



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



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 – 5:00 to 7:00
Zoom Conference Line to be sent out on Wednesday

Due to safety and health guidance and continued changes due to the Covid 19 crisis, the September 9th Board Meeting was conducted via online platform ZOOM.

Anyone from the public who wishes to attend a meeting or make public comments: Please contact LANGELL@landstewardsproject.org for link and access

I. Roll Call and Introductions

- Call to Order – Meeting was called to order by Norm V. Kuhr 5:05pm
- Flag Salute
- Introduction of Guests
 - Directors: Jay Bellach, Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell, Norman V. Kuhr, Tim Coelho, Tom Petrucci, Erik Herman
 - Associate Directors: Mark Hutson
 - Staff: Laurel Angell, Stefani Dias
 - Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff-NRCS, Priscilla Baker -NRCS, Danna Marie Acevedo – NRCS, Taylor Fridrich- NRCS, Christina Beckstead-Madera County Farm Bureau
 - Guests: Jack Rice- MAWA, Vicky Espinoza – UC Merced, Rebecca Ozeran-UCCE, Joy Hollingsworth-UCCE

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda

- September 2020 Agenda
 - Additions?
 - Motion was made by Mike D. to approve the September 2020 agenda as presented with the additions, there was a second from Matt A., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- August 2020 Minutes
 - Motion was made by Matt A. to approve the August 2020 minutes as presented, there was a second from Tom P., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

III. Correspondence & Mail

- Correspondence
 - Bank mailer, Cal Pers Letter, Forestry Notes from NACD, and LAFCO Project review request

IV. Financial Report

- Monthly Treasurer's Report
 - There was a motion made by Mike D., to accept the treasurer's report as presented, there was second by Jay B., 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 is looking into it)
 - **Incoming Payment:** \$1,000 (\$500 in September/\$500 in October) for M/CRCDS leadership on carbon cycle institute project to put together a group funding proposal for SJV hub with state-wide RCDs.
 - **Expense:** Laurel Angell (Invoice – July 15 to August 15) -- \$1,500.00
 - There was a motion to approve Laurel's invoice for advisory work as presented by Tom P., there was a second by Jay B., and the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

V. Meeting Updates, Handout, and Public Comments

- Public Comments?
 - Handouts for this meeting - All materials distributed virtually through email prior to meeting
 - List of upcoming grants – details
- Pending meetings to be aware of? (info)
 - Pre-Summit Orientation Webinar IRWM – Thursday, September 10, 2020
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - Laurel engaged in meeting with CARCD on diversifying boards and supporting disadvantaged communities.

VI. Discussion Topics and Action Items

- **Guest Speaker: Vicki Espinoza, PhD Candidate, UC Merced; Presentation on CaliWaterAg and her research on land use changes under SGMA.**
 - Vicky presented her work/dissertation, "Community Informed Strategic Alternative Land-use Transformation & Optimization (SALUTO) – Model for the San Joaquin Valley. Her work surrounds framework that involves human feedback and addresses a knowledge equity gap in the valley.
 - **Vicky, Laurel & Priscilla: Women for the Land Learning Circle: Sponsored by American Farmland Trust: Thursdays 9/17 and 9/24 3 to 5:00**
 - Working roundtable to help address issues surrounding SGMA and ways to be part of conservation.



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- **Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water & Natural Resources, Madera County: Update on GSAs/GSPs/Advisory Board**
 - Stephanie sent email with following notes:
 - County is gathering information for annual GSP reports
 - Working on allocation approach; next County GSAs' Advisory Committee meeting is 10/1 at 2p.m. via Zoom
 - County to follow up on SALC grant and watershed coordinator at next meeting with RCD

- **Mark Hutson, Presentation on Arundo**
 - Mark presented on the Arundo issues and re-growth concerns. This may be opportunity for RCD to work with the county on grants for funding of removal and maintenance of Arundo. Board advised to reach out Jeannie Habben on prior work with Arundo and RCD's involvement.

- **Local Working Group Meeting Follow up (Aug 26) —Recap of Meeting/Letter from RCD**
 - Meeting went extremely well and had attendance of over 40 people. Letter was created and sent to Carlos based on priorities expressed, as well as 5-6 letters from local groups. Letter was included in handout materials for meeting.

- **Madera Regional Water Management Group update (Laurel)**
 - Madera/Chowchilla RCD will not join group officially but Laurel will attend meetings and continue to participate.

- **RCPP update:** "San Joaquin Valley Land and Water Conservation Collaborative," which will be funded by a \$10 million Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- **Grants recently secured/applied to & Upcoming Grant Opportunities**
 - **Good News:** \$25K from Water Foundation – check expected end of September (what account should it go to)
 - Money will be deposited in County account upon receiving
 - **Good News:** Grant Agreement finalized for NRCS capacity grant \$30K

 - DOC 2020 RCD Financial Assistance Program (June 25) (applied - \$25K)
 - Rose Foundation (applied for \$25K)
 - Carbon Hubs Funding Group – Laurel is representing region on preparing that.
 - CCI and CARCD providing \$1k stipend.

 - Upcoming:
 - DOC SGMA Watershed Coordinator (10/1) – co-lead with East Stanislaus to fund

two watershed coordinators for the region.

- **M/CRCDs HUB role on SGMA – Discussion**
 - Partnership building/tapping and leveraging expertise (Laurel)
 - Communications project
- **RCD Board Membership & Compliance**
 - Form 700 - waiting on county
 - Harassment/Ethics Training – updates -- waiting on county

VII. Grants (focused on priorities laid out in Annual Plan – for tracking purposes)

Secured

- Water Foundation, \$25K
- RCPP with American Farmland Trust – funds likely at the end of the year (\$25K)
- NRCS: Capacity Grant, \$25K
- 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) (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) (May 2020)
- DOC/Prop 68 Restoration and Conservation grants (applied with Regional partners/\$10K for planning) (Submitted July 1)
- Water Funders Group (proposal submitted in December)
- Rose Foundation (applied for \$25K)
- DOC 2020 RCD Financial Assistance (\$25K)

VIII. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Staffing & Compliance

- Legal description (on hold for now)
- Renewal of Laurel's contact
 - There was a motion to renew Laurel's contract until the end of December 2020 by Mike D. and a second from Jay B., the motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Compliance – checklist for Tier One Requirements

IX. Old Business

X. Reports

- NRCS Report
 - Taylor Fridrich reported that NRCS is finalizing contracts on over 15,000 acres in Madera County. In total, the NRCS provided more than 7 million dollars in support of projects for landowners this year. Projects include tractor replacement, improving irrigation and forestry practices, and 4 cover crop contracts for example.



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- Madera Region IRWM/RWVG
- Other--

XI. Adjournment... Next Meeting: October 14, 2020; 5:00pm Farm Service Agency Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera OR ZOOM