



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 27, 2023 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:05PM by Norman Kuhr

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was in person at 425 N Gateway Dr, Suite K, Madera, CA. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Mike DeLaGuerra, Tim Coehlo, Matt Angell Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes, Gavin Stoddard

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

No changes or additions to the agenda.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. **Approval of May Meeting Minutes** – Motion was made by Mike DeLaGuerra to approve the Meeting Minutes, there was a second by Matt Angell. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IV. Correspondence & Mail – \$2,777.76 check from EMRCD, CSDA Magazines

V. Public Comments – No public comments

VI. Reports

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff

- The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) had meetings that announced a proposed schedule for probationary hearings. Chowchilla and Delta-Mendota are scheduled fairly far out in 2024 mainly because of massive work that has taken place with revising GSPs already. Madera Subbasin has GSPs posted.

B. NRCS Report

- No update

C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – Amy Siliznoff

- Vice-Chair for the group is leaving her role with the member agency, so a replacement is needed. Phil Janzen with Madera WD and Madera Ag Water Association nominated himself during yesterday's meeting. July's meeting is when the group will vote on Phil being the replacement.
- Madera County will be taking over the accounting functions for the group.

- Draft bylaws are still being reviewed by member agencies. Hoping to have all approvals in by July's meeting so the group can officially adopt the draft bylaws.
 - Prop 1 DAC Funding for Domestic Well Testing in Madera County has been extended to 12/31/23. Asking for an extension to 6/30/24 to utilize funds as much as possible.
 - ~\$595,000 awarded to Madera County for water treatment for Sierra Highlands community. Agreement still being worked out between DWR and Public Works.
- D. Farm Bureau – Amy Siliznoff
- No update
- E. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff
- Madera County Board of Supervisors extended an invitation to the RCD to attend the Madera County Water Roundtable featuring Congressman John Duarte. This roundtable aims to bring together key stakeholders in the water sector in Madera County, enabling productive discussions and collaborative efforts to address water-related challenges within our community. The roundtable will take place on June 28th from 9AM-11AM.

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

- A. RCPP with American Farmland Trust (I) – Amy Siliznoff
- For Round 1 we now have two that are pre-approved for funding. One farmer was disqualified. The deadline for developing RCPP contracts is July 14th. Dannamarie has them well on their way.
- B. Biochar Trial Project with American Farmland Trust (I) – Amy Siliznoff
- Amy is waiting to hear from AFT on the next steps moving forward in planning the outreach events.
- C. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) (A) – Kevin Reyes
- 12 irrigation evaluations are in progress, we have 6 scheduled for the next few weeks. Kevin is waiting to hear back from 5 growers on scheduling.
- D. CDFA Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant (I)
- \$60,000 for 12 plans over 2 years. Waiting for subcontract from East Stan RCD, Trina mentioned the state was debating about pulling money so she didn't move forward on sending out subcontracts, she just got the word that money is safe so she will be sending the subcontracts out. The tentative start date will be July.
- E. NRCS Groundwater Project (I) – Kevin Reyes
- Kevin is currently templating 34 groundwater plans. He's been focused on templating the new groundwater templates for the upcoming plans (new irrigation evaluations from 2023 season. Matt mentioned that we should get our evaluations on the project tracker portal CARCD has created. Kevin will keep this on his radar.
- F. NRCS Equity Project (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
- The RCD hosted a Recharge Workshop Event with Sustainable Conservation and NRCS on June 21st. Mark Hutson led the event, there were over 30 attendees, and the event was a success.

- G. DOC MLRP (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy met with the consultants on May 23rd, a partner meeting has been scheduled for Thursday June 29th. The State meeting for the project was held on Thursday, June 22nd, from 10-11:30AM.
- H. WCB Pollinator Block Grant (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy discussed her plans to move forward with an outreach event under this project. She recommended a demonstration site where growers can view a hedgerow and ask the grower questions and any benefits they've seen.
 - We will use CDFA funds to complete pollinator plans that we can implement with WCB funds.
 - All plans will be reviewed by an expert and signed off by NRCS, then we can template the plan.
- I. Board Compliance (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Matt needs to complete Form 700, as well as ethics and harassment training
 - Norman needs to complete ethics and harassment training
 - Tim needs to complete ethics training
 - Amy needs to complete ethics and harassment training

 - Board Term Reappointment:
 - Reappointment of Board Members Norman Kuhr, Matt Angell, Tim Coehlo, Mike DeLaGuerra, and Erik Herman. All members agreed to serve another 4-year term. Matt, Tim, and Mikes terms will start 2022. The RCD will stagger the terms to ensure always having a quorum once terms end.
 - Nomination of Shannon Iest and Andrew Carroll
 - Shannon and Andrew completed an RCD Board Application to apply to become a Director on the Board. Shannon will replace Tom Petrucci and Andrew will replace Jay Bellach who recently retired.
 - Motion was made by Tim Coehlo to nominate for the two Board positions and approve reappointment of the board terms for the current Board members, there was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- J. MCRCD Budget 23-24
 - Tim made a motion to approve the budget as presented with additional grant funding pending changes, there was a second by Matt Angell. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- K. Upcoming Workshops (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - The RCD will be hosting an orchard recycling workshop in the fall with CAFF, Nitricity, as well as a workshop under the WCB grant.
 - The RCD will look at coordinating a booth at the Madera Fair in September. Tim mentioned speaking with Army Core to see if they would want to partner.
- L. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy is waiting for the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR II) grant contract from Irrigations for the Future (IFF). This grant includes \$15,000 for a field tech support in MCRCD for one season.
 - IFF also included MCRCD in a Beginning Farmer and Ranchers Program (BFRDP)

grant for \$81,000 partial support for two seasons. A decision on the award of this grant is pending, and if approved funding will begin on September 1st. The funding we have would partially offset salaries for field technicians in MCD and MAGSA who would help us with collection of data needed for optimum irrigation management on a few farms where the farm water supply is tightly limited. The expectation is that we would benefit from their local experience, and they in turn would gain experience with advanced irrigation management strategies, to the benefit of the other farms in the RCD.

M. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff

- None at this time

VIII. Financial Report

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

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.

Next Meeting: July 12, 2023, 5:00PM