



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 12, 2023 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

- I. Call to Order: 5:07PM by Norman Kuhr**
  - A. Director Roll Call  
Attendance was in person at 425 N Gateway Dr, Suite K, Madera, CA. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Erik Herman, Mike DeLaGuerra, Shannon Iest, Andrew Carroll. Staff: Trina Walley, Kevin Reyes, Associate Director: Mark Hutson, Partners: Olivia Peters (NRCS)
  
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

No changes or additions to the agenda.
  
- 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 Erik Herman. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
  
- IV. Correspondence & Mail** – County Insurance
  
- V. Public Comments** – No public comments
  
- VI. Reports**
  - A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Email from Stephanie Anagnoson
    - Madera Subbasin – 4 GSPs are posted and open for review by the public and DWR (postings are on the DWR SGMA portal)
    - Chowchilla Subbasin – Staff from GSAs are meeting with the State Board about the GSPs
    - Delta-Mendota Subbasin – Discussions about rewriting the GSPs (or making only one GSP) are ongoing; currently working on one water budget.
  
  - B. NRCS Report – Olivia Peters
    - New to NRCS office in Fresno so meeting the partners and what an RCD does. NRCS is currently in contracting phase before end of year.

- C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – Trina Walley
  - Extension email requesting what is needed for updates.
- D. Farm Bureau – Amy Siliznoff
  - No update
- E. News/Other Meeting Reports – Norman
  - Attended the Madera County Water Roundtable featuring Congressman John Duarte. The roundtable was hosted by the Madera County Board of Supervisors to bring together key stakeholders in the water sector in Madera County.

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

- A. RCPP with American Farmland Trust (I) – Trina Walley
  - Of the 23 applications Chris got ranked for round 1, 3 were pre-approved. Of the applications funded, only 2 were Cover Crop and Compost. One was disqualified and one had an error leaving only one moving forward for obligation of the 3 pre-approved.
- B. Biochar Trial Project with American Farmland Trust (I) – No update
- C. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) (A) – Kevin Reyes
  - The RCD is completing irrigation evaluations from April through November. We currently have 9 irrigation evaluations in progress, we have 4 scheduled for the next two weeks.
- D. CDFA Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant (I)
  - ESRCDC will bring contract to the August board meeting for approval.
- E. NRCS Groundwater Project (I) – Kevin Reyes
  - Kevin has templated all 35 groundwater plans required for project. He’s been focused on drafting the producers site visit questionnaire for the groundwater plan. Our groundwater plans will include map groundwater basin location, determining GSA & GSP for mapped location and referencing management plan actions. We have 6 sections in the plan: 1. Groundwater Conservation Plan, 2. Site Description & Resource Concerns, 3. Irrigation Water Use & Distribution Uniformity, 4. Practice for Reduction & Repurposing, 5. Water Retention Through Soil Health, 6. Groundwater Management Resources. This plan will be drafted for every grower who participates in our irrigation evaluation. Our goal is to have 35 plans the final segments completed by end of August and plans delivered in September of this year.
- F. NRCS Equity Project (I) (A) – Trina Walley
  - A fall workshop with Punjabi American Growers Group. A draft agenda has been completed and she is coordinating with Jasbir, president of PAGG on a date to set for the Cover Crop/Healthy Soils Workshop.
- G. DOC MLRP (I) – Trina Walley
  - The MLRP project will be presenting to DOC next week.
  - A groundwater workshop will be planned in fall or winter
- H. WCB Pollinator Block Grant (I) – Trina Walley
  - \$166,983 is the total award amount, however CARCD issued a contract for Tasks 1, 4 and 6 only. Tasks 2 and 3 will come after the filing of NOE or CEQA documents for each habitat project. We have the option to share a biologist as needed with ESRCDC. They will be hosting the biologist position. This project will

not require easements, but it will require monitoring and maintenance so we will need to have landowner agreements in place.

- With the start of the CDFA Conservation Ag Planning Grant with ESRCDC we will be able to do the planning needed for these projects and save WCB hours for the NOE/CEQA process and implementation support.

I. Board Compliance (I) – Trina Walley

- Trina to email Form 700 and send email to Matt for Ethics and Sexual Harassment to all board members

J. Upcoming Workshops (I) – Trina Walley

- The RCD will be hosting all workshops in Fall with partners.

K. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Trina Walley

- None at this time

L. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Trina Walley

- Submitted grant opportunity with UC Davis and 3 other RCDs in the San Joaquin Valley, funding is for 50K. The unique focus of the grant is developing climate-smart market infrastructure, training, etc. and connecting growers who are implementing climate-smart management to climate-smart markets and the monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) necessary to participate in those markets.
- Pending SBIR grant
- Johnnie sent a grant due by August 11 for EQIP and WaterSMART initiatives

**VIII. Financial Report**

- Erik Herman made a motion to approve the financial report, there was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Erik Herman made a motion to approve the expenses, there was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Mike DeLaGuerra made a motion to approve the changes in payroll, there was a second by Erik Herman. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

**IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:21PM.**

Next Meeting: August 9, 2023, 5:00PM