



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



MINUTES

Wednesday, March 13, 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, Sandra Faust, Tom Petrucci, Jay Bellach, Matt Angell
Associate Directors: Jack Fry
Directors Absent: Tim Coelho, Catherine Machado
Staff: Jeannie Habben
Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff, Madera NRCS
Guests: No Guests

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda

- March 2019 Agenda
Other – Add to New Business – Sandy’s Resignation Letter (discussed later, not added to the agenda ahead of time)
- February 2019 Minutes
Sandy F made the motion to accept the minutes and the agenda as presented. Jay B made the second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.

III. Updates, Handout, and Public Comments

- The Coordination Committee for the Madera Subbasin is March 21, 2019 at 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Frank Bergon Senior Center here in Madera. The meeting will include an update and overview of modeling efforts as well as the State Water Resources Control Board presentation on importance of cooperation. Agenda to come.
- The GSP Advisory Committee for the Chowchilla Subbasin meets March 27, 2019 at 2 p.m. at the Portuguese Hall in Chowchilla. This is a technical meeting with a discussion of modeling and undesirable results. Agenda to come.
- Our next Advisory Committee meeting for the County GSAs is April 12th at 2 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers here at Madera County. This is a “special” meeting in that it was called by the chair. Agenda to come.
- The California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) is holding SIX free upcoming 2019 CFCC Funding Fairs throughout the state. Registration is free and walk-ins are ALWAYS welcome. For questions or registration contact Seresa Hartwell at (916) 341-5972 or email Seresa.Hartwell@waterboard.ca.gov at least 5 days before the event.

- The California Natural Resources Agency has released the draft guidelines for its Green Infrastructure Grant Program. The program will fund multi-benefit projects for disadvantaged communities. The public hearings will be held Thursday, March 7, in Sacramento, in Madera (March 12) and Ontario (March 14). The public comment period runs through March 21.

IV. Correspondence & Mail

- Correspondence
The usual correspondence was received including the monthly bank statement.

V. Financial Report

- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- Invoices to be Paid
Jeannie H presented the monthly Treasurer Report. This is a combined report of both RCDs and shows both accounts: the County Accounts (as if combined) and the Outside account, still held by Chowchilla Red Top.
This Report shows all transactions since the last County print-out for the County account. Two invoices are due during this month: the dues for CARCD/Area IX; this was held until the RCD was consolidated so that only one dues needed to be paid.
The other is for the RCD Coordinator to cover the remainder due for the dates: April through June of 2018. There is still an outstanding invoice showing for the RCD Coordinator for the months of October to December 2018.

VI. New Business

- Review DOC REV Grant - Final
 - Grant Final
 - Chowchilla – Budget
The RCD Coordinator explained the final accounting for the REV Grant to the Board. She explained that the grant ended as of February 28, 2019 and there were changes from the original budget to the last budget. She explained all of the changes that were made based on previous discussions and letters written to DOC for category transfers to use up all of the funds in the grant. The most significant change was, the original Budget stated that the RCD would provide a cash match of 11.94% and an in-kind match of 13.24% for a total match to the grant of 25.18%. What they ended with at the end of the grant cycle was: cash match - 46.34%, in-kind match – 50.21% for a total of 96.55% match.
 - Madera – Budget
The RCD Coordinator explained the final accounting for the Tier 1 funding for the Madera RCD. With all tasks completed, this grant also had changes from the original budget to the last budget. There were areas that were not needed and those funds were shifted to the payroll portion of the grant. The in-kind was unable to be met so that was shifted to the cash match section to meet their match requirement. This lead to more cash required to be spent by the RCD than originally planned on. The match percentage was promised at 33.83% which was 10.04\$ cash and 23.79% in-kind. The grant ended at 33.87% with 18.58% in cash and 15.29% in in-kind.

- Website Update
 - Maintenance Agreement

The Website is up but not complete. Jeannie H has contacted the web designer to get this corrected. There seems to be the canned statements instead of the information that had been given to the Web Designer.

