



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 12, 2021 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:04PM by Amy Siliznoff

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was virtual on Zoom. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Matt Angell, Jay Bellach, Mike DeLaGuerra, Erik Herman, Tom Petrucci, Tim Coehlo; Staff: Amy Siliznoff; Associate Director: Mark Hutson; Partners: Johnnie Siliznoff (NRCS), Taylor Fridrich (NRCS), Christina Beckstead (Madera Farm Bureau), Jack Rice (MAWA), Joy Hollingsworth (UCCE), Jordan Blough (LACO Associates), Sandy O’Ferrall (LACO Associates), Jesse Vad

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Local Workgroup (LWG) with NRCS was added to the RCD Report. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab Grant Submittal was added to the RCD Report. Motion to Accept was made by Tom Petrucci, there was a second by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of November Meeting Minutes – Motion was made by Mike DeLaGuerra to approve the Meeting Minutes, there was a second by Erik Herman. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IV. Correspondence & Mail – CSDA mailers

V. Public Comments – No public comments

VI. Reports

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Stephanie Anagnoson

- There is another SGMA-related grant for GSAs opening up now through February, which all subbasins will need to apply for.
- County GSA is in the middle of a rate study for irrigated acres within “white area” to pay for projects, including recharge.

B. NRCS Report – Priscilla Baker

- Cover Crop Initiative funding – specialized fund pool for implementation of cover crops. Accepting applications until Tuesday, Jan 18th. Funding pool NRCS

came out with two months ago to encourage farmers to implement cover crops.

- General EQUIP deadline got extended to Feb 23rd

C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – No updates

D. Farm Bureau – No updates

E. News/Other Meeting Reports – Mark Hutson – At the ESJ meeting, there was a grant that the Cures group was looking for letters of support from ESJ to complete distribution uniformity work with Stanislaus and Madera. Perry Clauson is the contact from Cures. Matt asked if we're in the ESJ, and why wouldn't we be included. Check into this grant – CDFA Mobile Irrigation Grant. Amy explained she is aware of this grant and Cures is submitting for the training portion of the grant. MCRCD will be submitting for the implementation portion of the grant.

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

A. Grant Writer Position (I) (A)

- Jordan Blough with LACO Associates gave a presentation on their company and background of grant work and projects they're involved with and have completed.

B. RCPP with American Farmland Trust (I)

- Amy is continuing outreach for the RCPP and is having monthly meetings with AFT to discuss progress. The two-year short-term agreement is forthcoming.

C. NRCS Cost-Share Pilot Program for Recharge Projects – Outreach with Sustainable Conservation (I)

- Amy has met with Daniel Mountjoy and Aysha Massell with Sustainable Conservation to discuss collaboration on the upcoming NRCS Pilot Program for Recharge Projects. Applications for the Pilot Program are due April 1st, outreach would take place in February and March. Topics include how to do on-farm recharge while protecting water quality. Would consist of three meetings, one meeting to inform landowners about the program, and 1-2 workshops.

D. Monarch/Pollinator Opportunity with CA Wildlife Conservation Board (I)

- Amy will be meeting with San Joaquin River Conservancy, Xerces, Partners for Fish & Wildlife, and Wildlife Conservation Board on January 14th on SJRC property to locate potential areas for wildlife habitat. She is working on finalizing the Site Plan and planting plan for the Tesoro site.

E. Cover Cropping for Drought Resiliency Workshop with ESRCD & EMRCD (I)

- This workshop was held on December 16th. There were over 50 attendees and had excellent feedback about the information provided. A recording of the workshop is posted on our website under the workshop tab.

F. VFB Share Field Day for Cover Crop and Orchard Recycling (I) (A)

- Amy met with Ian Vietti with Innovative Ag Services on December 14th to discuss collaborating with Tulare, Kings, and Madera County Farm Bureau's VFB Share Project on a field day for cover crop implementation and whole orchard

recycling. A proposal was sent identifying MCRCDDs responsibilities for collaborating on the project. A motion was made by Matt Angell to approve the proposal from VFB Share to collaborate on the upcoming cover crop and orchard recycling field demonstrations. There was a second by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

- G. Ag Recycling Day with Madera Farm Bureau (I)
Amy will be working with Christina on the Ag Recycling Day scheduled on March 28th. Amy will assist with the flyer and outreach for the event.
- H. Adoption of Resolution No. 2021-01 – Proclaiming a Local Emergency, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Newsom on March 4, 2020, and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of Madera/Chowchilla Resource Conservation District for the period of January 12, 2022 – February 9, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions (I) (A)
 - o Tom Petrucci made a motion to approve the resolution, a second was made by Tim Coehlo. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- I. Upcoming Grants (I)
 - o Amy is working on the CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab grant and looking into the DOC Land Repurposing grant as well as FEMA funding.
- J. Current Grant Deliverables (I)
 - o Amy reviewed the NRCS and DOC grant deliverables. She identified which deliverables are left and plans to move forward to complete each task.
- K. Transition Amy to Employee (I) (A)
 - o Amy discussed timeline for transitioning on as an employee. Due to current finances, the Board decided to continue contracting the manager position. Amy is to transition over to an S Corp to continue contracting with the RCD.
- L. Local Workgroup Meeting with NRCS
 - o Amy proposed a date of October 9th from 9-11AM for the Local Workgroup Meeting. A motion was made by Tom Petrucci to approve the date for the Local Workgroup meeting. A second was made by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- M. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab Grant Proposal (I) (A)
 - o Amy reviewed the budget and workplan for the CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab Grant Proposal in collaboration with the East Merced and East Stanislaus RCD. A motion was made by Matt Angell to approve the budget and workplan to submit to CDFA. A second was made by Tom Petrucci. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

VIII. Financial Report

- A. Monthly Treasurer's Report (I)
 - o County Account: \$1,596.98
 - o Central Valley Community Bank Account: \$21,216.27
 - o Incoming from DOC: \$10,500 (pending)
 - o Incoming from ESRCD: \$10,000 (pending)
 - o Incoming from Water Foundation: \$25,000 (pending)
 - o Incoming from CARCD for November: \$3,500 (pending)
 - o Incoming from CARCD for December: \$5,000 (pending)

- Incoming from CARCD (Stipend): \$600 (pending)
- **Total in all accounts: \$22,813.25**
 - **Total after incoming: \$77,413.25**
- A motion was made by Matt Angell to approve the Treasurers Report. A second was made by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
 - B. Review and Approval of Expenses (I) (A)
 - Expenses: Monthly fee for CalTech Web - \$99
 - Invoice for Amy Siliznoff December - \$3,500
 - Reimbursement for Amy Siliznoff (CARCD Conference Fee) - \$140
 - Reimbursement for Amy Siliznoff (Supplies for 2022 Binder) - \$21.28
 - **Total Expenses: \$3,760.28**
 - C. **Total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid: \$73,652.97**
- Matt Angell made a motion to approve expenses, there was a second by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IX. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Old Business

- A. All Board Members - Harassment and Ethics Training – Amy requested copies of the certificates from Tim Coehlo. Mike DeLaGuerra will need to complete training before April 7th.
- B. Legal description – Amy will discuss an RFP with LACO Associates to finalize the Legal Description.

X. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:19PM.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2022, 5:00PM