



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 13, 2021 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

- I. Call to Order: 5:09PM by Amy Siliznoff**
 - A. Director Roll Call
Attendance was in person and virtual on Zoom. Directors: Jay Bellach, Mike De La Guerra, Matt Angell; Staff: Amy Siliznoff; Partners: Priscilla Baker (NRCS); Zoom attendance: Mark Hutson, Cristina Murillo-Barrick (UCCE), Joy Hollingsworth (UCCE), and DannaMarie Acevedo Velasquez (NRCS)

- II. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **Approval of September Meeting Minutes** – No motion was made at this time

- III. Correspondence & Mail** – Central Valley Community Bank statement, IRS Determination Letter

- IV. Public Comments** – Joy Hollingsworth (UCCE) is looking for farmers who grow triticale to do a trial project testing nitrogen use efficiency. Mark Hutson requested the RCD to investigate how to work with green waste and the trees that fall that get tossed into trash systems. Priscilla mentioned there's a company that does chip drop and it could be an alternative option.

- V. Reports**
 - A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – No updates at this time

 - B. NRCS Report – Priscilla Baker
 - Wrapped up contracts by September 30th
 - Local Workgroup NRCS Update: 4.9 million in contracts, 33 were tractors, 7-9 drip systems, 7 irrigation management, 23 forestry tree thinning, cover crops were up to 500 acres contracted.
 - Pilot program this summer – Drought CIC
 - Cover crops are better after 3 years of being implemented
 - Brian Hockett is completing uniformity tests; 11 have been completed related to EQUIP contracts
 - Priscilla is now signer for grant paperwork

 - C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – Amy Siliznoff
 - Scenic Byway Association is going to be having a Creek Fire tour on October

16th, beginning at 9AM. If anyone is interested in attending, please reach out to Jacob Roberson for more information.

D. Farm Bureau – No updates at this time

E. News/Other Meeting Reports – None

VI. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

- A. Virtual Carbon Farm Planning Training with Carbon Cycle Institute & Cal Poly Center for Sustainability (I)
- This live virtual training is paired with an online curriculum, it serves as a starting point for Carbon Farm Planning, in which the planner is encouraged to engage with the producer and the landscape to develop a comprehensive, carbon-focused, living plan that will evolve over time.
 - Over the course of four weeks, participants will complete:
 - The Online Carbon Farm Planning Curriculum, containing three self-guided modules and 2 associated tasks
 - Three webinars that follow the completion of each self-guided module and associated task.
 - Final Mock Carbon Farm Plan, Task 3
 - Goals of Carbon Farm Planning Curriculum
 - Provide essential background to understand the ecological significance of Carbon Farming.
 - Provide the framework knowledge to facilitate the development of a Carbon Farm Plan.
 - Provide necessary tools, materials, and ongoing support for writing a Carbon Farm Plan.
 - Training Schedule Dates and Times: (Short Agenda)
 - Wednesday, October 13, 2021: 1- 1:45 pm PST - Introduce CCI Team and Participants
 - CCI will discuss the agenda for the following training webinars, the online curriculum, and learning tasks, and due dates.
 - Wednesday, October 20, 2021: 1 pm- 2:30 pm PST - Webinar 1
 - Self Guided: Participants complete Module 1, Introduction to The Carbon Farm Planning Process and Role of Carbon in the farm ecosystem.
 - Webinar 1: Short Presentation, Q&A for Module 1 and Task, Introduction to Module 2, and Task 2
 - Wednesday, October 27, 2021: 1 pm- 2:30 pm PST - Webinar 2
 - Self Guided: Participants complete Module 2 and task: Planning Through a Carbon Lens
 - Webinar 2: Q&A for module 2, VR Field Learning Exercise and COMET tools, Introduction to Case Studies, and Module 3
 - Wednesday, November 10, 2021: 1 pm- 3 pm PST - Webinar 3
 - Self-Guided: Participants will review the Three Case Studies, complete Module 3 and Task 3 (Mock Carbon Farm Plan)

