



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



Due to safety concerns, guidance and restrictions around the COVID-19 crisis, the April 8 Board Meeting was conducted via the online platform ZOOM, which was sent to all Board Members directly.

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 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, Tom Petrucci, Norman V. Kuhr, Erik Herman, Tim Coelho
- Associate Directors: Mark Hutson
- Staff: Laurel Angell, Stefani Dias
- Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff-NRCS, Taylor Fridrich – NRCS, Priscilla Baker -NRCS, Jack Rice-MAWA, Christina Beckstead, Madera County Farm Bureau, Justin Bodell – American Farmland Trust

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda

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

III. Correspondence & Mail

- Correspondence
 - Received a letter from Cal Pers (Payroll) and Cal Pers Employer News
 - NACD Annual Report and Membership Form
 - SDFL Scholarship check \$85
 - CSDA- Membership Form and CSDA- Call to Action Guide

IV. Financial Report

- Monthly Treasurer's Report
 - There was a motion made by Tom P., to approve the treasurer's report as presented, there was second by Erik H., 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.
 - **Expense:** Laurel Angell (invoice – March 15 to April 15) \$1,000.00
 - There was a motion to accept Laurel's invoice for advisory work as presented by Jay B., there was a second by Tom P., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- New Outside Bank Account – updates
 - Bank Account is open, checks/deposit slips ordered, and debit cards.

V. Meeting Updates, Handout, and Public Comments

- Public Comments?
 - Christina Beckstead announced MCFB's Chowchilla Fair Market Animal Support program on May 19th (Hogs/Steers) and May 21st (Lambs/Goats). Donations and Bump Bids are also received to be distributed after sale to kids. Farm Bureau is also hosting trainings for Pesticide, and ATV handling, Tree and Vine Harvest Safety, and a Regulatory and Compliance Workshop. You can register at maderafb.com.
- Handouts for this meeting - None
- Strategy meeting to be scheduled between MAWA, RCD, FB & County. Scheduled for June 24th (time and location TBD) – SWOT piece below.
- 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

- **Good News! Awarded a grant as part of the RCPP with American Farmland Trust and other regional RCDS!**
 - Justin Bodell from American Farmland Trust, a national non-profit doing public policy work, gave update on awarded grant. It was total grant of \$10,000,000 awarded for irrigation efficiency and healthy soil practices. The grant will allow RCDS to help growers develop conservation plans along with help from NRCS.
- **Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water & Natural Resources, Madera County: Update on GSAs/GSPs/Advisory Board**
 - Not present
 - Madera County GSA Advisory Committee meeting June 4th via Zoom 3-5pm
- **Area 9 Regional Meeting on SGMA – Matt Angell**
 - Meeting was held via teleconference on May 8th. Panel of qualified speakers on SGMA presented on what is going on with SGMA.



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- **DISCUSSION** : Funding, the grants are on a long timeline so...
 - Approaching Almond Board with SGMA pitch (Laurel, Jay, and Matt)
 - A Zoom meeting will try to be set-up with Tom from Almond Board next week.
 - Short term funding ideas – Discussion

- **Upcoming Grant Opportunities (Discussion)**
 - **NRCS Wetland Mitigation Banks Program**
 - **DOC- Riparian Corridors Restoration and Conservation Grants (July 1)**
 - **DOC 2020 RCD Financial Assistance Program (June 25)**

- **SWOT Analysis for June 24 Strategy meeting**
 - SWOT Analysis was emailed out and needs to be completed by June 1st. Meeting will likely be in Chowchilla.

- **M/CRCDS HUB role on SGMA – ACTION ITEMS**
 - Partnership building/tapping and leveraging expertise (Laurel)
 - Media Project

- **RCD Board Membership**
 - Ethics Training – should be set and Harassment is pending.

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

- 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/CRCD and ESRCDC; (final proposal will submitted with goal of funding by summer)
- 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)
- *Campbell Foundation, Capacity Grant (\$10K/applied/pushed to Spring)*

Currently working on:

- Part of fundraising team the CCI/Healthy Soils hub regional proposal
- NEW: DOC/Prop 68 Grant with other RCDs and CARCD – East Stan lead
- DOC Capacity Grant
- Foundation Grant

VIII. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Staffing & Compliance

- LA Contract – Advisory Contract. Need to approve 5/15 to 7/15
 - There was a motion to accept Laurel's contract as presented by Jay B., there was a second by Mike D., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Legal description
 - On hold

IX. Old Business

X. Reports

- NRCS Report
 - NRCS has a new soil conservationist, Dana Marie Azevedo, 30 new tractor apps and working on getting contracts out. ESRCDC is doing a an orchard trial as part of a CIG grant for soil health management. It is a 5yr trial and more information can be found on ESRCDC website.
- Madera Region IRWM/RWVG
 - No update
- Other—

XI. Adjournment...

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm by Norman K. Kuhr.**
- b. Next Meeting: June 10, 2020; 5:00pm Farm Service Agency Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera (unless still under emergency guidance with COVID 19)**