COVID-19 crisis, the June 10 Board Meeting was conducted via the online platform ZOOM, which was sent to all Board Members directly.**

**Monthly Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 8, 2020 –5:00PM-7:00PM**  
*VIA Zoom Conference*

## ***Minutes***

### **I. Roll Call and Introductions**

- Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 5:03pm by Norm V. Kuhr.
- Flag Salute
- Introduction of Guests
- Directors: Jay Bellach, Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell, Norman V. Kuhr, Erik Herman, Tim Coelho, Tom Petrucci
- Associate Directors: Mark Hutson
- Staff: Laurel Angell, Stefani Dias
- Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff-NRCS, Priscilla Baker -NRCS, Taylor Fridrich – NRCS, Dana Marie Acevedo – NRCS, Sharon Nance- NRCS, Jack Rice- MAWA, Christina Beckstead, Madera County Farm Bureau, Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County

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

- July 2020 Agenda
  - Additions?
    - There was an addition to Discussion Topics from Johnnie Siliznoff for Local Working Group- NRCS
    - Motion was made by Tom P. to approve the July 2020 agenda as presented with the additions, there was a second from Jay B., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- June 2020 Minutes
  - Motion was made by Jay B. to approve the June 2020 minutes as presented, there was a second from Tom P., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors with one abstention from Tom. P.

### **III. Correspondence & Mail**

- Correspondence
  - CVCB June Statement
  - Cal Pers Update letter

#### IV. Financial Report

- Monthly Treasurer's Report
  - There was a motion made by Jay B., to approve the treasurer's report as presented, there was second by Matt A., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Incoming Income and Review & Approval of Expenses
  - **Incoming Payment:** Reimbursement of Mike's Training (pending)
    - Reimbursement to be deposited in outside account, still has not been received.
  - **Expense:** Laurel Angell (invoice – May 15 to June 15) \$500
    - There was a motion to accept Laurel's invoice for advisory work as presented by Tim C., there was a second by Jay B., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

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

- Public Comments?
- Handouts for this meeting - None
- Pending meetings to be aware of? (info)
- Diversity, Inclusion and Equity work – DEI Training with CARCD
  - Laurel engaged in meeting with CARCD on diversifying boards and supporting disadvantaged communities.

#### VI. Discussion Topics and Action Items

- **Farm Bureau, update on SGMA Strategy meeting: MAWA, RCD, FB, & County, held June 24**
  - Meeting was held on June 24<sup>th</sup> and it was attended by all parties. RCD was assigned work to lead external communications. The first needs are gathering a list of communications from each party involved and working on a unified message for the group. Stefani will work on list and work with subcommittee on message. Mike will lead the subcommittee and Mark Hutson will also be a on subcommittee.
  - There was a motion from Mike D. to form a sub committee to work with water group, there was a second from Matt A., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- **Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water & Natural Resources, Madera County: Update on GSAs/GSPs/Advisory Board**
  - Madera County GSA Advisory Committee will meet on July 16<sup>h</sup> via Zoom 2pm. They are working on developing an incentive structure and as well as studies for recharge, measurement, and rates.
  - There is a Residential Indoor and Outdoor Conservation Class coming up on July 10<sup>th</sup> from 12-1pm.
- **Grants applied to/Upcoming Grant Opportunities (discussion – see handout)**
  - Opportunity with NRCS:
  - DOC – Riparian Corridors Restoration and Conservation Grants (July 1—applied as part of collaborative)
  - DOC 2020 RCD Financial Assistance Program (June 25) (applied - \$25K)
  - Upcoming:
    - Rose Foundation (August 14) - \$25K § Campbell Foundation (August 31) \$10K
    - Patagonia Grant (August 31)
    - DOC SGMA Watershed Coordinator (9/15) with other RCDs



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- **DISCUSSION** : Funding, the grants are on a long timeline so...
  - Short term funding ideas –
  - Sharon Nance announced that M/C RCD was granted an agreement with NRCS of \$20,000 a year for three years. The funding will support M/C RCD's SGMA work and help with RCPP function.
  
- **M/CRCDS HUB role on SGMA – ACTION ITEMS**
  - Partnership building/tapping and leveraging expertise (Laurel)
  
- **RCD Board Membership**
  - Harassment Training – updates

## **VII. Grants (focused on priorities laid out in Annual Plan)**

### **Secured**

- RCPP with American Farmland Trust – funds likely at the end of the year
- 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 ESRCDC))
- 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 ESRCDC to finalize proposal that will be part of a joint proposal to private foundations to be a Healthy Soils Hub housed at M/CRCDC and ESRCDC; (final proposal will be submitted fall)
- 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 early summer)

- Water Funders Group (proposal submitted in December; potential funding for media project)
- Campbell Foundation, Capacity Grant (\$10K/applied/pushed to Spring)
- DOC 2020 RCD Financial Assistance (\$25K)

**Currently working on:**

- Part of fundraising team the CCI/Healthy Soils hub regional proposal
- Foundation Discussion

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

- Renew short term contract for Laurel Angell/Advisor (July 15 to September 15)
  - There was a motion to approve Laurel's contract by Jay B., the motion was seconded by Mike D., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Legal description (on hold for now)
- Updating Compliance for Year – checklist for Tier One Requirements
  - Audit – (every 5 years)

**IX. Old Business**

**X. Reports**

- NRCS Report
  - NRCS has a new soil conservationist, Dana Marie Acevedo, they are also working on finishing contracts for funded projects in tree mortality, water conservations, and air quality projects. There is also a request for M/C RCD to participate in a local working group that can communicate with state conservationists on the needs of Madera County. Matt, Laurel, and Mark will engage in that working group.
- Madera Region IRWM/RWVG
  - No update
- Other—

**XI. Adjournment...**

- Meeting adjourned at 6:42pm by Norman K. Kuhr.**
- Next Meeting: August 12, 2020; 5:00pm Farm Service Agency Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera (unless still under emergency guidance with COVID 19)**