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

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 9, 2022 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM

I. Call to Order: 5:07PM by Matt Angell

A. Director Roll Call
Attendance was virtual on Zoom. Directors: Matt Angell, Jay Bellach, Tim Coehlo, Mike DeLaGuerra Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes; Partners: Allison Tristao (Western United Dairies), Mira Dick (NRCS), Dannamarie AcevedoVelazquez (NRCS), Chris Yohannan (East Stanislaus RCD)

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Remove local workgroup from Agenda (put it twice), Edits to financial section: $250 invoice to IFF for fee for service for telemetry hookup. CDFA WETA invoice was modified to $17,370.68 instead of $19,955.47, total after incoming will be modified to $76,246.58, and total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid is $72,480.83. Also, modifications to the June through September agendas and minutes, updated financial section Amy Siliznoff to ATS Consulting.

Motion to approve updates: Mike DeLaGuerra made a motion to approve the changes, there was a second by Tim Coehlo. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

III. Approval of Minutes

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

IV. Correspondence & Mail – No update

V. **Public Comments** – No comments

VI. Reports

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff
- The Chowchilla growers who protested the fee are trying for form their own GSA
- Penalties for farm units within the County GSA.

B. NRCS Report – Mira Dick
- LWG went extremely well. They've wrapped up almost entirely 2022, it was a good year. Next year is going to be a good year, inflation reduction act is putting plenty

of money into their programs. Spend that money in a meaningful way. Feedback and coordination are going to be useful. We have no yet received the schedule of program cycles of batching periods and application deadlines. Have not gotten cost list yet either. Fees don't change dramatically, will hopefully have more info on that at next meeting. Working on getting Kevin onboarded, worked it up to state office so will hopefully have more information to move forward 10/13. Regional RCD is October 21st, we are going to have John Mount retired forester for SoCAl Edison, healthy forest management. Tom Hobby speak, how to make healthy forest activities economically feasible. It's going to be at the Madera Farm Bureau on October 21st 9AM-3:30PM.

C. Madera Region IRWM/RWMG – Amy Siliznoff
   - The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 24th, at 1:30 pm on Zoom. During this meeting, they will receive final approval for which projects to move forward with for the IRWM Round 2 funding. Deadline is February 1, 2023. One project will move forward for sure, and that project is for the Indian Lakes Water System Improvements project. The other project that still needs to be decided on is for the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians Muddy Falls Stormwater project. Public Works will be in charge of submitting the application and implementing the work. For the North Fork Rancheria project, the County does not have jurisdiction, but the Rancheria will provide them clearance to do the work if Public Works decides this is something they can do. They will have the final decision made during October's meeting.
   - During the October meeting, officer nominations will be made for 2023.
   - They currently have a grant with DWR to do domestic well testing in Madera County through June 30th. If tests come back high above the safe threshold for 13 constituents (including nitrates, lead, E.coli/bacteria, arsenic, etc.), resources on where to go for temporary and/or permanent solutions will be provided to the homeowners. If the well is located within the Chowchilla Subbasin, the partner organization (Chowchilla Management Zone) will provide replacement water until a permanent solution can be made. Reach out to Kristi Robinson with CMZ by emailing ChowchillaDrinkingWater@gmail.com if you or someone you know would like to have their domestic well tested.
   - Smart meter installation in both Indian Lakes and Parkwood are looking to begin at the end of this year or early 2023. The smart meters are being delayed in delivery, including miscellaneous parts like brass fittings and couplings.
   - The cities of Madera and Chowchilla are still working on the engineering for the installation of their smart meters.

D. Farm Bureau – Amy Siliznoff
   - They're having their Ag United Harvest Annual Celebration on Saturday, October 22nd at the Chowchilla Fairgrounds and featuring comedian Jerry Carroll. Doors open at 4:30PM. They're looking for auction items for their silent auction section so if you would like to donate, contact their office. They're looking to have all items by October 19th. They're also hosting a Candidate Forum on October 27th at the Madera County Farm Bureau Sale Barn. You can

meet the candidates and learn about the initiatives. The meet and greet is at 5PM and forum begins at 5:30PM, refreshments and appetizers will be provided.

E. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff
   - CARCD has set their 77th annual conference to November 30th through December 2nd at the Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom.

   - Amy will be attending a Soil-Water Interface Expert Convening hosted by CDFA, CARCD, NRCS, and Sustainable Conservation on Tuesday, October 18th at UC Merced. This convening will discuss the impact of cover crops on farm water use in common San Joaquin Valley cropping systems, how management decisions influence cover crop water use, and the impacts of environmental conditions (soil type, climate, etc) on these relationships. Sustainable Conservation reached out to me to present on the topic of sharing some of the 'on the ground' perspective about the problems growers and TA's are facing around cover crops and water use. Amy will be speaking alongside Dr Alyssa DeVincentis, she will be covering the research perspective. The second convening is on November 30th and Amy is planning to attend this meeting as well.

   - RCD Region 9 Meeting is October 21st

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

A. RCD Local Workgroup (I)
   - We had our local workgroup last Thursday, October 6th, and had 25 attendees. There was great discussion surrounding the local conservation concerns in the County, and we received compliments from other organizations on how inspirational the meeting was. The two main discussed priorities were water quality/quantity and fire safety/fire recovery, and other priorities include soil health, air quality, and animals/wildlife and connectivity. We are requesting letters of support from our partners to reflect their organizations priorities who attended and will submit the letters to the State Conservationist, Carlos Suarez.

