



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



Monthly Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 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 5:13pm 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, Mark Hutson
- Staff: Stefani Dias
- Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff-NRCS, Taylor Fridrich – NRCS, Priscilla Baker -NRCS, Sharon Nance-NRCS, Stephanie Anagnoson- Madera County

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda

- March 2020 Agenda
 - Additions?
 - Motion was made by Mike D. to approve the March 2020 agenda as presented, there was a second from Erik H., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- February 2020 Minutes
 - Motion was made by Jay B. to approve the February 2020 minutes as presented, there was a second from Erik H., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

III. Correspondence & Mail

- Correspondence
 - Mailers from California Special District Association for Legislative Days (May19-20, 2020) and the 2020 CSDA's Leadership Academy Conference (April 19-22, 2020: San Diego, September 27-30, 2020: South Lake Tahoe)
 - Notice of Public Hearing from the Madera Local Agency Formation Commission regarding the review of the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget. This public hearing will be March 25, 2020 at 6:00pm (Pines Resort and Conference Center, Bass Lake, CA)

IV. Financial Report

- Monthly Treasurer's Report
 - Two incoming checks not listed on that, so have Stefani report out
 - Checks have not been received but Stefani to look for in mail.

- CCI money paid most of Laurel's contract this month, so minimal expenses while we continue to work on funding
 - There was a motion made by Erik H. to approve the treasurer's report as presented, there was second by Mike D., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Incoming Income and Review & Approval of Expenses
 - **Incoming Payment:** ESRCD/Carbon Cycle Institute for \$825.00 to cover Laurel's contract for February. (recommend put into County Account)
 - Check is still not received but will be deposited in county account when received.
 - **Expense:** Laurel Angell (invoice – January to February 15) \$1,000.00
 - There was a motion to accept Laurel's invoice for advisory work as presented by Erik H., there was a second by Mike D., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- New Outside Bank Account – updates
 - Bank Account is ready for signatories to go in a sign when available
 - Type of Checking Account will need to be determined, Norm to follow up with bank.

V. Meeting Updates, Handout, and Public Comments

- Public Comments? – No comments
- Handouts for this meeting
 - Conservation Innovation Grants (New Technologies) USDA-NRCS
- Laurel update on meetings attended
- Pending meetings to be aware of? (info)
 - LAFCO meeting March 18, 2020 1:00PM at the Hall of Records, Fresno, CA.
- Diversity, Inclusion and Equity work – DEI Training with CARCD

VI. Discussion Topics and Action Items

- **Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water & Natural Resources, Madera County: Update on GSAs/GSPs/Advisory Board**
 - Three GSPs were submitted; Madera (No accepted), Delta-Mendota, and Chowchilla (Accepted for public comment.)
 - Water strategy meeting went well. Water Rights reviewed and small groups discussed opportunities within the Madera Subbasin.
 - Strategy meeting to be scheduled between MAWA, RCD, FB, & County. CALAMP will be the first choice for mediation.
 - Motion was made by Matt A. to spend up to \$1, 250 for a mediator if needed, there was a second from Jay B., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- **AB 2093 – Process moving ahead for signing on generally**
 - Tabled to be addressed next month
- **AB 5 Update on new contractor law. Impacts on RCD**
 - Laurel Angell will serve as an advisor to the board.
- **DISCUSSION and BRAINSTORM:** Funding, the grants are on a long timeline so..
 - Approaching Almond Board with SGMA pitch (Laurel, Jay, and Matt)
 - Jay and Matt working to get a meeting with Tom.
 - Long-term and consistent funding streams/grants (Matt idea on Drones)



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



- Short term fundraisers (since grants are taking some time) -None discussed
- IRWM – how do we engage?
 - RCD needs update on position availability of watershed coordinator
- Short-term capacity grants
 - Laurel to advise next meeting.
- Other ideas

- **M/CRCDs role on SGMA – ACTION ITEMS**
 - IWM and Nutrient Management workshop -- May –MOU (East Stan – Invite from Trina Whalley)
 - Lunch donation/Farm Bureau offices
 - From Trina: The class is to maintain their self-certification. The water coalition has to do the certification classes with a trained staff person from your local office. Once self-certification course is done once the producer has to do one credit a year or three within three years to maintain that certification.
 - The date for this needs to be decided so that Stefani can confirm FB office availability. RCD will engage with individuals to attend.
 - Update on NRCS regional position (Matt, Johnnie)
 - Funding is limited currently and this may not be possible.
 - 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
 - Partnership building/tapping and leveraging expertise

- **RCD Board Membership**
 - Ethics Training – should be set.
 - Mike and Laurel to complete in next few weeks.
 - Stefani to check if other board directors will need to do training in coming months.

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

- **The Nature Conservancy – Acceleration Grants – pre-grant due March 13**
- 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 early spring)
- 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:

- **The Nature Conservancy Acceleration Grant – March 13**
- **California Strategic Growth Council/Sustainable Ag Lands Conservation Program (SALC) – Due April but decision is not until August**
- Fundraising for CVCF grant
- Part of fundraising team the CCI/Healthy Soils hub regional proposal

Updates on grant proposals that we did not get:

VIII. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Staffing & Compliance

- LA Contract – Advisory Contract. Need to approve 2/15 to 4/15
 - Contract will need to be presented via email to board directors and voted on.
- Legal description
 - This is an ongoing project.

IX. Old Business

X. Reports

- NRCS Report
 - Deadlines for Tractor Upgrade Applications and other improvements are coming up. They will be selecting and accepting applications.
- Madera Region IRWM/RWVG
 - No update
- Other--

XI. Adjournment...

a. Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm by Norman K. Kuhr.

XII. Next Meeting: April 8, 2020; 5:00pm Farm Service Agency Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera