



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, December 11, 2019 - 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 5:04pm by Matt Angell .
- Flag Salute
- Introduction of Guests
- Directors: Tim Coelho, Jay Bellach, Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell, Tom Petrucci, Norman V. Kuhr
- Directors Absent: Erik Herman
- Associate Directors: Jack Fry
- Staff: Laurel Angell, Stefani Dias
- Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff, Taylor Fridrich – NRCS, Priscilla Baker -NRCS
- Jack Rice - MAWA, Mark Hutson, Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County

**II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes & Agenda**

- December 2019 Agenda
  - Additions?
  - There was a motion by Mike D. to accept the December 2019 agenda as presented, was seconded by Matt A., and passed unanimously by all present directors.
- October 2019 Minutes
  - There was a motion by Tim C. to accept the October 2019 minutes as presented, was seconded by Mike D., and passed unanimously by all present directors.

**III. Correspondence & Mail**

- Correspondence (Stefani)
  - There was a reimbursement for CARCD of \$385 for overpayment on annual meeting fees.
  - Magazines and other mailers

**IV. Financial Report**

- Monthly Treasurer's Report
  - The balance for the Madera/Chowchilla RCD County Account was \$18, 126.85.
  - There was a motion by Matt A. to accept the December 2019 treasurer's report as presented, was seconded by Tom P., and passed unanimously by all present directors.
- County Accounts consolidated (completed)
  - This consolidation was completed on November 2019.

- Review & Approval of Expenses
  - Laurel Angell (invoice – Sept 16-Oct 15 and Oct 16 to – Nov 15) (new contract-see business below)
    - Laurel presented invoices for her contracts that were previously approved. Both invoices are for a total of \$4,750.00.
    - There was a motion by Jay B. to accept Laurel’s invoices as presented, was seconded by Matt A., and passed unanimously by all present directors.
  - Go-Daddy Quarterly charges for website
    - There was a motion by Matt A. to accept the charges for the hosting site of our website as presented for \$59.88, was seconded by Mike D., and passed unanimously by all present directors.
  - Approve Reimbursement for Hotel/Travel for CARCD conference for Jay Bellach, Laurel Angell and Matt Angell (pre-approval was authorized at Oct Board Meeting)
    - There was discussion on reimbursing the cost of having our directors attend the CARCD conference for \$1521.35 to Laurel who paid for it upfront.
    - There was a motion by Jay B. to accept the reimbursement of attending the CARCD conference to Laurel Angell as presented, was seconded by Matt A., and passed unanimously by all present directors.
  - CARCD Soil Health Terrace Stipend for Jay Bellach (\$150 pending)
    - This will be paid to M/C RCD as a reimbursement and Jay B. wants to donate it to M/C RCD.
  - CARCD Annual Meeting Refund for 4<sup>th</sup> registration (\$385 check mail/Stefani)
    - This check will be used to open the new bank account along with the CVCF capacity funding check.
- New Outside Bank Account Letter (needs signature) – open with CVCF capacity funding check and now CARCD refund. Norm needs to take in form.
  - Set up a credit card now/Order checks (action item)
    - There was discussion about setting up a debit/credit card to be able to cover costs that would be easier to cover with a card. There will need to be a limit placed on the card but directors agree to have a card with the bank account. The directors also reviewed who the signatories are supposed to be based on October’s meeting and want to add Matt Angell as well.
    - There was a motion by Tim C. to have a debit/credit card with a limit along with ordering checks at the time of opening bank account, was seconded by Mike D., and passed unanimously by all present directors.
    - There was a motion by Tim C. to add Matt Angell as a signatory on the new bank account at Central Valley Community Bank along with Erik Herman (Secretary/Treasurer) and Norman V. Kuhr (Chair), there was seconded by Tom P., and passed unanimously by all present directors.

## **V. Meeting Updates, Handout, and Public Comments**

- Handouts for this meeting: SGMA Memo/Business Plan; Associate Director Policy; Others?
  - Stephanie Anagnoson – The Madera County GSA is currently accepting applications for committee seats and provided some if anyone is interested.
  - Laurel Angell – Laurel presented a new Associate Director Policy draft for the M/C RCD
- San Joaquin Region 9 RCD meeting (Matt) (October 11)
  - The meeting was attended by Jay B., Matt A., Johnnie S., Jack Rice, Mark H., Priscilla B., and Laurel A. It was held in Madera and the main topic was SGMA. Some of the presentations included how to use recharge as a tool, demo on the basin model, and a innovation grant from mark Hutson.
- CARCD meeting (Matt and Jay) (Nov 12-15)
  - The meeting was attended by Matt A., Jay B., and Laurel A., who attended meetings, workshops, and a ranch tour. People are looking for climate solutions, young adults



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who are interested in conservation practices, and results from projects.