B. RCPP with American Farmland Trust (I) – Chris Yohannan
   - We are waiting for our next contract to come through from AFT, but so far have only 1 year of planning funding remaining on our current agreement. The next round of funding deadline is December 1st.

C. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Kevin Reyes
   - We have completed 28 irrigation evaluations and we have 4 scheduled for the next 2 weeks. The evaluations will be scheduled through November as part of the grant.

D. NRCS Equity Grant (I) (A)
   - Amy had a kickoff call with Qi (Chi) Zhou with CARCD on October 7th. Amy will work with Kevin to start planning the Cover Crop Workshop in the fall. We will aim our networking and outreach towards underserved farming communities.

We've tentatively set a date for November 17th and a field demonstration on November 18th.

E. DOC MLRP (I)
   - Amy attended the kick-off meeting with DOC on October 19th in Clovis. It was an all day event that discussed goals and initiatives for the project. Jeannie sent over the draft sub agreement, the RCD is budgeted for $150,000 to assist on the project. Once legal approves this contract and signs it, it will come back to us (M/C RCD's President) signature and then it will go to the Board for their signature/approval. We will then receive a full signed copy with all attachments. The goal is to have the agreements approved in the next few months and the project will begin in January.

F. San Joaquin River Conservancy O&M (I) (A)
   - Amy gave a presentation to the SJRC Board on October 5th. The consent of the Board is to continue moving forward and to come up with a draft agreement for the Board to consider at their next meeting in November. Both Sierra RCD and Madera Chowchilla RCD will check in and confirm what the next step may be.

G. CARCD 77th Annual Conference (I) (A)
   - I've been asked to present at the upcoming CARCD 77th annual conference on December 2nd. The topic I'll be presenting on is pollinator partnership in the San Joaquin Valley and how RCDs can collaborate with Partners for Fish & Wildlife and leverage more work. The conference fee is $375 and hotel fee is $95/night.

     Motion to approve: Amy to attend and if Board wants to go (RCD and hotel expenses). Motion to approve Amy to attend CARCD conference and any other Board member who wants to go. There was a motion by Jay Bellach, the motion was seconded by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

H. MCRCD Audit (I)(A) – Amy Siliznoff
   - Amy is continuing to work with Bryant L Jolley, CPA on MCRCDs audit.

I. MCRCD Strategic Plan 2022-2027 (I)(A) – Amy Siliznoff
   - Need approval from Matt Angell and Tim Coehlo to have the Strategic Plan approved. Matt was not in attendance.

     There was a motion to approve the Strategic Plan by Jay Bellach, it was seconded by Tim Coehlo. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

J. MCRCD Policies (I) – Amy Siliznoff
   - Amy would like to reach out to HR or outside support for finalizing policies and bylaws.

K. Upcoming Workshops (I) – Amy Siliznoff
   - The RCD will be hosting a Cover Crop workshop this fall and spring, as well as an irrigation management workshop next Spring.

L. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)
    - The RCD will need to establish MOU agreement with East Stanislaus RCD to modify and add irrigation specialist hours to the existing MOU agreement, as well as create a new MOU agreement for the NRCS Equity grant to allow Kevin to start assisting with planning and coordinating the upcoming Cover Crop workshop in November with PAGG. We only have 360 approved hours under the existing MOU agreement so we will need to modify this MOU to add more hours.
    - There will be a Special Meeting scheduled for October 19th at 5PM to discuss next steps for the RCD in setting up Kevin as an employee or continuing the East Stanislaus MOU.

      There was a motion by Mike DeLaGuerra to extend the MOU with Stanislaus with part-time hours for NRCS Groundwater grant and CDFA WETA grant, it was seconded by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

M. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
    - Amy will be meeting with East Stanislaus RCD as well as East Merced RCD to discuss the upcoming CDFA Conservation Planning Grant. This grant will provide additional funding to complement the existing RCPP work our RCD is completing in the San Joaquin Valley.

N. 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 October 12, 2022 – November 9, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions (I) (A)
    - Jay Bellach made a motion to approve the resolution, a second was made by Tim Coehlo. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

VIII. Financial Report

A. Monthly Treasurer's Report (I)
    - County Account: $1,600.78
    - Central Valley Community Bank Account: $40,083.12
    - Incoming from RCPP Invoice #1: $2,035
    - Incoming from RCPP Invoice #2: $407
    - Incoming from IFF: $250
    - Incoming from CDFA Invoices #1-#3 (July-Sept Work): $17,370.68
    - Incoming from DOC: $14,500
    - **Total in all accounts: $41,683.90**
        - **Total after incoming: $76,246.58**

B. Review and Approval of Expenses (I) (A)
    - Expenses: Monthly fee for CalTech Web - $99
    - QuickBooks TSheets (Grant Tracking) - $28
    - Mileage Reimbursement for Kevin Reyes - $138.75
    - Invoice for ATS Consulting - $3,500
    - **Total Expenses: $3,765.75**

C. Total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid: $72,480.83

- Jay Bellach made a motion to approve the financial report, there was a second by Tim Coehlo. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Mike DeLaGuerra made a motion to approve the expenses, there was a second by Tim Coehlo. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:05PM.

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