



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



MINUTES

Wednesday, June 12, 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, Tim Coelho, Tom Petrucci, Matt Angell, Erik Herman**
 - Directors Absent: **Catherine Machado, Jay Bellach**
 - Associate Directors: **Jack Fry R**
 - Staff: **Stefani Dias, Laurel Angell**
 - Partners: **Johnnie Siliznoff & Taylor Fridrich, Madera NRCS,**
 - Guests: **Mike DeLaGuerra – Golden West Farming Co-op, Jayla & Arthur Cuevas -Madera FFA, Jeannie Habben - Madera County**

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda

- June 2019 Agenda
 - Any additions - **NONE**
 - Motion made to accept the agenda as presented, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.**
- May 2019 Minutes
 - Motion made to accept the minutes as presented, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.**

III. Updates, Handout, and Public Comments

- **NONE**

IV. Correspondence & Mail

- Correspondence (Stefani)
 - Stefani was given a key to mail box from Norm K, she will check it weekly**
 - **Norm K – Received final check from DOC for Chowchilla Red Top RCD in the amount of \$1,688.24.**

V. Financial Report

- ,Monthly Treasurer's Report **\$7,203.69**
 - **Motion made to accept the treasurer's report as presented, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.**
 - *Stefani presented the Treasurer's Report for June. This report balanced to the bank statement and showed both the outside account and the county account.**
- Invoices to be Paid
 - No Invoices presented**

-Insurance and Liability for organization needs to be paid, Laurel will follow-up online for invoice and present next meeting

- Approve Contract for Madera County Farm Bureau for Stefani Dias/Administrative Assistant – Note keeper
 - **Motion made to accept the contract as presented, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.**
 - Norm K signed contract**
- Approve Contract for Laurel D. Angell, Consulting to launch consolidated MCRCD
 - **Motion made to accept the contract as presented, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.**
 - **Norm K signed contract**

VI. New Business

- Review Laurel's work plan priorities/ deliverables
 - Communications and weekly updates
- Website Launch
 - Launch
 - **The launch is delayed and past the deadline of January 2019. It needs to launch as soon as possible. Laurel will continue to reach out to Kristen for completion**
 - Need Photos for content
 - About us/History
 - **Jeannie H. sent history, bios, pics. Missing a few photos and bios; need to make sure we get Mike DeLaGuerra's, Jack Fry's, and Erik Herman's bios.**
 - Other ideas on content
 - Highlighting growers
 - Newsletter
 - Maintenance Agreement and Funding Requests
 - Estimates from Kristen for maintenance of website
 - **Unanimous agreement that website maintenance need to be discussed after website is launched.**
 - Costs for MCRCD email
 - **Laurel A. presented the yearly cost of the email would be \$58 yearly. This discussion was tabled until the website is launch.**
 - Maintenance Agreement and Funding Requests
- RCD Board Membership
 - Nomination of Mike DeLaGuerra
 - **Mike DeLaGuerra completed a RCD Board Application to apply to be a Director on the Board. He will replace Catherine Machado who recently resigned.**
 - **Motion made to nominate Mike, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously. Stefani and Laurel will submit the application and additional paperwork to the Clerk of the Board. There needs to be a letter presented to the county prior to July 2nd to get this nomination request on the roster**

