



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 14, 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, Erik Herman, Tim Coehlo Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes; Partners: Rebecca Ozeran (UCCE), Mira Dick (NRCS)
  
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Addition to RCD Financial Section – Supply purchases for Recharge Workshop for Amy Siliznoff \$70.85, update Amy Siliznoff to ATS Consulting.
  
- III. Approval of Minutes**
  - A. **Approval of August Meeting Minutes** – Motion was made by Jay Bellach to approve the Meeting Minutes, there was a second by Erik Herman. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
  
- IV. Correspondence & Mail** – Central Valley Community Foundation Statement, CSDA Mailers
  
- V. Public Comments** – No comments
  
- VI. Reports**
  - A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff
    - The Chowchilla growers who protested the fee are trying for form their own GSA
    - Penalties for farm units within the County GSA.
  
  - B. NRCS Report – Mira Dick
    - NRCS office has had a busy year, in total they're looking at 110 contracts obligated total. By the time they're done it'll be over 15,000 acres of conservation and close to 7 million dollars obligated. RCPP – 8 contracts fully obligated - \$231,000 total.
  
  - C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – Amy Siliznoff
    - Domestic well testing is still being conducted in Madera County by the Chowchilla Management Zone (CMZ). If tests come back high in nitrates and are located within the Chowchilla Subbasin, homeowners/tenants will be provided bottled drinking water by CMZ. If tests come back high in nitrates but are not located within the

Chowchilla Subbasin, homeowners/tenants will be provided with resources that may be able to provide them bottled water or assist them to find a temporary or permanent solution. CMZ only provides bottled water for those in the Chowchilla Subbasin.

- If you or anyone you know in Madera County would like to have their domestic well tested, please contact Kristi Robinson with the Chowchilla Management Zone by emailing [chowchilladrinkingwater@gmail.com](mailto:chowchilladrinkingwater@gmail.com). This funding for free domestic well testing is available through June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The smart meter installation for the Indian Lakes and Parkwood communities have been delayed due to shortages for miscellaneous items (such as connectors and fittings) from the vendors and manufacturers. Originally the lead time was 18-weeks, but that lead time has now been extended to 18 – 30 weeks.
- City of Chowchilla finally had their agreement executed with DWR for their smart meter installation project. They are working on the design for this project so they can begin construction as soon as possible.
- An application for the DWR IRWM Prop 1 Round 2 funding was not submitted by the Madera Region by the 1<sup>st</sup> deadline (August 19<sup>th</sup>). An application will be submitted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline (February 1<sup>st</sup>).
- A new project proposal form has been created for the Madera RWMG. This proposal form must be completed by agencies looking to have their project(s) included on the IRWMP Project List for the Madera Region. It will be posted online by the end of this week. If you would like a copy of the new project proposal form before it is online, please reach out to Jacob by emailing [jacob\\_roberson@outlook.com](mailto:jacob_roberson@outlook.com).
- Currently producing an internal project list for the Madera RWMG to use to identify projects that benefit the watershed for all of Madera County. The list is identifying projects that promote recharge, reduce groundwater pumping, and manage floodwater. Projects are being pulled from the IRWMP Project List.

D. Farm Bureau – Amy Siliznoff

- No updates

E. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff

- Sustainable Conservation, along with NRCS and CDFA are hosting two convenings, the first on October 18<sup>th</sup> from 9-5, and the second on November 30<sup>th</sup> from 9-5.
- CARCD has set their 77<sup>th</sup> annual conference to November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom.

- Silas Rossow with CA Ag Solutions will be hosting a workshop on September 21<sup>st</sup> on Cover Crops with landowners.