- Webinar 3: Q&A for Case Studies (Task 3) and Module 3, County Climate Action Planning, Introduction, Supply Chains Fibershed and Closeout training
- B. Carbon Farm Planning Community Series through CARCD (I)
- Amy will be attending the Carbon Farm Planning Community Series through CARCD and the RCD will receive a \$600 stipend for attending. 8 meetings will be convened.
- C. Annual and Long-Range Plan (I)
- Amy will be working on updating the annual and long-range plan for the RCD. Mark, Jay, and Amy met on September 22nd to go over updates to the plans.
- D. By-Laws and Policies (I)
- Amy will be working on updating the by-laws and policies for the RCD.
- E. Local Workgroup with NRCS (I)
- Local Workgroup was convened on October 7th. There were 40 attendees which consisted of local partners in Madera County. This meeting outlined and prioritized county resource needs. Some of the presenters includes Stephanie Anagnoson, Christina Beckstead, Karen Buhr CARCD, American Farmland Trust, UCCE, DOC, Madera County Ag Commissioner, as well as Fire Prevention/CEQA Updates from CARCD and Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development. NRCS discussed trends of interest and demand, projects and partnerships, requested and contracted dollars, as well as acres contracted. There was a final discussion if any changes were requested to current NRCS programs and procedures. We will request at least 7 letters of support and send them to the State Conservationist (Carlos Suarez).
- F. Update: Presentation to GSA's about Soil Health/Water Nexus (I)
- Topic: Water-related impacts of cover cropping in CA, Jeff Mitchell with UC Davis and Alyssa DeVincentis with Vitidore will be making a presentation to the local GSA's on October 25th at 1:30PM at the Regional Water Management Group Meeting (RWMG)
- G. Update: RCPP with American Farmland Trust (I)
- Irrigation and Nutrient Management Workshop with ESRC (I)
- Irrigation & Nutrient Management Workshop is October 28th from 8:30AM-1PM at Madera County Farm Bureau. This workshop will be hybrid (both Zoom and in-person)
 - Flyer and Agenda has been finalized and sent out to local partners and agencies for outreach/advertisement.
 - SWEEP Evaluations (Irrigation Evaluation). We will be working with East Stanislaus RCD conservation planners to do an irrigation evaluation on Kevin Herman's property.

- H. Monarch/Pollinator Opportunity (I)
 - Amy is working on outreach to local landowners in the area along the San Joaquin River to plant pollinator/monarch habitat. Amy has found interested parties and will be scheduling site visits with Xerces as well as Partners for Fish & Wildlife. Wildlife Conservation Board is interested in funding this project.
- I. Orchard recycling workshop in the fall (I) (A)
 - Put on hold until next year.
- J. Cover Crop workshop in Jan/Dec (I) (A)
 - Will set a date for first or second week of December. Amy will start working on agenda and outreach once a date has been confirmed.
- K. Transition Amy Siliznoff to Employee (I) (A)
 - Cash flow needs to be built up before transition. Amy to follow up on this and will continue as a contractor.
- L. 2021 CARCD Annual Business Meeting Voting Delegate & Alternate Delegate (I) (A)
 - Matt Angell will be voting delegate and Jay Bellach will be alternative delegate for the CARCD annual business meeting.
- M. AB 361 Resolution No. 2021-01 (I) (A)
 - Motion was not made at this time to pass Resolution No. 2021-01. All Board members present agreed to continue providing hybrid meetings.
- N. Upcoming Grant applications (I)
 - Amy is working with CARCD on the NRCS Racial Justice & Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreement. It will be between \$25,000-\$30,000/year per RCD. This work includes addressing local natural resource issues, using climate smart agriculture practices and principles that will be foundational and lead to a more sustainable future through effective environmental practices on the land.
 - It will encourage existing and new partnerships through emphasizing urban needs and equality in advancing underserved communities and small-scale ag.

VII. Financial Report

- A. Monthly Treasurer's Report (I)
 - County Account: \$1,594.36
 - Central Valley Community Bank Account: \$6,691.17
 - Incoming: from NRCS (Payment 2): \$12,772.76 (pending)
 - Incoming from NRCS (Payment 3): \$10,500 (pending)
 - Incoming from ESRCD: \$6,000 (pending)
 - Incoming from CARCD for August: \$3,500 (pending)

- Incoming from CARCD for September: \$3,500 (pending)
- **Total in all accounts: \$8,285.53**
 - **Total after incoming: \$44,558.29**
- B. Review and Approval of Expenses (I) (A)
 - Expenses: Monthly fee for CalTech Web - \$99
 - Invoice for Amy Siliznoff September - \$3,500
 - **Total Expenses: \$3,599.00**
- C. Previous Approved Expenses Still Pending
 - Laurel Angell - \$4,121
 - Amy Siliznoff - \$3,500
 - **Total Previous Approved Expenses: \$7,621.00**
 - **Total Expenses and Previous Expenses: \$11,220.00**
 - **Total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid: \$33,338.29**

- No motion was made at this time

VIII. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Old Business

A. All Board Members - Harassment and Ethics Training

B. Legal description (on hold)

Amy to check if LAFCO will complete a legal description update for the RCD.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:23PM.

Next Meeting: November 10th, 2021, 5:00PM