



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 11, 2021 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:06PM by Norman Kuhr

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was in person and virtual on Zoom. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Matt Angell, Jay Bellach, Tom Petrucci, Tim Coehlo; Associate Director: Mark Hutson; Staff: Amy Siliznoff; Partners: Priscilla Baker (NRCS), Joy Hollingsworth (UCCE), Trina Walley (East Stanislaus RCD); Zoom attendance: Mike DeLaGuerra, Erik Herman, Stephanie Anagnoson (Madera County Natural Resources), Cristina Murillo-Barrick (UCCE)

B. Introduction of Guests – Guests in attendance were Trina Walley (East Stanislaus RCD), Joy Hollingsworth (UCCE), and Cristina Murillo-Barrick (UCCE)

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes – Motion was made by Tim Coehlo to approve June 2021 Special Meeting Minutes, there was a second from Matt Angell. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

III. Correspondence & Mail – Central Valley Community Bank statement

IV. Public Comments – Tire Recycling Program through Madera County was discussed by Tim Coehlo. Trina Walley (East Stanislaus RCD) discussed an opportunity for the RCD to be involved with the Stanislaus Grown Magazine. Amy Siliznoff discussed the Working Lands Solar Study from Stanford and how the Directors can get involved.

V. Reports

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Stephanie Anagnoson

- A bunch of Subbasins are meeting together to discuss subsidence and how that's occurring. They want to focus on the Chowchilla Western Area. They're meeting every two weeks. The County GSA adopted allocation, refinements have gone back to the Board.

B. NRCS Report – Priscilla Baker

- Uniformity testing issues for growers
- Brian Hockets for NRCS for EQUIP funding (1 year grant extension)
- Hose replacements available
- Chris Yohannan planner has started with Madera/Chowchilla RCD, he has gone out on site visits with Priscilla

- End of ranking for CIC drought – more applications for irrigation implementation, soil impact, and wildlife funding
- C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – Amy Siliznoff
- Self-Help Enterprises: High frequency calls to enroll Madera County into Water Tank Program
 - They are working on Indian Lakes project to install meters
 - Creek Fire Tour along scenic route
 - San Joaquin Valley Workshop on Drought (Fresno State is also included on this)
 - Utilizing Self-Help Funding
 - Going over water tank program (no income verification)
 - Water well program (income based – 80% median income)
 - Bottled water program (income based – they will get drinking water to you if your well is contaminated)
 - 27 wells went dry in a week, 57 within the valley (total), they are trying to keep constant outreach going
 - Amy added their information on how to sign up for the program onto our website under resources – drought tab
 - August 11th 5:30PM, public meeting on Nitrates, free well testing
- D. Farm Bureau – Amy Siliznoff gave an update on behalf of Christina Beckstead
- Two-Segment Workshop for Orchard Recycling in the Fall (End of October/early November)
 - One entire segment will be dedicated to Madera County
 - Healthy Soils Workshop in December/January
 - Madera/Chowchilla to discuss opportunity to team up with Farm Bureau on these Workshops and provide videographer for Madera County footage.
 - Amy to meet with Christina regarding Workshop Planning on August 26th
- E. News/Other Meeting Reports – None

VI. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

- A. CARCD Heller Foundation Grant – Amy Siliznoff
 \$3,500 for the next 5 months to cover Amy’s work (\$17,500 total)
 THEME: Making the work to support transition to conservation practices to better help farmers address SGMA
1. Set up a presentation to the local GSA’s about Soil Health/Water Nexus (Healthy Soils, Cover Crops)
 2. Central Valley Foundation – Meet with them with Karen Buhr about how to get more young leadership awareness to the local conservation and water boards
 3. Local Workgroup with NRCS

Jay made a motion to approve Amy moving forward with working with CARCD on the Heller Foundation work. Motion was seconded by Matt. All present Board members approved.

- B. Local Workgroup Meeting with NRCS (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy is working with Coarsegold and Columbia RCD, as well as Priscilla with NRCS to set up the Local Workgroup. The Workgroup will take place on October 7th from 9-11AM. Amy will be reaching out to partners to make presentations for the meeting.

Jay made a motion to approve the Local Workgroup Meeting with NRCS. Matt seconded. All present Board members approved.

- C. Presentation to GSA's about Soil Health/Water Nexus (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy has reached out to Sustainable Conservation, UCCE, as well as NRCS to put together a presentation to the local GSA's about the benefits of cover crops. The presentation will be either September or October. Amy will be confirming this at the Regional Water Management Group Meeting (RWMG) on August 23rd.

Jay made a motion to approve the Local Workgroup Meeting with NRCS. Matt seconded. All present Board members approved.

- D. Update: RCPP with American Farmland Trust – Amy Siliznoff
 - Irrigation and Nutrient Management Workshop with ESRCDC
 - The workshop is set to October 28th from 8:30AM-1PM.
 - The Contract Agreement between East-Stanislaus and Madera/Chowchilla RCD for the RCPP 4-month short-term funding agreement as well as the MOU was read aloud at the meeting

Tim made a motion to approve the Irrigation and Nutrient Management Workshop, along with the Contract Agreement with East-Stanislaus RCD, pending corrections to the MOU. Motion was seconded by Matt. All present Board members approved.

- E. Update: Orchard recycling workshop in the fall with MCFB (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Two-Segment Workshop for Orchard Recycling in the Fall (End of October/early November)
 - One entire segment will be dedicated to Madera County
 - Healthy Soils Workshop in December/January
 - Madera/Chowchilla to discuss opportunity to team up with Farm Bureau on these Workshops and provide videographer for Madera County footage.

F. Add Donation Tab to Website – Amy Siliznoff

- Click & Pledge
- Processing Fee is 3.75% + \$0.37 per transaction (this includes processing and platform costs)
- It accepts payments from Visa, Mastercard, Discover, Am Express, Check/ACH
- Account Deposits is \$1.50 per batch deposit (only occurs on days we receive at least one donation.
- Sonoma County RCD uses this donation platform on their website
- There's no contract to start using, we're not locked in so we can cancel our account at any time

Tim made a motion to approve the Click & Pledge donation tab to the website. Motion was seconded by Matt. All present Board members approved.

G. Upcoming Grant applications

- Laurel secured another \$25,000 with Water Foundation.

VII. Financial Report

A. Monthly Treasurer's Report (I)

- i. County Account: \$2,539.36
- ii. Central Valley Community Bank Account: \$7,439.16
- iii. Incoming: from NRCS (will be auto deposited into Outside Account): \$12,772.76 (pending)
- iv. Incoming: from CARCD (will be auto deposited into Outside Account): \$3,500.00 (pending)
- v. **Total in all accounts: \$9,978.52**

1. Total after incoming: \$26,251.28

B. Review and Approval of Expenses (I) (A)

- i. Expenses: Sam.gov renewal, \$499
- ii. Invoice for Laurel Angell May-June - \$3,500 (Final payment for May/June and transition)
- iii. Reimbursement for Laurel Angell - \$99 CalTech Web, \$23 GoDaddy
- iv. Invoice for Amy Siliznoff July - \$3,500
- v. Quickbooks Desktop Pro - \$399.99

- Tim made a motion to approve payment of expenses for invoices, Sam.gov renewal, CalTech Web, GoDaddy, and Quickbooks. Motion was seconded by Matt. All present Board members approved.

VIII. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Old Business

- A. All Board Members - Harassment and Ethics Training
- B. Legal description (on hold)

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:37PM.

Next Meeting: September 8, 2021, 5:00PM at Madera Library; 121 N G Street, Madera, CA with Zoom accessibility.