- Laurel update on meetings attended (Carbon Cycle Institute Hub meeting, GSA meetings, Latino Conference, other RCDs, PPIC on recharge and Flood Mar/joined AFT at climate solutions meeting)
- Pending meetings to be aware of? (info)
  - Please let Laurel know of any meetings

## **VI. Discussion Topics and Action Items**

- Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water & Natural Resources, Madera County: Update on GSAs/GSPs/Advisory Board – Applications due on 12/13
  - Applications in print were available for interested individuals. There are 11 committee seats available and alternates will also be needed for those seats for a total of 22 vacancies.
- M/CRCDs role on SGMA - Laurel will present business plan/memo in response to Board wanting to build on their annual plan and take on a more active role on SGMA as also laid out in Region 9 RCD meeting as well. (Will provide handout ahead of meeting via email and will print out and then review together)
  - Laurel provided a strategy memo/proposal along with a presentation on the opportunities/roles the M/CRCD can implement to support growers around SGMA. Specifically, she presented a path forward to Establish the RCD as a go-to, trusted and strategic “HUB” of technical and educational services and critical resources and partnerships, to help growers bridge technical, educational, and economic gaps to diversify their options around land transition and groundwater management, under SGMA.
    - Action item: Laurel will put that proposal in front of foundations and use for potential grants, work on a more concise document for use in discussing the RCDs role as a hub and come back to the next meeting with next steps in implementation.
    - Board members agreed to review the memo in more detail and come back with any questions or concerns. However generally it was agreed that the RCD needed to take a proactive role on SGMA and we are the right entity to do so, as a trusted third party with our growers.
  - Jack Rice from Madera Ag Water Association (MAWA) attended and wants to work with the RCD along with county to look at options around recharge and exploring the idea of a potential water right from the SWB. Jack’s request for the RCD could fit in the M/C RCD annual plan that would include M/C RCD working towards being a hub for growers in Madera County to help growers through SGMA. BUT the Board requested that Jack come back to the next meeting with more specific information on the details before any decisions can be made.
  - There was discussion started by Jack F. who requested that the M/C RCD have a goal to

towards have groundwater levels being no less than 100ft.

- There was a motion made by Matt A. to have a M/C RCD goal of having groundwater levels no less than 100ft as proposed by Jack Fry, there was a second by Tom P., and the motion passed unanimously by all present board of directors.
- Mark Hutson, presentation on recharge
  - Mark presented a slideshow on the history of the flood plains, and Triangle T recharge project. The project helped increase shallow wells with recharge. The M/C RCD was encouraged to help with funding and permitting of recharge projects. This presentation was developed to have grower-based solutions for habitat education, recharge, management options for groundwater use, funding, and water markets.
- “Next Gen Project” – Updates -- Matt Angell and Jayla Cuevas (was not able to attend)
  - No current updates for now. Although the project is trying to connect with the Master Gardeners and Fresno State.
- RCD Board Membership
  - Associate Director Policy Proposal/Approval (handout)
  - Nominate: Associate Director Silas Rossow
  - Ethics Training for new members
    - Mike D., Erik H., and Laurel A. will need to complete training with a grant to fund.

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

### **Secured**

- Community Foundation Capacity Grant (grant for \$7.9k- needs depositing into new account)
- Carbon Cycle Institute Grant (application accepted – \$2k is pending for staff work on preparing for work around a larger grant to be submitted in February to do a regional hub on healthy soils/carbon farming planning and implementation)
- National CIG (RCD sent letter of support/for education assistance/award for \$1.2 million for five years, we will be convening soon to talk logistics of that. (read letter from ESRCD)
- Central Valley Community Foundation/Impact Media Fund (Proposal accepted), \$100k matching, specifically earmarked for the media project. Initial amount of \$15K to start to be disbursed in early January into the Fund for our use.
- CARCD – Bechtel funding for SGMA needs assessment (admin for Laurel)

### **Submitted and Pending**

- RCPP with American Farmland Trust on recharge innovation and demo projects
- DOC/Prop 68 Working Lands and Riparian Corridors (applied with Regional partners/\$10K for planning/decision pending)
- Pacific Flyway Conservation Grant through the Wildlife Conservation Board (Submitted on 9/11 @ \$100K as part of regional effort; decision pending)
- Water Foundation (potential funding for SGMA work, proposal being discussed)
- CDFA Specialty Block Grants – for Next Gen Project, \$25k – decisions early winter
- *Campbell Foundation, Capacity Grant (\$10K/applied/pushed to Spring)*

### **Waiting for RFP**

- Block Grant from CARCD on Monarchs (still pending with CARCD, early winter – they keep moving on this one)
- Discussion around Regional Watershed Management Program



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- *Did not get the CDFA Technical Assistance Grant for \$25k – stated that too many qualified applicants this year. Will check into it to find out how to be more competitive.*

#### **VIII. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Staffing & Compliance**

- New 3-month contract for Laurel/with the idea of coming up with a long-term piece here (see Anna Olsen and Julie Konno)
  - There was a motion by Matt A. to approve Laurel's new contract, it was seconded by Mike D., and passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Website ADA Compliance under new rules
  - Laurel will sit down with Kris to review the website and needs to be updated to meet ADA requirements.
- Board Member compliance – Sexual Harassment & Ethics Training
- Legal description
  - This is an ongoing project to complete.
- RCD credit card (once accounts are consolidated)

#### **IX. Old Business**

#### **X. Reports**

- NRCS Report
  - There was an audit and we need to make sure we have civil rights component in our meetings followed by written proven in minutes.
- Madera Region IRWMP/RWMP
  - The IRWMP is looking for an individual to work with them part-time to find grants, resources, perform duties of treasurer/secretary. This position will be open beginning in January.
  - There was a motion by Matt A. to work with the IRWMP to help find someone to fill their vacancy, there was seconded by Jay B., and passed unanimously by all present directors.
- SGMA
- Other--

#### **XI. Adjournment... The meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm by Norm V. Kuhr.**

**Next Meeting: January 8, 2020; 5:00pm Farm Service Agency Office, 425 N. Gateway, Ste. K, Madera**