



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



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 2020 – 5:00 to 7:00
Zoom Conference Line to be sent out on Wednesday

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

Minutes

I. Roll Call and Introductions

- Call to Order- Meeting was called to order at 5:07 PM by Matt Angell.
- Flag Salute
- Introduction of Guests
 - Directors: Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell, Tim Coelho,
 - Tom Petrucci, Erik Herman
 - Associate Directors: Mark Hutson
 - Staff: Laurel Angell, Stefani Dias
 - Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff-NRCS, Priscilla Baker -NRCS, Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County, Taylor Fridrich- NRCS, Christina Beckstead-Madera County Farm Bureau
 - Guests: Jack Rice- MAWA, Robert Roy- NRCS, Tom Stein-AFT, Joy Hollingsworth-UCCE, Jack Rice- MAWA

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda

- October 2020 Agenda
 - Additions?
 - There was an addition of an expense under Financial Report for the Strategic Planning Meeting with MCFB, MAWA, MCRCD, and Madera County for SGMA Collaboration.
 - There was a motion to approve the October 2020 agenda with the addition by Tom P, the motion was seconded by Erik H., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- September 2020 Minutes
 - There was a motion to approve the September 2020 minutes as presented by Mike D., the motion was seconded by Erik H., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

III. Correspondence & Mail

- Correspondence
 - Carbon Cycle Institute Payment for \$1,000, Social Security Administration – Annual Information Request, Cal Pers Announcements, DUN # information letter, and request from NACD for dues to renew.

IV. Financial Report

- Monthly Treasurer's Report
 - There was a motion to accept the October 2020 financial report as presented by Mike D., the motion was seconded by Erik H., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Incoming Income and Review & Approval of Expenses
 - **Incoming Payment:** Reimbursement for Mike's Training (\$80 – pending – CSDA has been contacted and sent)
 - Still pending has not been received as of October 14, 2020
 - **Incoming Payment:** \$1,000 (\$500 in October/\$500 in November) for M/CRCDS leadership on carbon cycle institute project to put together a group funding proposal for SJV hub with state-wide RCDs.
 - Received and to be deposited in County account as directed by BOD
 - **Incoming Grant:** \$25,000 from Water Foundation, expected end of October
 - **Incoming Grant:** \$60,000 from NRCS, pending per invoice
 - **Expense:** Laurel Angell (Invoice – August 15 to September 15) -- \$1,500.00
 - There was a motion to approve payment of Laurel's invoice as presented by Tom P., the motion was seconded by Mike D., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
 - **Expense:** MCFB (Strategic Planning Meeting) prior approval of paying up to \$1,250 -- \$1,189.76
 - There was a motion to approve payment of MCFB's invoice as presented by Mike D., the motion was seconded by Erik H., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

V. Meeting Updates, Handout, and Public Comments

- Public Comments? Are there any?
 - Robert Roy introduced himself as part of NRCS and representing Sharon Nance of NRCS as well.
- Handouts for this meeting
 - CARCD- Xerces Letter of Support
 - Final Letter of Support for Madera County
 - Draft Position Description
 - All handouts for this meeting were emailed to attendees prior to start of meeting Laurel.



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- Pending meetings to be aware of?
 - CARCD Annual Conference – November 12-24 - Virtual
 - Fees: CARCD members: Registrants 1-6 are \$95 each; Additional 7-10: \$10 each
 - If you wish to attend, please register on your own and MCRCD will reimburse for registration fees.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - Laurel is working on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant with CARCD on public health/water quality and SGMA impact on disadvantaged communities.

VI. Discussion Topics and Action Items

- **Tom Stein, American Farmland Trust, RCPP update:** “San Joaquin Valley Land and Water Conservation Collaborative.”
 - AFT collaborative with region’s RCDs is moving ahead and will focus on soil health, soil/water conservation, easements, and recharge. This collaborative will be over 5 years and include funding of \$49,000/yr.
- **Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water & Natural Resources, Madera County:** Update on GSAs/GSPs/Advisory Board
 - County is no longer in danger of probation and has met requirements by DWR. They are currently working on a recharge study, have an upcoming water market meeting, using ET technology for groundwater monitoring, and there is also a presentation online from the GAC special meeting on October 14.
- **Follow up on Arundo (Mark)**
 - More research was done prior Arundo removal process and money was applied for with the help of Jeannie, CWD hired contractor but money was received by the county. There is really no grant money available for maintenance and it costs about \$100,000 a year to maintain after removal.
- **CSDA Tour – M/CRCD to talk about SGMA (Laurel)**
 - Participation was requested for CSDA’s virtual tour.
- **Grants in process/applied to & Upcoming Grant Opportunities**
Currently in process:
 - DOC SGMA Watershed Coordinator (10/15) – co-lead with East Stanislaus 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 (DEI)