## **VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics**

- A. RCPP with American Farmland Trust (I) – Chris Yohannan
  - Contracts have been obligated. Next round of funding deadline is December 1, 2022.
- B. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Kevin Reyes
  - Kevin has completed 12 irrigation evaluations in Madera, and 3 in Merced County. 5 more evaluations are scheduled in the next two weeks. The evaluations will be scheduled through November as part of the grant.
- C. NRCS Equity Grant (I) (A)
  - We received the contract (\$22,483) to move forward. They requested a commitment signature from the Project Manager, and Amy has sent this over to them. A Kick-Off call is scheduled for this upcoming Monday to discuss next steps.
- D. DOC MLRP (I)
  - An MLRP orientation is scheduled for this Monday from 9:15-4:30PM, I'm planning to attend this. Items discussed will be MLRP goals, exploring the landscape, Statewide Support overview, Community of practice overview, engaging disadvantaged communities, and understanding processes (grant budget, invoicing, etc.)
- E. Local Workgroup Meeting (I)
  - Amy has had two planning meetings, the first meeting with Julie Konno and her new ED Jon Cottingham and a second meeting with Julie and Jon along with Mira on planning the agenda for the Local Workgroup which is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup> from 9AM-11AM.
- F. San Joaquin River Conservancy O&M (I) (A)
  - Amy and Mark have met with Steve Haze and John Shelton from San Joaquin River Conservancy. There is an opportunity for the RCD to have an Operations and Maintenance Agreement with SJRC. Funding can be up to \$15 million (state funding). Amy is continuing discussions with Steve Haze with Sierra RCD as we would split responsibilities and the O&M Agreement with them. They are looking to focus their funding obligations on capital improvements, and 8-10% of the remaining funding would be for RCD management over projects and overhead.
- G. MCRCD Audit (I)(A) – Amy Siliznoff
  - Amy is working with Bryant L Jolley, CPA on MCRCDs audit. She is working on sending them all documentation requested.
- H. MCRCD Strategic Plan 2022-2027 (I)(A) – Amy Siliznoff
  - Need approval from Matt Angell and Tim Coehlo to have the Strategic Plan approved.
- I. MCRCD Policies (I) – Amy Siliznoff
  - Amy would like to reach out to HR or outside support for finalizing policies and bylaws.

- J. Upcoming Workshops (I) – Amy Siliznoff
  - Amy will be working with Kevin Reyes as well as Mark Hutson on setting a Cover Crop Workshop date and picking presenters. An agenda and flyer will be created and we will start advertising for the workshop at the beginning of October when newsletters are sent out.
- K. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)
  - NRCS Equity Contract – need approval to move forward on this agreement. Tim Coehlo made a motion to approve the agreement, a second was made by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- L. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
  - Amy is still waiting to hear back on the WCB block grant through CARCD. We are expected to have an answer after their November Board meeting.
  - CDFA Conservation Ag Planning Grant Program - it just came out and is related to legislation AFT developed - it's a good source for more conservation planning funds to deepen existing work we're doing thru the SJV Land and Water Collab work that we can all apply for. It's non-competitive, in that it's a rolling application with qualified apps awarded until funds run out. At \$250k over 2 years, and a \$15M pot. Amy will be looking into this funding for the RCD. <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oeffi/planning/>
- M. 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 September 14, 2022 – October 12, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions (I) (A)
  - Jay Bellach made a motion to approve the resolution, a second was made by Tim Coehlo. 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: \$43,928.76
  - Incoming from RCPP: \$2,035
  - Incoming from DOC: \$14,500
  - **Total in all accounts: \$45,527.85**
    - **Total after incoming: \$62,062.85**
- B. Review and Approval of Expenses (I) (A)
  - Expenses: Monthly fee for CalTech Web - \$99
  - QuickBooks TSheets (Grant Tracking) - \$28
  - Mileage Reimbursement for Kevin Reyes - \$201.25
  - Supply Reimbursement for Kevin Reyes - \$17.39
  - Supply Reimbursement for Amy (Recharge Workshop expenses) - \$70.85
  - CDFA WETA Irrigation Supply Amazon Purchase - \$69.30
  - Invoice for ATS Consulting - \$3,500
  - **Total Expenses: \$3,985.79**
- C. **Total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid: \$58,077.06**

- Jay Bellach made a motion to approve the financial report, there was a second by Tim Coehlo. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Tim Coehlo made a motion to approve the expenses, there was a second by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

**IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:08PM.**

Next Meeting: October 12, 2022, 5:00PM