



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



MINUTES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 - 5:00 pm

*Madera/Chowchilla Resource Conservation District
Farm Service Agency Conference Room, Madera*

I. Roll Call and Introductions

- Flag Salute
 - Directors: Norman V Kuhr, Tom Petrucci, Jay Bellach, Matt Angell
 - Directors Absent: Catherine Machado, Tim Coelho
 - Associate Directors: Jack Fry
 - Staff: Jeannie Habben, Kristen Sargent
 - On the Phone: Laurel Angell
 - Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff, Madera NRCS
 - Guests: Eric Herman, Spec Crop, Kristen Price, Mike DeLaGuerra

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda

- May 2019 Agenda
 - Addition to agenda – Add “RCD Board Membership” to New Business
- April 2019 Minutes

Norm K made the motion to accept the minutes as presented and the agenda with one addition. Jay B made the second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.

III. Updates, Handout, and Public Comments

- Fire Safety in the Foothills – Workshop/Town Hall meeting to be held on June 15 from 9:00 to 1:00 at the Oakhurst Elementary School in the Multi-Purpose Room. Many vendors and speakers to discuss and teach fire safety in the foothills.
- Living in the Foothills – Eastern Madera County – June 29 from 10:30 to 12:00 noon at the Oakhurst Library Community Room. Everything from Septic care and wells to Fire Safety and Invasive Plants.
- NRCS invites proposals for 2019 Conservation Innovation Grants - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California is now accepting proposals for its Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program. Up to \$500,000 is available for one- to three-year grants. The maximum award amount for any project will not exceed \$75,000 in fiscal year 2019. Proposals are due by June 10, 2019. Applicants are encouraged to explore the full program announcement to better match their proposals to these needs. Please see www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/programs/financial/cig/

- Jeannie H shared a high school student farm program called “The Giving Farm” with the RCD Board as an example of a possible project in the future.
- June 3 IRWM – Community Water Needs Discussion - The Madera IRWM group and Self-Help Enterprises will talk about Integrated Regional Water Management Planning and why it is important for communities to participate. Monday, June 3 at 5:00 pm at the Madera County Government Center, Room 2005.

IV. Correspondence & Mail

- Correspondence
A notice from LAFCO and advertisements were received as well as the final check from DOC for the Madera RCD Tier 1 grant.

V. Financial Report

- Monthly Treasurer’s Report
Jeannie H presented the Treasurer’s Report for May. This report balanced to the bank statement and showed both the outside account and the county account. One check is still due to come in from DOC for Chowchilla Red Top RCD, Madera received their final check from DOC.
- Invoices to be Paid
One invoice was presented to be paid – this was the final payment for October to December for the RCD Coordinator from the DOC grant. It was discussed to get this debt off of the books that this would be paid through the County Account as these funds became part of the assets to the new RCD as a whole.
Norm K made the motion to pay this invoice through a warrant with the County. Jay B made the second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously. The warrant was signed and will be submitted to the county.

VI. New Business

- Website Update
 - Kristina Price Demonstration
The Website was lost by GoDaddy, so Kristina is rebuilding it. She requested some additional information. She will take pictures of the board members who are present at this meeting for the website. Jeannie H will send the board bios for Madera RCD members. She has also requested information and pictures for projects, agriculture/farms from the valley, also flyers for events and any new board information.
 - Maintenance Agreement
Laurel A will work with Kristina P to learn the website and decide if she will continue as the administrator for the website or contract with Kristina. They will also discuss connecting an “info@” email to the website for the RCD.
- Report on Special Meeting – April 22, 2019
 - Blue Print
Was sent on Monday morning to the board – this should be reviewed by the board and discussed as a three month plan for the RCD. Things Laurel will work on are the CIG grant, website, fee-for-service process, working with CARCD to raise the profile. She has submitted a grant application to the JM Kaplan Group for conservation projects and planning. (\$150k) Will know June 30 if they are in

the running. Laurel and Matt will meet with Stanislaus on Tuesday for information on being a successful RCD. Laurel has talked to Fresno State Journalism to work on "The Story" of the RCDs in the area, especially the Madera/Chowchilla RCD. It is time to talk about the agriculture and the RCDs and the challenges and successes.

