



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 20, 2024 – 5:00-6:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:12PM by Norman Kuhr

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was in person at the FSA office located at 425 N Gateway Dr, Ste K, Madera, CA. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Matt Angell, Erik Herman, Tim Coehlo, Shannon Iest; Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes; Partners: Mira Dick, NRCS

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Tim Coehlo requested to add an agenda item: Range of Light National Monument Proposed for Sierra National Forest.

III. Approval of Minutes

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

IV. Correspondence & Mail – IFF check, CARCD check, PNP magazine, CSDA flyer, Annual Information Request

V. Public Comments – No public comment

VI. Reports

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff

- Madera Subbasin – There are public drafts of the four GSPs in the Madera Subbasin out for review; webinar on the Joint GSP from 12-1 on 12/5.
- Chowchilla Subbasin – This is with the State Board. They are hoping to have a final revision soon.
- Delta-Mendota Subbasin – Same status as Chowchilla

B. NRCS Report – Mira Dick

- Mae Young is on, Priscilla is gone and Taylor is back part time. Shawn Niel is on but waiting for access. Application period closed on the 15th. Act now (contract in 45 days) is open until January 31st. Madera has well over 200 applications for NRCS programs, applications that are waiting to be funded from last year or new/incoming applications.

C. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff

- ***SJV Natural Resources Hub Fall Gathering*** on Monday, November 18th at the McKenzie Table Mountain Preserve in Prather.
The gentlemen that operate the Rancher-to-Rancher network will be guiding

attendees through a day of peer-to-peer learning, soil health education and facilitation techniques. This event will be open to SJV RCDs, including Directors, staff and Board Members, along with valuable partners.

- The CARCD Conference is December 10th-12th, the Burroughs Family Farm workshop will be hosted on December 16th (workshop for farmers to connect with the new UCCE Regenerative Ag Advisors in a discussion around nut tree orchards. The title of their workshop is Regenerative Agriculture in nut tree orchards of Central Valley. Future Direction". Amy attended the CAFF/ UC Organic Agriculture Institute Organic Transition Workshop Event on November 7th and presented on the RCDs pollinator programs and how it can benefit organic farms. Amy also shared the MLRP program and the La Vina pilot project with attendees. Amy is attending the MLRP Pre-App workshop on November 6th to talk with growers about the RCDs pollinator habitat program and how we can assist with a pollinator conservation plan. We had two sign-ups from the event. The RCD hosted the Agave Field Day on November 19th. We had approximately 60 attendees and received good feedback from the workshop event. This workshop was sponsored by the DOC MLRP grant. Kevin attended an NRCS conservation planning course from Nov 4th-8th, he'll be attending CD Cart training beginning of January. Rancher to Rancher event Table Mountain McKenzie Preserve Kevin attended and other RCDs.

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

A. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Kevin Reyes

- We are completing Irrigation evaluation from April through November, 8 are currently in progress. Kevin is currently finishing reports to wrap up this season's evaluations.
- CDFA WETA season.
- We've completed 30 evaluations in Madera Y24
- 8 are in progress

B. CDFA Agricultural Planning Grant (I) – Kevin Reyes

- We currently have 10 pollinator plans in progress, 2 are completed. We need 12 in total. Catie on behalf of Point blue is also assisting on a few of our plans.
- I've contacted Corn flower to provide quotes for plant materials.
- We have 10 plans total, 8 are in progress

C. DOC MLRP (I) – Amy Siliznoff

- RCD team has been attending the statewide DOC MLRP meetings, monthly partner DOC meetings, and bi-monthly partner meetings for project planning. Board of Supervisors will be reviewing and approving Deborah's contract at their December meeting. The RCD will be assisting with the implementation of the project.
 - The Agave 101 Workshop was on Tuesday, November 19th from 9-11AM at Madera Community College Auditorium
 - The Agave Field Demonstration was Tuesday, November 19th from 12-1:30PM at the Specialty Crop Company Agave Farm. Roughly 50 attendees were present, and the Fresno Bee and Water Wrights were there to cover the workshop event. We received good feedback and there was a lot of interest in agave from growers who attended.

D. WCB Pollinator Block Grant (I) – Kevin Reyes

- November 20th Kevin and Coarsegold RCD completed the school planting. Kevin will be emailing the school again to get a Banner made by the kids with our

logos and a description of the pollinator plants that were planted and images. They started at 8AM to get the site prepped it has about 2-3 in of mulch. At 9AM the kids came and started digging, seeding, and spreading compost. The RCD ordered a few native plants, John brought more seeds so the kids can spread and a truck bed of compost.

- E. NRCS Cooperative Agreement (I) – Kevin Reyes
 - Kevin will be working on 30 applications/20 contracts under the Cooperative Agreement. He's been assisting the Madera Field office with their influx of applications, and they've been thankful for his assistance.
- F. AFT – NRCS IRA TA (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Kevin has been assisting NRCS with TA on their EQIP contracts, assisting with site visits and processing applications.
- G. Board Compliance (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Matt Angell needs both Harassment and Ethics training. Tim Coehlo needs to complete Ethics training. Other certificates are expiring and Amy will give those Board members a notice when their training are up for renewal.
- H. RCD Credit Card (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy will be looking into credit card options with a limit between \$750-\$1500 per employee. This will help with hotel bookings and mileage expenses. Amy will report back at the next meeting to discuss which credit card company will be best to go through.
- I. Upcoming Workshops (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - The RCD will be hosting a biochar workshop in the spring with AFT, along with a healthy soils/water conservation workshop in the spring with CAFF. An Irrigation & Nutrient Management Workshop is planned for January 17th from 9-11AM.
- J. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Amy Siliznoff
 - Pollinator Plant contract with Mariposa Native Plants for the La Vina Pilot Project. Matt Angell made a motion to approve the contract for ordering plant materials through Mariposa Native Plants. There was a second by Erik Herman. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- K. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - No upcoming grant applications
- L. Range of Light National Monument – Sierra National Forest
 - Range of Light wants to turn the Sierra National Forest into a national monument. Send a letter of opposition to congressmen Acosta and McClintock. We need to make the public aware of what is going to happen if it's turned into a national monument.

VIII. Financial Report

- Matt Angell made a motion to approve the November Financial Report and Expense Report. There was a second by Shannon Iest. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:14PM.

Next Meeting: December 18, 2024, 5:00PM at Mario's Restaurant