



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 11, 2022 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:29PM by Norman Kuhr

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was in person at the Vineyard Restaurant in Madera, CA. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Tim Coehlo, Mike DeLaGuerra, Erik Herman, Jay Bellach Staff: Amy Siliznoff Partners: Mira Dick (NRCS), Cristina Murillo-Barrick (UCANR)

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Update to financial section: Received \$2,035 check from ESRCD, add line item under RCD Report – Setting up Payroll for RCD (I) (A)

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

III. Approval of Minutes

A. **Approval of November Meeting Minutes** – Motion was made by Tim Coehlo to approve the Meeting Minutes, there was a second by Jay Bellach. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IV. Correspondence & Mail – Check from ESRCD \$2,035 and CSDA mailers

V. **Public Comments** – Cristina Murillo Barrick with UCANR gave an update on the SALC applications that were submitted, and which applications were recommended for funding. The SALC applications that were approved mid-December, Madera County received a SALC grant a few years back for \$150,000 and used it towards the MLRP. They had 1 successful planning grant in Tulare County, Amy is to share the details of the approved grants with the Board. In Tulare they're looking at the potential for getting easements and landowners access to funds for sustainable ag, they're going to be mapping the area to map water, SGMA affects, what landscapes will be available for funding in the future. Looking for members of an advisory committee. Eastern Tule GSA area, Cristina will be working on that and tracking the state grants in the valley, her goal is to do outreach.

Tim Coehlo mentioned Avenue 26 is under water and wanted to know if the County had applied for FEMA funding. Amy said she would reach out to Jeannie to check if they were aware of this issue and if the road would be fixed soon.

VI. Reports

- A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff
 - Madera GSPs are being revised and the County is still waiting to hear on Chowchilla and Delta Mendota GSPs.
- B. NRCS Report – Priscilla Baker
 - Regular application deadline for first line of funding passed in December, RCPP has been extended until Feb 3rd. So far, they have 24 applications, a lot of them have been compost and cover crop applications. People are looking at improving soil health and processes. Inflation reduction act money that is going to through NACD and NRCS, this year for EQIP a small amount will be at the end of the year will be climate, forestry, anything that has to do with climate issues. It's projected that in the next 2 to 3 years there will be many millions of dollars available. Anyone who is looking at taking activities, it will be through EQIP. Recharge program, 3,000 acres contracted, water is going out. NRCS is starting well monitoring to get baselines, there's 8 applications for recharge for this coming year (deadline was December), they're looking at opening a possible batching slot at the end of the year.
- C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – No update
- D. Farm Bureau – Amy Siliznoff
 - Mark is looking into scheduling an Ag Recycling Day with the Farm Bureau. There is no date set yet but will hopefully have a tentative date scheduled before the next Board meeting.
- E. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff
 - MID is hosting a Recharge Workshop on January 19th from 9-10:30AM. Amy will be attending and giving a presentation on the RCDs current programs and involvement in recharge.

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

- A. RCPP with American Farmland Trust (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Deadline for applications has been extended to February 3, 2023.
 - Site visits are needed, there are 26-27 applications for RCPP for Madera
 - Chris is going through and putting them through pre-screener. Some of the farms are not covered by the layers on the data basin, need to confirm with Paul Lum with AFT if there's a 4th layer on data basin.
- B. Biochar Trial Project with American Farmland Trust (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy is waiting for the final contract from AFT. They requested the RCD to complete an additional workshop and instead of the initial \$5,000 the agreement will be for \$7,500.
- C. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Final Reports have been completed and sent off to growers for the final irrigation evaluations completed. We're planning an Irrigation & Nutrient Management Workshop January 17th from 9-11AM at the Madera County Farm Bureau. CDFA INMP credits and CCA credits will be provided to growers.

- D. NRCS Groundwater Grant (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Our RCD is currently templating the irrigation evaluation landowners we worked with over the summer and developing them into groundwater plans. Kevin is completing GSA research which includes groundwater basin information, determining GSA/GSP for mapped locations, and referencing management plan actions. We are completing outreach for interested landowners and will include RCPP applicants as part of the outreach for the groundwater conservation plans.
- E. NRCS Equity Grant (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy will be planning a workshop with Punjabi American Growers Group. A draft agenda has been completed and she is coordinating with Jasbir, president of PAGG on a date to set for a March Cover Crop Workshop.
- F. DOC MLRP (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy will be meeting with DOC on January 19th. The County sent the draft RFP to review that will be sent out for the consultant that will be writing the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Plan.
- G. San Joaquin River Conservancy O&M (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy met with John, Vanessa, Rebecca, and Jay Bellach on January 3rd. We discussed more about the operations and maintenance plans that the RCD would potentially take on. Amy recommended a site visit out to the Madera side to see which projects are a priority. John said the contracting term to the RCD would be a 1–2-year agreement. Vanessa will be reaching out to schedule a site visit.
- H. MCRCD 22-23 Budget (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy reviewed the budget with the Board. She will send it by email to each Board member and will request approval at the next Board meeting.
- I. Upcoming Workshops (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - The RCD is hosting an Irrigation Workshop January 17th with East Stan and East Merced RCD, we will include outreach for RCPP as well as our Groundwater Conservation Plan grants. 1.5 CDFA INMP credits and CCA credits will be provided to growers for attending.
- J. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - No current contracts or agreements to be approved.
- K. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy is exploring the CDFA SWEEP Block Grant to see if the RCD would be a good fit for the funding opportunity.
- L. 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 11, 2023 – February 8, 2023 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions (I) (A)
 - Tim Coehlo made a motion to approve the resolution, a second was made by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- M. RCD Payroll (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - It was discussed with the Board to bring Kevin Reyes on as an employee, and to move forward with setting up payroll and benefits.

Tim Coehlo made a motion to approve setting up Kevin as an employee, Mike DeLaGuerra seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

VIII. Financial Report

A. Monthly Treasurer's Report (I)

- County Account: \$1,603.49
- Central Valley Community Bank Account: \$35,675.57
- Incoming from RCPP Invoice #1: \$2,035
- Incoming from RCPP Invoice #2: \$407
- Incoming from IFF (September Invoice): \$250
- Incoming from IFF (October Invoice): \$250
- Incoming from CDFA Invoices #1-#3 (July-Sept Work): \$17,370.68
- Incoming from CARCD: \$130
- **Total in all accounts: \$37,279.06**
 - **Total after incoming: \$57,721.74**

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 - \$227.75
- Invoice for ATS Consulting - \$3,500
- Reimbursement to ATS Consulting for Board Members Retirement Gifts - \$97.17
- Banner, Tablecloth, and two Company T-Shirts - \$455
- **Total Expenses: \$4,406.92**

C. Total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid: \$53,314.82

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

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:29PM.

Next Meeting: February 8, 2023, 5:00PM