



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 13, 2022 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:07PM by Norman Kuhr

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was virtual on Zoom. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Jay Bellach, Mike DeLaGuerra, Erik Herman, Tim Coehlo Staff: Amy Siliznoff; Partners: Cristina Murillo-Barrick (UCANR), Dannamarie Acevedo-Velazquez (NRCS), Johnnie Siliznoff (NRCS), Chris Yohannan (ESRCD), Karin Roux (Sierra RCD)

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Addition to RCD Report Section – RCD Audit, Addition to financials – mileage for Irrigation Intern Kevin Reyes \$210, Addition to Minutes – MOU Approval for Groundwater NRCS Grant for East Stanislaus RCD, Change to Agenda – Update April to June Minutes

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of June Meeting Minutes and June Special Meeting Minutes – Motion was made by Mike DeLaGuerra to approve the Meeting Minutes, there was a second by Erik Herman. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IV. Correspondence & Mail – DOC Check for \$10,500 and Certificate of Insurance from GSRMA

V. Public Comments – Amy Siliznoff stated Rebecca Orezan with UCANR wanted to share with the Board that there will be an Orchard Grazing Workshop July 27th at 4:30PM. Amy will send the information out in the chat.

Karin Roux with Sierra RCD – There is a potential collaboration for funding for SALC program, administered by DOC, capacity building operation opportunity. Meeting with Jean and Ursula with East Merced RCD and decided to do a joint application. This grant will be to develop a program serving as a facilitator for conservation easements and connecting them with land trusts and land conservancy's who would lead them through the application phase and easement phase. They saw a lot of strengths in combining areas for capacity building. Madera/Chowchilla RCD would be a good addition to combine areas, and also developing more education for ourselves and outreach within our communities and having consistent messaging and materials on our website. Application is due August 8th. This is the first year DOC is doing this component of SALC.

Cristina Murillo-Barrick with UCANR – she is primarily supporting the SALC program at UCANR. Discussions with Madera County for SALC planning grant. UCANR is hiring and doubling staff and advisor positions throughout the state in the next calendar year. There are several openings in Fresno, Madera, Stanislaus.

VI. Reports

- A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff
- Madera County is closing out the County GSA Rate Study ending in a public hearing on Tuesday 6/21 at 10:30AM
 - Chowchilla Subbasin – They are completing revisions of the GSP. Must be done by the end of the month and turned in to DWR.
 - Delta-Mendota Subbasin – They are also completing revisions of the GSP. It must be done by the end of the month and turned in to DWR.
 - Madera Subbasin – There are four separate GSPs, and they have not received feedback by DWR (should have feedback by October).
 - County GSA “white area” rate study had a majority protest in Chowchilla, so no rates or programs there. The allocation is still in place. The rates in the Madera and Delta-Mendota subbasin will move ahead and be on property tax bills as “GSP fee” in the fall and spring.
- B. NRCS Report – Dannamarie AcevedoVelazquez
- 46 preapplications with batch 4. September 2nd is deadline. Forestry and groundwater recharge applications are included in this batch. Chris Yohannan is working on RCPP applications. EQUIP, CSP Classic, CIS, deadline is August 5th.
 - Johnnie Siliznoff – NRCS has signed a MOU with CARCD, UCANR, Pesticide Regulations, try to create a community where resources are in a single place. Will be coming out in a couple of months now. New DC is Mira Dick in Madera. Encourage RCD to start preparing for a local workgroup. Benefit to Carlos Suarez and RCDs providing input on local resource concerns.
- C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – Amy Siliznoff
- There were 18 total projects funded in Madera County for the USDA NRCS’ Recharge Pilot Program. 15 on-farm recharge projects and 3 basin/trenching projects. USDA NRCS and Sustainable Conservation are working on notifying successful applicants and getting agreements executed.
 - Chowchilla Management Zone is moving forward on the Domestic Well Testing grant that they have through the Madera RWVG. They have tested 23 domestic wells to-date and are providing bottled water to 12 homes due to nitrates coming back high over the determined safe threshold by the State.
 - If you or anyone you know that lives in Madera County and has a domestic well which they would like to have tested, please reach out to Kristi Robinson (wwkristi@icloud.com) or the Chowchilla Management Zone (chowchilladrinkingwater@gmail.com)
 - System metering projects in Indian Lakes, Parkwood, Madera, and Chowchilla are moving forward.

- System metering in Indian Lakes is set to begin soon if it hasn't already.
- Parkwood meters will be installed once the remaining parts are received by the vendor (lead time has been getting extended due to material shortage).
- Madera meters are looking to be installed in March or April of next year.
- Chowchilla is still waiting on the draft funding agreement from DWR. There has been a lot of back and forth on the funding agreement, causing the project to be delayed.
- During the next Madera RWMG meeting scheduled for Monday, July 25th, the group will be selecting a project to turn in an application for the IRWM Round 2 funding. There are 2 deadlines for this funding, August 19, 2022, and February 1, 2023. Madera RWMG is looking to get an application turned in by the August 19th deadline.

D. Farm Bureau – Amy Siliznoff

- Harvest Training for Trees and Vines on July 19th

E. News/Other Meeting Reports – No other news or reports

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

A. RCPP with American Farmland Trust (I) – Chris Yohannan

- Chris Yohannan has been working on the RCPP in Madera, he is getting the applications submitted and ranked. Out of the 12 applications submitted, 10 were approved to move forward. Deadline to get paperwork completed for application is August 5th.

B. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff

- Kevin Reyes started as the irrigation specialist intern in Madera County. Amy and Kevin attended an irrigation evaluation training in Delhi on July 5th. Kevin has began completing irrigation evaluations and Chris Yohannan is the main POC for scheduling.

C. Monarch/Pollinator Opportunity with CA Wildlife Conservation Board (I) – Amy Siliznoff

- Amy is holding on this project due to capacity and grant application deadline. She is moving forward on submitting for WCB funding through the CARCD Block Grant opportunity.

D. MCRCO Audit (I)(A) – Amy Siliznoff

- Amy received an estimate from Bryant L Jolley, CPA for a five-year audit for \$6,000. She is requesting approval from the Board to move forward with the audit to meeting Tier 1 requirements. Jay Bellach made a motion to move forward with the five-year audit. Erik Herman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

E. MCRCO Strategic Plan 2022-2027 (I)(A) – Amy Siliznoff

- Amy reviewed the draft strategic plan with Board Members. Jay Bellach made a motion to approve the strategic plan. Mike De La Guerra seconded the motion. Two Directors weren't present so will need to revisit the Strategic Plan and gain approval from them before passing the motion.

F. MCRCO Policies (I) – Amy Siliznoff

- Amy reviewed the draft policies with the Board Members. She sent them a copy and is working with CARCD on next steps to updating the policies.
- G. Upcoming Workshops (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - The RCD hosted an in-person Grower Recharge Workshop on July 13th from 9AM-11:30AM. Topics discussed include recharge, nitrogen management, irrigated lands, NRCS recharge grants, and local NRCS recharge pilot projects. There were 43 attendees and great feedback from participants who attended the workshop.
- H. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)
 - No contracts/agreements
- I. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy will be meeting with Cristina Murillo-Barrick and Karin Roux to discuss the SALC Application.
- J. Adoption of Resolution No. 2021-01 – Proclaiming a Local Emergency, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Newsom on March 4, 2020, and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of Madera/Chowchilla Resource Conservation District for the period of July 13, 2022 – August 10, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions (I) (A)
 - Mike DeLaGuerra made a motion to approve the resolution, a second was made by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

VIII. Financial Report

- A. Monthly Treasurer’s Report (I)
 - County Account: \$1,599.09
 - Central Valley Community Bank Account: \$41,959.25
 - Incoming from DOC: \$10,500 (pending)
 - **Total in all accounts: \$43,558.34**
 - **Total after incoming: \$54,058.34**
- B. Review and Approval of Expenses (I) (A)
 - Expenses: Monthly fee for CalTech Web - \$99
 - QuickBooks TSheets (Grant Tracking) - \$20
 - GoDaddy Email Renewal - \$71.88
 - GoDaddy Email - \$71.88
 - Invoice for ATS Consulting - \$3,500
 - Reimbursement for mileage for Kevin Reyes - \$210
 - **Total Expenses: \$3,972.76**
- K. Total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid: \$50,085.58**
- Mike DeLaGuerra made a motion to approve expenses, there was a second by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:02PM.

Next Meeting: September 14, 2022, 5:00PM