- Long/Short Term Goals
Laurel created a "Proposal for 3-month Plan to Develop Madera/Chowchilla RCD" and the "Short-term Priorities for Madera/Chowchilla RCD."
- Executive Director
At the special meeting the board decided to hire Laurel A. for three months to start. A motion was made by Norm K to enter into a 3-month contract, as proposed, with Laurel Angell to serve as the Executive Director. The motion was second by Jay B, the all voted and the motion passed unanimously.
- Administrative Assistant/Minute Keeper Agreement
After discussion, the motion was made by Matt A to contract with Madera County Farm Bureau as note taking services at a rate of \$30/hr. the motion was second by Jay B, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

- RCD Board Membership

Eric Herman completed a RCD Board Application to apply to be a Director on the Board. He will replace Sandy F who recently resigned. After discussion, Matt A made the motion to recommend to the County BOS to appoint Eric H as a Director on the Madera/Chowchilla RCD Board. Norm K made the second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously. Jeannie H will submit the application and additional paperwork to the Clerk of the Board. Eric H will be replacing Sandra F on the board.

It was then discussed that Catherine M become an Associated Director which would open another Director position. Catherine will need to submit a letter of resignation and a request to change her status with the board. Mike DeLaGuerra is possibly interested in that position.

Jeannie H submitted her resignation letter to be effective on June 1. She has been volunteering for the RCD since January 1, 2019 and now this is the permanent change of status. She will still be available for questions and training of the new staff.

- Review DOC REV Grant – Final
Jeannie H worked with the grant administrator at DOC and the final report was accepted and the invoice has been sent to the state auditor's office for payment as of May 1. Jeannie H wrote and a letter to the DOC making an argument for additional administration dollars for the RCD. They approved the request and an additional \$497.07 will be coming to the RCD.
- Madera/Chowchilla RCD Consolidation
 - Letter to Consolidate County Accounts
Chowchilla Red Top RCD is expecting one more check from DOC. The outside account needs to remain the same until the check is received and deposited. MRCD received their final check, once this check is deposited and all transactions are cleared, this account can be changed and it should be changed

before any checks are requested for the new contract staff members. Jeannie H has already created the letter, so when the time comes, she will change the date and get signatures to combine the County Account.

- List of Next Steps
 - Notify Project areas of Name and Status Change
 - This should be researched and taken care of if the RCD wishes to continue as partners with these projects.
 - Army Corp of Engineers - Eastman Lake
 - County Parks – Jack Ass Ridge/Camp ground
 - JPA – Chowchilla Water District, City of ChowchillaNone of these have been completed – the JPA would have to be rewritten and re-signed by all parties.
 - Outside checking account -
 - Change name
 - Add new signature cards
 - Order checksThis will have to wait until all checks are in and cleared. The group decided to combine their names on this account and get new signatories, removing Jack F and Sandy F. A Resolution is required from the board and to the bank for the new checking account. Instead of adding new signatories now, the change will all be completed at the same time (new name change on the account) Sandra signed a couple checks to assist with any upcoming invoices. Norm K will deposit the DOC check when it is received.
- Discussion of Presentation to the Board

The Board discussed this again and decided that this is something they can do right away. The County BOS meets the three first Tuesdays of each month. Public Comment is on the agenda at 10:00 am each meeting. Johnnie S will check on getting an updated map.

VII. Old Business

- Area IX – San Joaquin Valley Region – Executive Board Positions
May 10, 2019 – Clovis Veterans Memorial Building
There will be a presentation on Carbon Farm Planning from the Carbon Cycle Institute and biomass utilization by MMR Power Solutions. There will also be regional elections, agency reports, and a field trip to Wawona foods to see micro-grid operations and to the Auberry Mill Site to see small-scale bioenergy and biochar production operations.
- NRCS Report
Still in batching period getting many applications for popular programs for irrigation systems, NAQI Program, and Forestry. Conservation Security Program is a good program for landowners who have already completed projects but want to go above and beyond to improve on what they have already done.

They are going to get 2 Engineering Interns from Fresno State for the summer to be trained by Prospero. Go to the Regional meeting and introduce yourself to the new Regional DC. The Madera Field Office is loaning staff to Mariposa to assist with their applications.

- Madera Region IRWMP/RWVG – Report
 - May 13 – Chowchilla, City Hall Building
The RWVG has received the revised plan update for the Proposition 1 Update from QK. This is the revision after the plan was not accepted by DWR. This is being reviewed and will be resubmitted to DWR. In the meantime, DWR has released the final 2019 documents for funding under the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Program. A total of approximately \$222 million will be available for implementation projects.
The program’s eligibility requirements and application instructions are available in the program guidelines and the proposal solicitation package.

VIII. Items for Next Meeting: June 12, 2019; 5:00pm

Farm Service Agency Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera

- IX. Adjourn:** Norm K made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Jay B second the motion; all, voted and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:08.