



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 – 5:00PM to 7:00PM**

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

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was virtual on Zoom. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Tim Coehlo, Mike DeLaGuerra, Erik Herman Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes Partners: Mira Dick (NRCS), Chris Yohannan (ESRCD), Jacob Roberson (RWMG)

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Update to financial section: Received \$17,315.68 check from EMRCD, \$250 check from IFF, invoice from CSDA membership for \$215. Update to reports section: Setting up payroll for Executive Director, Ethics and Harassment Training, and Board Member Positions.

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 January 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 EMRCD \$17,315.68, check from IFF \$250

V. Public Comments – No public comments

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 – Mira Dick

- Inflation reduction act – climate-based practices. There's water for recharge and water is going out. Contracts are moving. Kevin with M/CRCD is current going through the onboarding process, paperwork has been submitted for him. Hopefully NRCS will get him on the system very soon.

- C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – Jacob Roberson
 - Supervisor Wheeler retired and is no longer the Chairperson for the Madera RWVG.
 - During the January meeting, they held our officer election for 2023. Supervisor Wheeler’s successor, Supervisor Macaulay, is the new chairperson and Kristi Robinson (Triangle T representative) is the vice-chair for the Madera RWVG.
 - The Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and Stormwater Resources Plan Project Lists were updated and approved by the group during the January meeting.
 - They still have a grant to test domestic wells in Madera County for contaminants. This grant is being subcontracted through the Chowchilla Management Zone. The grant ends on June 30, 2023.
 - A grant application is being turned in for the IRWM Round 2 funding allocated to the Madera RWVG for the Mountain Counties. The grant application deadline is February 1, and Public Works is submitting the application.

- D. Farm Bureau – Amy Siliznoff
 - The Ag Recycling Day with the Farm Bureau has been scheduled for April 17th.

- E. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy and Matt met with CARCD Director Cam Tredennick. We will be writing a 2-page document to try to get funding for growers in Madera County for cover crops to offset any water use fees.

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

- A. RCPP with American Farmland Trust (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - 32 applications for RCPP, the application window just closed last Friday for round 1. NRCS/RCD is accepting applications for Round 2. Scheduling site visits and getting information into computers are the next steps.
- B. Biochar Trial Project with American Farmland Trust (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy received the contract from AFT, the award amount is \$7,500. A site visit was scheduled on Matt’s orchard on January 31st.
- C. CDFA Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant (I)
 - MCRCRCD received funding collaboratively with the East Stanislaus and East Merced RCDs for \$241,200.
- D. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Kevin Reyes
 - Final Reports have been completed and sent off to growers for the final irrigation evaluations completed. We’re going to start picking back up irrigation evaluations starting March through November of this year.
- E. NRCS Groundwater Project (I) – Kevin Reyes
 - Our RCD is currently drafting 27 templates of groundwater conservation plans and our goal to reach is 35 by September of this year. Kevin is working on outreach to hit 35 by this summer.
- F. 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.

- G. DOC MLRP (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy has been meeting with DOC for the monthly collaborative calls. Madera County has issued out an official RFP for the consultant to write the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Plan. Once the consultant has been hired work will begin.
- H. MCRCDD 22-23 Budget (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy reviewed the 22-23 budget with the Board.
Motion was made by Tim Coehlo to approve the 22-23 budget with availability to readdress it if more funding comes in, there was a second by Erik Herman.
Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- I. MCRCDD Policies (I) (A)
 - Amy reviewed the updated MCRCDD policy manual with the Board.
Motion was made by Mike DeLaGuerra to approve the updated policy manual, there was a second by Erik Herman. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- J. Upcoming Workshops (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - The RCD will be hosting a Healthy Soils Workshop and Field Demonstration Day with Punjabi American Growers Group in March.
- K. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy reviewed the American Farmland Trust agreement for the Biochar project. The agreement total is \$7,500 for coordinating three outreach events.
Motion was made by Erik Herman to approve the contract with American Farmland Trust, there was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- L. 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. The application period hasn't opened, and she will evaluate what a proposal would look like once the application period becomes available.
 - Collin English with IFF said Open ET is looking to get grant funding with a collaborator for a cover crop trial, Collin will be connecting Amy to the contact at Open ET to talk about going in on a grant.
 - Amy is working with NRCS on a proposal for water and SGMA, healthy soils.
Motion was made by Mike DeLaGuerra to approve moving forward on a proposal with NRCS that is SGMA/water focused, a second was made by Erik Herman. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- M. Setting up Payroll for Executive Director (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - It was discussed with the Board to bring Amy Siliznoff on as an Executive Director employee of the RCD. Amy reviewed the payroll budget for her hourly rate and hours and what the amounts would cost to move forward with setting up payroll and benefits.
Mike DeLaGuerra made a motion to approve setting up Amy as an Executive Director employee of the RCD, Erik Herman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- N. Ethics & Harassment Training (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy reviewed with the Board that Ethics and Harassment Training is due this

year. She will send the Board members the online training link once the CSDA renewal goes through.

- O. Board Member Positions (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - o Amy discussed with the Board that two Board positions are available on MCRCDS Board. If any members have landowners that they think would be interested, to send her the names directly for her to reach out to.

VIII. Financial Report

A. Monthly Treasurer’s Report (I)

- o County Account: \$1,607.31
- o Central Valley Community Bank Account: \$33,303.65
- o Incoming from RCPP Invoice #2: \$407
- o Incoming from IFF (September Invoice): \$250
- o Incoming from IFF (October Invoice): \$250
- o Incoming from CDFA Invoices #1-#3 (July-Sept Work): \$17,370.68
- o Incoming from CDFA Invoice #4 (Oct-Jan Work): \$13,247.49
- o Incoming from NRCS Invoice #4 (Sept-Jan Work): \$13,346.92
- o Incoming from CARCD: \$130
- o Incoming from CARCD (Invoice #1 Equity Grant): \$225
- o Incoming from CARCD (Invoice #2 Equity Grant): \$325
- o Incoming from MLRP (Invoice #1 for Dec Work): \$55
- o **Total in all accounts: \$34,910.96**
 - **Total after incoming: \$80,518.05**

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

- o Expenses: Monthly fee for CalTech Web - \$99
- o QuickBooks TSheets (Grant Tracking) - \$28
- o Mileage Reimbursement for Kevin Reyes - \$145.41
- o Invoice for ATS Consulting - \$3,500
- o Reimbursement to ATS Consulting for Binder Supplies, Irrigation Workshop Food, and UPS Notarizing Fee - \$75.01
- o Lisbeth B. Bundli, CPA - \$398.50
- o GSRMA Workers Comp Insurance - \$348 (122 day prorated amount)
- o **Total Expenses: \$4,593.92**

Invoices to be paid after CDFA WETA & NRCS Groundwater Invoices are deposited:

- o East Stanislaus RCD – WETA Reimbursement Invoice 1 (July-Sept): \$11,612.15
- o East Stanislaus RCD – WETA Reimbursement Invoice 2 (Oct-Jan): \$8,741.85
- o East Stanislaus RCD – NRCS Groundwater Reimbursement Invoice 1: \$11,080.00
- o **Total Amount: \$31,434.00**

C. Total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid: \$44,490.13

- o 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 6:17PM.

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