- Catherine Machado resignation/move to Associate Director
 - **Catherine's resignation letter was received, and she is to be moved to an associate director position**
 - **Motion made to accept resignation letter and Catherine new position as associate director, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously**
- Nomination of Treasurer
 - **Discussion that Board Member needs to serve in this capacity. Erik Herman volunteered**
 - **Motion made to nominate Erik Herman as Treasurer for organization, there was a second, all voted, and the motion was accepted unanimously**
- Priorities and Planning (Tier One Requirements)
 - Drafting a mission statement
 - **Laurel will present drafts next meeting of mission statements for the board to review**
 - Draft Annual Plan process
 - Discussion point: Can base on blueprint and/ or a facilitated discussion
 - **There was a request for rangeland to be included**
- Grants
 - Conservation Innovation Grant
 - Outreach to date / Discussion with CARCD
 - **Laurel talked to CARCD leadership about using her contacts in conservation funding to help in educating a broader set of funders about the RCD with an eye on longer term funding. CARCD will be in touch.**
 - Community Foundation
 - **Laurel is set to meet with them (along with CARCD) the week of July 8.**
 - Prop 68 Working Lands and Riparian Corridors
 - **Believed to be a project working with parks**
 - Block Grant from CARCD on Monarchs
 - **CARCD will inform RCD's if the proposal is accepted and M/CRCD should be eligible for the block grants.**
 - Other potential grants
 - **Laurel will create a portfolio of opportunities for short and long-term grants. Most grants are due in January-March. She will also work to cultivate collaborations with her connections.**
 - **There was a discussion that the board members would like to be informed of opportunities to collaborate with the county in the future**
- Community Outreach and Project
 - Update in Farm Bureau Newsletter – **No Discussion**
 - Community Gardens and FFA
 - **Presentation from Jayla and Arthur Cuevas from Madera FFA supported by Matt Angell. The project proposed was a to collaborate with the FFA Students to become certified crop consultants and**

work with city officials and within urban communities to educate on water conservation and sustainable gardens . The project also proposes to help seniors in our community with their gardens with an eye on water conservation and food security. Students will reach out to identified individuals who don't have proper irrigation methods to establish a better system with education/support and improve water efficiency. This could look like lawns becoming gardens for example. A start could be raised beds. They are looking for a partnership possibly. Board support initial concept

- Motion made to support project idea presented, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously to move forward with developing the FFA partnership and project as part of the RCD's community engagement priority.
- Other Community event/outreach ideas
- Partnerships/MOUs
 - Durable collaborations
 - Laurel is attending and will attend collaboration meetings with the purpose of forging new partnerships. She will revisit existing partnerships that were developed under Chowchilla Red Top with an eye on creating new MOUs that support the consolidated RCD.
- Open Discussion
 - There was discussion concerning the RCD's role in being an education resource for our communities, healthy soils, and working on having sustainable bio-diversity programs for the future. The RCD would like to have positive examples of local farmers doing these types of practices.
- Present for Jeannie for her service
- Madera / Chowchilla RCD Consolidation
 - Letter to Consolidate County Accounts
 - DOC final check received for Chowchilla Red Top RCD and was deposited by Norm K.
 - Jeannie H. discussed the possibility of a third account with about \$10,000. Laurel will investigate further.
 - They were many options presented on how to consolidate by the board agreed on to merge on existing accounts to one at the county.
 - Motion made to consolidate all the accounts to one county account, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.
 - List of the Next Steps
 - A letter from Laurel is need as well as a copy of the minutes when consolidation occurred to consolidate the accounts. She will make sure all accounts are consolidated.
 - Norm K will close Tri-County account when her gets items above from Laurel.
 - Discussion of Presentation to the Board -None

VII. Old Business

- Area IX – San Joaquin Valley Region – Executive Board Positions
May 10, 2019 – Clovis Veterans Memorial Building
 - **Laurel and Matt attended event at Sierra RC with a presentation on Carbon Farming by the Carbon Cycle institute. They are currently working with Bowles Farming from Los Banos, CA.**
 - **Steve H. from Sierra RC is working with a grant to provide Electric Carts in exchange for old ATVS**
Sharon Nance from NRCS discussed with Matt Angell her interest in seeing the RCDs lead in communities with project such as helping seniors with gardens, Matt took this idea and the FFA project incorporates this thinking. Thus, the M/C RCD/FFA project is answering that call.
- NRCS Report – **None**
- Madera Region IRWMP/RWVG – Report - **None**

VIII. Items for Next Meeting: July 10, 2019; 5:00pm

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

- **Election of New Board Members**

IX. Adjourn: Norm K made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Matt A second the motion; all, voted and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:01PM.