



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, August 14 - 5:00 pm to 7:00pm**

Farm Service Agency Conference Room, 425 N Gateway Drive, Madera

I. Roll Call and Introductions

- Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 5:07pm by Tom Petrucci
- Flag Salute
- Introduction of Guests
- Directors: Tom Petrucci, Jay Bellach, Mike DeLaGuerra, Norman V. Kuhr, Matt Angell
- Directors Absent: Erik Herman, Tim Coelho
- Associate Directors: Jack Fry
- Staff: Laurel Angell, Stefani Dias
- Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff, Sharon Nance, Taylor Fridrich – NRCS
- Mark Hutson, Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County, Jim Yager, Jayla Cuevas – Madera Pumps

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda

- August 2019 Agenda
 - Additions?
 - Motion made to accept the August 2019 Agenda as presented, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.
- July 2019 Minutes
 - Motion made to accept the July 2019 Minutes as presented, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.

III. Updates, Handout, and Public Comments

- Stephanie Anagnoson presented some handouts, one was a basic handout with Q & As about the Madera Subbasin, the second handout outline recharge areas with the subbasin, and the third handout was a summary of the proposed recharge programs for the next 20 years in the Madera Subbasin.
- There was also discussion about Prop 1 and 3 grants becoming available to purchase surface water based on zones of benefit.
- Matt Angell asked for transparency and a more precise way to convey how SGMA is affecting the Madera Subbasin and how decisions are being made.

IV. Correspondence & Mail

- Correspondence (Stefani)
 - The mailbox received the following within the last month – Successful Farming

Magazine, packet from CA Special District Association for Laurel Angell, Cals Pers – Annual Information Request, Tri-Counties July bank statement, and a summary of coverage & invoice (paid) from Golden State Risk.

- CARCD Email (Laurel)
 - Laurel received a detailed email outlining all the services that the CARCD provides to our RCD.

V. Financial Report

- Monthly Treasurer’s Report
 - The report was presented by Stefani Dias.
 - County M/CRCD Balance - \$28,084.84
 - Tri-Counties Balance - \$7,203.80
 - Motion made to accept the treasurer’s report as presented, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.
- Letter to Consolidate County Accounts (pending board nominations)
 - Board Nominations to be completed further in agenda
- Review & Approval of Expenses
 - Farm Bureau
 - Motion made to accept Farm Bureau invoice for Stefani’s work as presented, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.
 - Laurel Angell
 - Motion made to accept Laurel Angell’s invoice for her work as presented, there was a second, all voted and the motion was accepted unanimously.
 - Others
 - No other expenses
- Check in on close-out of Chow-Red Top outside account (Norm)
 - The account was closed on August 14, 2019 and Norm has a cashier’s check for \$7,203.80 that Laurel will deposit in M/CRCD county account.

VI. New Discussion Topics and Action Items

- Sharon Nance, Asst. State Conservationist, NRCS, Introductions and discussion of NRCS/RCD partnership
 - Sharon is relatively new to her position but not to the NRCS. She oversees about 47-48% of the farm bill money that CA receives for the NRCS in her region. This is a busy time of year for NRCS as they are working to close out the year. Sharon also talked about how partnerships with the NRCS are changing and was looking for input and ideas to make sure that needs are regionally being met when building future partnerships.
- “Real Time Resource Conservation” (formerly “Food for the Future” Project update (Matt Angell and Jayla Cuevas)
 - Matt and Jayla updated the board on the evolving “NEXGEN Resource Conservation” project that M/CRCD has been supporting. In the presentation, they highlighted three projects that will be created including ways to lead the change through productive water strategies. One project being “watering right” an online education for improving landscape practices that will include landscape audits and providing resources for creating gardens that help fight food insecurity. Another project is NEXGEN, a dynamic younger group of individuals who can be an extension of M/CRCD.
 - They will have examples of raised beds at the Madera District Fair in September and plan on presenting “water right” at the next Madera City Council meeting.
- Schedule: Pelayo Alvarez from Carbon Cycle Institute will do a presentation in September (I)
 - This is confirmed and the board looks forward to this presentation next month.
- RCD Board Membership



