



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



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

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

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was in person at the 425 N Gateway Dr, Suite K, Madera, CA. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Tim Coehlo, Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes Partners: Mira Dick (NRCS), Chris Yohannan (ESRCD)

**II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Update to financial section: Received \$325 check from CARCD, Kevin's mileage reimbursement is \$149.99

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

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A. **Approval of February Meeting Minutes** – Motion was made by Mike DeLaGuerra to approve the Meeting Minutes with a change to correct Jay Bellach to Mike DeLaGuerra under the approval of minutes section, there was a second by Matt Angell. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

**IV. Correspondence & Mail** – PO Box Renewal, CMZ flyer, and \$325 check from CARCD

**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.
- "LandFlex is a program that will provide \$25 million (\$23.3 available for grants after DWR administrative costs) in block grants to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to grant to growers who limit agricultural water use. GSAs will work directly with growers to identify land that would reduce pumping impacts to nearby drinking water wells. LandFlex will provide financial incentives to growers for each enrolled acre. To ensure small and mid-sized farms have access to the program, eligibility is limited to growers with a 3-year average Adjusted Gross Income of \$2.5 million or less." Madera County GSA received \$9.3 million under this program.

- LandFlex grant for this year, moving very fast, taking land out of production around domestic wells. Growers can apply through portal.
  - Weather: Really big storm on the way, Thursday night. Flood operation mode.
  - Chowchilla GSP was rejected by DWR, it is now considered inadequate. They are planning meetings on how to fix it.
  - Delta-Mendota has also been rejected.
  - Madera GSP hasn't been submitted yet.
  - County received 3 applications for MLRP, only 1 agency was responsive. They are under contract negotiation.
  - MAWA and Madera County FB requested changes to their contract and contracts haven't been signed by these agencies yet.
- B. NRCS Report – Mira Dick
- IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) Money – timelines, last signup date is March 17<sup>th</sup> for this year. It's all climate driven money. They have a list of activities covered. Funding must be spent within 5 years.
  - CSP funding available for growers, they're looking to get growers to start utilizing this funding. It's a 5-year contract, there's an opportunity to renew after 5 years for another 5 year period. \$200,000 cap.
  - Tractor funding April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Water Smart-Bureau of Reclamation (MID was funded), get water conservation practices funded.
  - National Civil Rights Compliance Review, goes through records and what they have posted and documentation of activities, materials they produce for outreach
- C. Madera Region IRWM/RWVG – Amy Siliznoff
- No update
- D. Farm Bureau – Amy Siliznoff
- The Ag Recycling Day with the Farm Bureau has been scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- E. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff
- Climate-Smart Agriculture for Nut Production workshop hosted by UCCE on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Topics include climate change, irrigation management, integrated pest management, climate-smart agriculture opportunities and challenges and incentives for farmers, as well as field updates. If interested, Amy will send out the flyer with the registration link.

## **VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics**

- A. RCPP with American Farmland Trust (I) – Amy Siliznoff
- RCD is ready for ranking applications (approximately 32). Round 2 is available up until April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Biochar Trial Project with American Farmland Trust (I) – Amy Siliznoff
- Amy is waiting to hear from AFT on the next steps moving forward in planning the outreach events.
- C. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Kevin Reyes
- Our irrigation season has kicked off. March 20<sup>th</sup> through November. 18

landowners have already reached out to be scheduled for evaluations.

- D. CDFA Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant (I)
  - ESRCDC hasn't received a contract from CDFA yet, and most likely will not receive it until April or May. Work would start in June or July the earliest. The award amount is \$244,200. Work includes habitat plans.
- 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. He's currently focused on updating Section 3.
- F. NRCS Equity Project (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 the Cover Crop/Healthy Soils Workshop.
- G. DOC MLRP (I) – Amy Siliznoff
  - Amy has been meeting with DOC for the monthly collaborative calls. Madera County has issued an official RFP for the consultant to write the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Plan. Once the consultant has been hired work will begin. Amy has sent the updated COI reflecting workers comp insurance and is waiting for the County to send the final fully executed contract.
- H. WCB Pollinator Block Grant (I) – Amy Siliznoff
  - \$166,983 is the total award amount, however CARCD issued a contract for Tasks 1, 4 and 6 only. Tasks 2 and 3 will come after the filing of NOE or CEQA documents for each habitat project. We have the option to share a biologist as needed with ESRCDC. They will be hosting the biologist position. This project will not require easements, but it will require monitoring and maintenance so we will need to have landowner agreements in place. 2/28/27 is the end date for this grant.
- I. Upcoming Workshops (I) – Amy Siliznoff
  - The RCD will be hosting a Healthy Soils Workshop and Field Demonstration Day with Punjabi American Growers Group in the Spring, as well as an Orchard Recycling workshop in the fall with CAFF.
- J. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Amy Siliznoff
  - Amy reviewed the CARCD-WCB agreement for the Pollinator Block Grant. The agreement is for tasks 1, 4, and 6 only. Motion was made by Matt Angell to approve the contract with CARCD, there was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
  - Nitricity Agreement – Amy reviewed the Nitricity proposal with the Board. The agreement is to assist Nitricity with hosting two workshop events, one in the fall of 2023 and the other in spring 2023. The Board had questions regarding the proposal and requested Amy to get clarifications on these questions. Amy will set up a meeting with a Board member to have these questions answered.
- 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. The application period hasn't opened, and

she will evaluate what a proposal would look like once the application period becomes available.

- Amy is working with NRCS on a proposal for water and SGMA, healthy soils.

## VIII. Financial Report

### A. Monthly Treasurer's Report (I)

- County Account: \$1,607.31
- Central Valley Community Bank Account: \$34,773.26
- Incoming from RCPP Invoice #2: \$407
- Incoming from RCPP Invoice #3: \$907.50
- Incoming from IFF (October Invoice): \$250
- Incoming from IFF (February Invoice): \$750
- Incoming from CDFA Invoice #4 (Oct-Jan Work): \$13,247.49
- Incoming from NRCS Invoice #4 (Sept-Jan Work): \$17,659.83
- Incoming from CARCD: \$130
- Incoming from CARCD (Invoice #1 Equity Grant): \$225
- Incoming from MLRP (Invoice #1 for Dec Work): \$50
- **Total in all accounts: \$36,380.57**
  - **Total after incoming: \$70,007.39**

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

- Expenses: Monthly fee for CalTech Web - \$99
- QuickBooks TSheets (Grant Tracking) - \$28
- PO Box Renewal - \$96
- Mileage Reimbursement for Kevin Reyes - \$149.99
- Invoice for ATS Consulting (Feb Services) - \$3,500
- Payroll for Amy Siliznoff for 3/5 – 3/18 payroll period - \$1,304.75
- Payroll for Kevin Reyes for 3/5 – 3/18 payroll period - \$1,273.82
- **Total Expenses: \$6,451.56**
- **Payroll Approval is subject to EDD information coming in before 3/5, if not there will only be 1 payroll period ran in March. If there is a bigger delay, then payroll will be shifted to April.**

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

- East Stanislaus RCD – WETA Reimbursement Invoice 2 (Oct-Jan): \$8,741.85
- East Stanislaus RCD – NRCS Groundwater Reimbursement Invoice 1: \$11,080.00
- **Total Amount: \$19,821.85**

### C. Total in all accounts after incoming is deposited and expenses are paid: \$43,733.98

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

**IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:16PM.**

Next Meeting: April 12, 2023, 5:00PM