- Madera Lawsuit Report
 - Litigation between MRCD, American Farmland Trust, and Brar

American Farmland trust asking for copy of our By Laws and Articles of Incorporation; it was explained to them that neither item was available as RCDs are not required to have either. Tom P signed the final papers last Tuesday, Brar still has to sign. Tom P is waiting for the paperwork to be returned to show that all of the signatures and paperwork has been processed.

- Tier One Requirements
 - Plans and Policy Signatures

Jeannie H requested that a portion of the policies get reviewed and signed at this meeting. An additional meeting will be planned to work on the new Annual Plan and Long Term Plan for the new RCD. The board reviewed and voted on the Policies in the Tier One binder and the two co-chairs signed each one after the vote.

- Madera/Chowchilla RCD Consolidation
 - Letter to Consolidate County Accounts

This is on hold until the final check is received from DOC to close out the grants. There are two outstanding checks for each of the RCDs that need to be received and one check that will need to be written before the two accounts can be combined and/or changed.

 - List of Next Steps

Jeannie H provided the list of next steps for the board to take care of. This list consisted of:

 1. Notify Project areas of Name and Status Change
 2. Change: Mailing information with Post Office; Outside checking account; Combine County Account; Insurance; Dues payments

These tasks were assigned as: Tom – address change at Madera PO; Sandy – PO Box, Insurance, & bank account
 3. Sign new MOUs with all groups to reestablish the partnerships
 4. Presentation to the County Board of Supervisors

This board will need to do a presentation to the Madera County Board of Supervisors to introduce the newly formed RCD, share their new map of the new District Boundaries, and share some of the plans and goals for the future. This will be done during Public Comment, so will be a 3-minute presentation and does not have to appear on the agenda of the meeting.

- Addition to Agenda

Resignation of Sandra Faust.

Sandra Faust submitted her resignation from the Board. The letter states that her last meeting will be April 10, 2019. She stated that in this next month she will take care of the PO

Box change as well as the changes and notifications for the bank account and the insurance. The board thanked her for all that she has done for this group over the years and that they are very sorry to see her go.

VII. Old Business

- Area IX – San Joaquin Valley Region – Executive Board Positions
The next Area IX meeting will be the Spring meeting that is usually held in April. The Tulare County RCD has volunteered to host the meeting at Alpaugh, a BLM site at Atwell Island. The time and date, as well as directions will follow. There needs to be an election of officers for this group as they currently do not have a Treasurer or a Secretary.

- NRCS Report
The Farm bill is still on hold, so funding and programs are also on hold. Curtis T has moved on to Southern California and Sharon Nance has taken his place. It is advised that the RCD look at the CSP – conservation security program for money and projects/programs. They need to find a “Fee for Service” type program to keep the RCD alive and in the community. Cooperative agreements are going to be more difficult to get from NRCS. The Madera Field office has lost two employees and it looks like they will be replaced by one employee, but they are still waiting for the posting and the decision.

To further the success of this new RCD, a Grants and Capacity Subcommittee was formed. Jay, Norm, and Matt will meet with Johnnie to begin discussions.

- Madera Region IRWMP/RWMP – Report
 - March 11 – Madera
 - April 8 - OakhurstThe RWMP met on Monday. It was announced that the Prop. 1 Plan Update was not accepted by the Department of Water Resources. A committee will be formed to conference with DWR and discuss what needs to be done to bring this plan into compliance. Implementation funding will soon be available for the two funding areas from the state. If the funding is split as the committees are currently stating, the Foothill area will receive \$1.3 million dollars – half for DAC projects and half for Tribal projects. The valley will receive \$1.6 million dollars for DAC and other projects. A committee will also meet to discuss projects.

VIII. Items for Next Meeting: April 10, 2019; 5:00pm Farm Service Agency Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera

IX. Adjourn: 7:20PM

Matt A made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Norm K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm.