



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



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday November 10, 2020 – 5:00 to 7:00
Zoom Conference Line to be sent out on Monday

**Due to safety and health guidance for Covid 19, the Board Meeting
was conducted via online platform ZOOM.**

I. Roll Call and Introductions

- Call to Order
 - Meeting was called to order at 5:15pm by Norm V. Kuhr.
- Flag Salute
- Introduction of Guests
 - Directors: Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell, Tim Coelho, Norm V. Kuhr, Jay Bellach
 - Associate Directors: Mark Hutson
 - Staff: Laurel Angell, Stefani Dias
 - Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff-NRCS, Priscilla Baker -NRCS, Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County, Christina Beckstead-Madera County Farm Bureau
 - Guests: Jessie Kanter- (Grizzly Corps)UCCE, Joy Hollingsworth-UCCE
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II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda

- November 2020 Agenda
 - Additions?
 - There was a motion to approve the November 2020 agenda by Jay Bellach, the motion was seconded by Matt Angell, and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- October 2020 Minutes
 - There was a motion to approve the October 2020 minutes as presented by Matt Angell, the motion was seconded by Jay Bellach, and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

III. Correspondence & Mail

- Correspondence
 - CSDA mailer on financing, CSDA new member benefit letter for payment/merchant services, and CalPERS notices.

IV. Financial Report

- Monthly Treasurer's Report
 - There was a motion to accept the November 2020 financial report as presented by Tim Coelho, the motion was seconded by Matt Angell, and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

- Incoming Income and Review & Approval of Expenses
 - **Incoming Payment:** Reimbursement for Mike's Training - \$85
 - Deposited
 - **Incoming Payment:** \$1,000 for M/CRCDS leadership on carbon cycle institute
 - Deposited
 - **Incoming Grant:** \$25,000 from Water Foundation
 - Expected in by December 2020
 - **Incoming Grant:** \$60,000 from NRCS, secured
 - Invoicing needed
 - **Good News! Secured Incoming Grant:** \$25,000 from DOC, grant agreement pending
 - **Expense:** Laurel Angell (Invoice – September 15 to October 15) -- \$1,500.00
 - There was a motion to approve payment of Laurel Angell's invoice as presented by Jay Bellach, the motion was seconded by Tim Coelho, and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

V. Meeting Updates, Handout, and Public Comments

- Public Comments?
 - MCFB is hosting Tree, Vine, Irrigation, and Sediment Erosion Workshop that provides credits for CCA/CURES. (November 12, 2020 8:30-11:30am) Registration can be found maderafb.com
- Handouts for this meeting
 - None
- Pending meetings to be aware of?
 - GSA Advisory Board Meeting, Thursday, November 12
 - Meeting topic: Allocation within GSA boundaries (9:00-11:00am via Zoom)
 - CARCD Annual Conference – November 12-24 - Virtual
 - Fees: CARCD members: Registrants 1-6 are \$95 each; Additional 7-10: \$10 each
 - M/CRCDD will reimburse registration fees for those attending
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - M/CRCDD along with their partners recognize and celebrate Veteran's Day this month

VI. Discussion Topics and Action Items

- **Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water & Natural Resources, Madera County:** Update on GSAs/GSPs/Advisory Board
 - There will be a GSA Advisory Board Meeting, Thursday, November 12 (9:00-11:00am) on allocation
 - Chowchilla and Madera Subbasins are exploring grant options for recharge basins