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- Nomination of Mike DeLaGuerra – Paperwork/BOS Action on 7/16
 - Mike was approved to the M/CRCD board on July 16th 2019 and his term will expire July 16th 2023.
- LAFCO confirmed that with consolidation we do NOT need to re-nominate Board Members. Letter on file.
- Election of New Board Officers (per Tom)
 - Chair
 - Motion made for Norm V. Kuhr to serve in the capacity of Chair, there was a second, all present directors voted in favor and the motion was accepted unanimously. Tim Coelho and Erik Herman absent from vote.
 - Vice-Chair
 - Motion made for Matt Angell to serve in the capacity of Vice-Chair, there was a second, all present directors voted in favor and the motion was accepted unanimously. Tim Coelho and Erik Herman absent from vote.
 - Secretary
 - Motion made for Erik Herman to serve in the capacity of Secretary in addition to Treasurer as voted on in July, there was a second, all present directors voted in favor and the motion was accepted unanimously. Tim Coelho and Erik Herman absent from vote.
 - Chair and Treasurer to sign warrants
- CARCD Annual Business Meeting and Conference
 - Annual Business Meeting, November 13 – 15
 - Delegates and Credentials
 - Attendance to the conference (\$345/Lodging \$129)
 - Matt encouraged many of the directors to attend and participated in regional projects. Attendees will confirm in following months.
 - Laurel will register 3 to 4 “placeholders” for the conference
- Priorities and Planning
 - Long-term ED
 - Pending Products (Grant tracking [see below], web and Media
 - Laurel Angell presented an option to extend her contract for continued partnership with M/CRCD. Terms would be for 3 more months at \$50/hr and (10-15hrs) with a max \$3000 a month.
 - Motion made to accept Laurel’s extended contract with presented terms , there was a second, all present directors voted in favor and the motion was accepted unanimously. Tim Coelho and Erik Herman absent from vote.

VII. Grants (focused on priorities laid out in Annual Plan)

- CDFA Technical Assistance Grant (Due August 30/up to \$60K)
 - The scope of work would be working with healthy soils to help and support farmers with the RCD administering the grant and contracting out for technical support to HSP applicants in Madera
- National CIG to support East Stanislaus RCD, to help with healthy soils and cover crops (RCD sent letter of support [on file]/for education assistance)
 - This letter was completed and will be for planning and health soil work.
- DOC Prop 68 Working Lands and Riparian Corridors (applied with Regional partners/\$10K for planning)
 - We applied for this with ESRC and we will find out in the next month. This grant will be work with Madera County on their climate plan to recognize that agriculture as a solution to climate, and work to support climate smart practices.
- Carbon Cycle Institute Grant (pending with ESRC – \$1K)
 - Pelayo will present more on carbon farming at the Sept mtg, so the RCD can better understand the needs in our region, but RCD is part of a regional “hub” grant.
- Block Grant from CARCD on Monarchs (still pending)
 - We are waiting to hear about this grant and this can be incorporated with the NEXGEN project.
- Water Foundation (potential funding for SGMA work)
 - This foundation is based in Sacramento and is working to understand how SGMA can work. Laurel is working with them on a potential proposal.
- Central Valley Community Foundation (RFP in August)
 - Laurel is submitting a proposal for a ag focused media project that would be housed at their Impact Fund. This media project is part of Annual and Long-term plan and might also benefit regional RCDs.
- CARCD – Bechtel funding/SGMA
 - Is contracting with Laurel, using Bechtel funding, to look more into needs assessment and support for producers in the Valley around SGMA .
- Conservation Partners Program/USFWS – likely not a good fit, but exploring
 - This grant requires working with salmon and not a good fit.
- Others—
 - Laurel is looking for more partnerships and also ways to educate more on the RCD.
- Grant opportunities and tracking/program list (Laurel)

VIII. Fee for Service

- Seeking ideas for long-term and consistent funding

IX. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Consolidation

- Remaining Steps
- Legal description
- Federal ID being filed
- Annual Plan filed
- RCD credit card (once accounts are consolidated)

X. Old Business

- Website Update
 - Still need Photos for content
 - Laurel and Stefani still working on updates
 - Any suggestions for content right now?

XI. Reports

- NRCS Report
 - The board chair Norm V. Kuhr signed an updated partnership with the NRCS to solidify our relationship.
- Madera Region IRWMP/RWMP
- SGMA



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- Others—
 - Board discussed needing a checking account outside of the county account in the future.

XII. Adjournment... Meeting was adjourned by Chair Norm v. Kuhr at 7:23pm
**Next Meeting: September 11, 2019; 5:00pm Farm Service Agency
Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera**