



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 8, 2022 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

- I. Call to Order: 5:06PM by Norman Kuhr**
 - A. Director Roll Call
Attendance was virtual on Zoom. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Jay Bellach, Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell, Tim Coehlo Staff: Amy Siliznoff; Associate Director: Mark Hutson; Partners: Rebecca Orezan (UCANR), Priscilla Taylor (NRCS), Dannamarie Acevedo-Velazquez (NRCS), Mira Dick (NRCS), Chris Yohannan (ESRCD)

- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

No changes or additions were made

- III. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **Approval of April Meeting Minutes** – Motion was made by Mike DeLaGuerra to approve the Meeting Minutes, there was a second by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

- IV. Correspondence & Mail** – CSDA mailers

- V. Public Comments** – Rebecca Orezan with UCANR shared that colleagues statewide are hosting a workshop on July 18th from 1-3:30PM. This workshop will discuss grazing in vineyards.

- 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
 - There is no word from DWR on Madera GSPs, Chowchilla and Delta Mendota GSPs are being revised due back to DWR by the end of July
 - 10-million-dollar Multibenefit land repurposing grant was awarded to Madera County, Madera County Farm Bureau, Madera Ag Water Association, and Madera/Chowchilla RCD.

 - B. NRCS Report – Priscilla Baker
 - Mira Dick has started on as the District Conservationist in the Madera office.
 - The office is working on Batch 3, their funding considerations are currently happening, and 28 applications are in pre-approved status.

- There's an extension to the CSP application deadline this year.
 - 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. Pump plants and pipelines and water moisture sensors are some of the projects that were funded under the RCPP.
- C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – Amy Siliznoff
- No update
- D. Farm Bureau – Amy Siliznoff
- No update
- 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. Pump plants and pipelines and water moisture sensors are some of the projects that were funded under the RCPP.
- B. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
- East Merced RCD, East Stanislaus RCD, and the Madera/Chowchilla RCD was awarded \$496,828.50 for the Mobile Irrigation Lab Program to be ran in Merced, Stanislaus, and Madera County. The three RCD's will be collaborating and sharing staff to complete DU (distribution uniformity) testing as well as soil health assessments as a part of this program. This will help identify and inefficiencies in landowners' irrigation systems. The project will begin July 1st and the RCD is awaiting a MOU agreement with East Merced RCD.
 - Amy will begin interviewing for the irrigation specialist and irrigation specialist intern positions.
- C. GrizzlyCorps Member – Amy Siliznoff
- Amy interviewed multiple applicants and decided on a top application with East Merced and East Stanislaus RCD. GrizzlyCorps is presenting an offer to the applicant and will get back to us if the applicant accepts the position.
- D. Area 9 Regional Meeting (I) (A) – Matt Angell, Area 9 President
- The meeting took place on June 3rd from 9AM to 3PM at the Kings County Ag Commissioners Office in Hanford, CA. 35 people attended, it was a productive meeting that highlighted. Mira had initiated for us a CIG grant for putting more case studies and documentation like cover crops adopted into the region. Quarter of a million acres is our goal, things that have been resistant (Irriwatch, LandIQ) looking at ET and doing calculations and that's where they look at consumption of what crops are using. Here we're promoting healthy soils. Jennifer Wood is working with CARCD to get more cover crops out in the region. Trying to understand a CIG grant that would help market cover crops to look at advantages and disadvantages, there's so many misconceptions. There are 15 groups that are doing ROI studies on cover crops. Let's look at the challenges growers are facing, compaction, healthy soils, infiltration, etc.

Research on termination and what that looks like. There is no evidence that cover crops terminated properly are consumptive.

- E. Monarch/Pollinator Opportunity with CA Wildlife Conservation Board (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy is working on confirming site access as well as irrigation upgrade costs for this project before moving forward. She’s discussing next steps with Partners for Fish & Wildlife and will need to follow up with WCB for the Pre-App.
- F. MCRCD Audit (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy is getting estimates for a five-year audit. She will be getting an estimate through fiscal year end 2022.
- G. MCRCD Strategic Plan 2022-2027 (I)(A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy reviewed the draft strategic plan with Board Members. She will send them a copy and they will approve it at the next Board meeting.
- H. MCRCD Policies (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy reviewed the draft policies with the Board Members. She sent them a copy and will review it with CARCD to finalize them and have them approved at the next Board meeting.
- I. Upcoming Workshops (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - The RCD is hosting an in-person Grower Recharge Workshop on July 13th from 9AM-11:30AM. Mark Hutson and Amy have finalized an agenda and presenters for the workshop. The flyer and agenda have been posted to our website. Topics that will be discussed include recharge, nitrogen management, irrigated lands, NRCS recharge grants, and local NRCS recharge pilot projects.
 - Amy will be attending the field day hosted by PAGG (Punjabi American Growers Group) on June 9th from 8AM to 12:30PM.
- J. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)
 - Subcontract/MOU Agreement for NRCS Groundwater Grant with East Stanislaus RCD to assist with developing Groundwater Conservation Plan. \$24,460.00 to cover the cost of personnel and mileage to assist the RCD with developing the plan. Matt Angell made a motion to approve the MOU agreement. Mike DeLaGuerra seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- K. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - No upcoming grant applications
- L. 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 May 11, 2022 – June 8, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions (I) (A)
 - Matt Angell made a motion to approve the resolution, a second was made by Mike DeLaGuerra. 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: \$47,224.50
- Incoming from DOC: \$10,500 (pending)
- **Total in all accounts: \$48,823.59**
 - **Total after incoming: \$59,323.59**

B. Review and Approval of Expenses (I) (A)

- Expenses: Monthly fee for CalTech Web - \$99
- QuickBooks TSheets (Grant Tracking) - \$10
- CARCD Membership Invoice - \$150
- GSRMA Invoice - \$940
- LACO Associates Invoice - \$566.25
- Invoice for ATS Consulting - \$3,500
- **Total Expenses: \$5,265.25**

C. **Total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid: \$54,058.34**

- Mike DeLaGuerra made a motion to approve expenses, there was a second by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IX. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Old Business

- A. Form 700 – Amy is missing Norman Kuhr’s Form 700, she will follow up with him to get a copy of the completed form.

X. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:03PM.

Next Meeting: July 13, 2022, 5:00PM