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- County GSA has held workshops in past month for satellite imagery technology (IrriWatch) and a small farmer education meeting
- **Priscilla Baker, NRCS:** updates on forest thinning project in North Fork and attendance at CA Dairy Sustainability Summit
 - Forest thinning project in North Fork demonstrated how areas of thinning were less affected by recent wildfire and how successful application can impact the foothills. Photos presented by Priscilla came from Kinsman Flat after Creek Fire
 - Dairy Sustainability Summit was held virtually November 5-6. The summit featured more than 50 expert speakers throughout the two days of keynote presentations and panel discussions. Some key presentations mentioned:
 - Dr. Frank Mitloehner - Rethinking Methane
 - Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel - SGMA Strategies: How Dairies Can Best Manage Fast-Approaching Implications of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
 - Managing Manure to Create a Circular Fertilizer Economy
- **Getting to work – M/CRCD hub:** RCD Technical/Education Support and Healthy Soils Workshop (Matt)
 - Workshop will be in help in December pending date, and presenters with a focus on cover crops via a hybrid model (virtual/farm demonstration). Matt to lead development of workshop and provide Stefani with details for flyer/outreach support
 - **RCPP launch update: Recharge with AFT, NRCS and RCDs (Laurel)**
 - Launch is pending contract with AFT & NRCS to provide technical help
 - **Website – amplifying the use of website (Matt)**
 - Needs/expectations of website need to be evaluated by board to help guide the direction of website use and new website manager
- **Arundo discussion:** Mark Hutson
 - Arundo removal is costly and funding is lacking for maintenance. Previous grant may help guide next steps for M/C RCD in funding for future Arundo removal/maintenance projects.
 - There was a motion made by Matt Angell to create a subcommittee from M/C RCD on Arundo removal in the county lead by Mark Hutson and Tim Coelho. There was a second from Jay Bellach and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

- **Grants in process/applied to/pending & Upcoming Grant Opportunities:**
 - DOC SGMA Watershed Coordinator (10/15)
 - Co-lead with East Stanislaus RCD to fund two watershed coordinators for the region. Madera County also putting in proposal.
 - CA Specialty Crop Grant – SGMA related
 - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with CARCD
 - Submitted
 - Carbon Hubs Funding Group
 - Laurel is representing region with preparation - CCI and CARCD providing \$1k stipend.
- **RCD Board Membership & Compliance**
 - Form 700 – link sent to all Board Members in several emails; if you have not done please do so and send to Stefani to file per her latest email

VII. Grants (This section is informational and for tracking purposes)

Secured

- DOC 2020 RCD Financial Assistance Program: \$25K
- Water Foundation, \$25K
- RCPP with American Farmland Trust – funds likely at the end of the year (\$25K)
- NRCS: Capacity Grant, \$60K
- Community Foundation Capacity Grant (grant for \$7.9k)
- Carbon Cycle Institute Grant (\$2k/ and \$1K grant for staff work on preparing a larger grant
- National CIG (RCD sent letter of support/for education assistance/award for \$1.2 million for five years) (awaiting information from ESRC)
- Central Valley Community Foundation/Impact Media Fund (Proposal accepted), \$100k matching, specifically earmarked for the media project.
- CARCD – Bechtel funding for SGMA needs assessment (admin for Laurel – ends in Dec)

Pending

- Carbon Cycle Institute Grant, Phase Two, Fundraising Work Group.
- CA Specialty Crop Grant – SGMA related
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with CARCD – submitted
- Water Funders Group (proposal submitted)
- National CIG (with CARCD, OK RCDs and UC Berkeley around cover crops) (**proposal declined**)
- Rose Foundation (applied for \$25K) (**Denied – will try again next year**)

VIII. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Staffing & Compliance

- Legal description (on hold)
- Compliance – checklist for Tier One Requirements
 - Form 700 (all need to file)
 - Harassment/Ethics Training - Will be done in January 21/all who need to do refresh will get signed up for webinars.



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IX. Old Business

X. Reports

- NRCs Report
 - NRCs office is beginning new fiscal year and will have a Farm Bill Assistant that will be shared with the Fresno and Merced offices.
- Madera Region IRWM/RWGM
 - Next meeting is November 23, 2020 (1:30pm)
 - Various projects happening currently within the Madera Region
 - There was a motion made for Mark Hutson to represent the M/C RCD at Madera Region IRWM/RWGM meeting by Matt Angell, a second from Mike DeLaGuerra, and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Other—
 - ANR is creating an online repository of post-fire recovery videos, that should soon be available here: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/>
 - The Intermountain Nursery is hosting a post-fire erosion control clinic this weekend, including time to connect organizations/landowners with volunteers who want to help with Creek Fire recovery activities.

XI. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm by Norm V. Kuhr.

Next Meeting: December 9, 2020; 5:00pm Farm Service Agency Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera OR ZOOM