Pending:

- DOC 2020 RCD Financial Assistance Program (June 25) (applied - \$25K)
 - Laurel provided update that grant would likely be in November to receive.
- Carbon Hubs Funding Group – Laurel is representing region on preparing that.
 - CCI and CARCD providing \$1k stipend.

• **M/CRCDs HUB role – Discussion (Matt)**

- Putting in place accounting and structure for work;
 - How do we for moving forward, (i.e. Santa Barbara RCD; Manager and contractors)
 - Matt gave a brief description of Santa Barbara’s RCD staffing, possible need for bookkeeper to use QuickBooks/audit. Stefani informed Matt that we do our bookkeeping on QuickBooks currently as stated in prior meeting when Central Valley Community Bank account was opened.
 - Laurel to PT Employment
 - Discussion was had and recommended that Laurel remain an out-of-state contractor.
- Bringing on technical help (subcontract) and other support
 - Committee to decide on first round of growers to engage
 - Position Description
 - Discussion was had and input was requested from board on reviewing example of position description from East Stan RCD. Board discussed bringing someone on to do to the technical support ASAP, as a contractor, to start working with famers on healthy soils and how it helps with SGMA, etc. to get rolling by end of year. We are part of the RCPP and are also looking to leverage this technical person to help on the recharge aspect of the RCPP as well (which will start sometime in November). We also applied to the SGMA watershed coordinator, and again it will leverage this initial technical work with current availability of funding.
 - AmeriCorps
 - We will be seeking an AmeriCorps volunteer and are starting that paperwork for application in January. This program is specifically set up to help on Agriculture which is exciting.
 - Website Director
 - It was suggested that we might need to get someone updating our website and put that on the table for when the funding is available.

• **RCD Board Membership & Compliance**

- Form 700 – link sent to all Board Members; please do so and send to Stefani to file
 - Stefani will be sending a reminder email and instructions on how to fill out Form 700. Please complete so she can file in the RCD binders. She will work with Johnnies to access binders.
- Harassment/Ethics Training – updates on training and scholarships



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- Most directors need to do training again and resubmit paperwork to Stefani.
 - Training will wait until January so directors can complete training with CSDA as this is a reasonable process through CSDA. Everyone will be signed up then, except for Mike and Eric who are up to date.

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

Secured

- 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- needs depositing into new account)
- 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. 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)

Pending

- Carbon Cycle Institute Grant, Phase Two, Fundraising Work Group.
- National CIG (with CARCD, OK RCDs and UC Berkeley around cover crops) (**proposal declined**)
- Water Funders Group (proposal submitted in December)
- Rose Foundation (applied for \$25K) (**Denied – will try again next year**)
- DOC 2020 RCD Financial Assistance (\$25K)

VIII. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Staffing & Compliance

- Legal description (on hold for now)
- Compliance – checklist for Tier One Requirements

IX. Old Business

X. Reports

- NRCS Report
 - Johnnie S. provided update on yearly contracts fulfilled (84) for a total value of 5.9 million. These contracts focused on air quality, soil health, forestry and water conservation. The 2020 year is coming to close and 2021 is starting, there are no major

changes to report currently. Staff have also been working on DEI through civil right topic webcasts and watching various links for Hispanic Heritage Month. Johnnie is still working in Merced and gave update on Nutria management in Merced County as well. Currently, the office is only accepting phone calls due to COVID restrictions.

- Madera Region IRWM/RWVG
 - Next meeting is October 21, 2020 at 1:30pm via Zoom.
- Other--

XI. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2020; 5:00pm Farm Service Agency Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera OR ZOOM