



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 11, 2023 – 5:00-6:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:13PM by Tim Coehlo

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was in person at 425 N Gateway Dr, Suite K, Madera, CA. Directors: Tim Coehlo, Erik Herman, Shannon Iest, Andrew Carroll; Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Trina Walley, Kevin Reyes, Partners: Mira Dick (NRCS), Guest: Will Gleason

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Amy requested three additions: News/Other Meetings, NRCS Update and Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs were added to the agenda. Closed Session – Employee Review was removed off of the agenda.

III. Approval of Minutes

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

IV. Correspondence & Mail – Checks from EMRCD and CARCD

V. Public Comments – No public comments

VI. Reports

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Email from Stephanie Anagnoson

- **Madera Subbasin** – Subbasin as a whole is still listed as “incomplete” by DWR
- County GSA is continuing with allocations, developing a recharge credit policy and Landflex and multi-benefit land repurposing grants.
- **Chowchilla Subbasin** – Subbasin as a whole is “inadequate” with a SWRCB date in late next year. Subbasin has submitted an informal revision of the GSP for feedback from SWRCB and apparently SWRCB and DWR are coordinating the feedback.
- County GSA is continuing with allocations, developing a recharge credit policy and multi-benefit land repurposing grant.
- **Delta-Mendota Subbasin** – Subbasin as a whole is “inadequate” with a SWRCB date in late next year. Subbasin is working on revisions including one GSP.
- County GSA is continuing with allocations, developing a recharge credit policy and multi-benefit land repurposing grant.

- B. NRCS Report – Mira Dick
 - NRCS is currently pushing last of contracting phase. No numbers to report. New grant programs posted (WaterSMART with MID), CSP and combined projects. Expecting new revisions in the CD/Ranking based on feedback this year. New Programs Lead – Brandon helping with these changes.
 - California obligated 113 million to the State. Madera obligated \$8,268,000, 72 new contracts, 12,050 acres. MID and the RCD have helped with outreach, with 23 contracts for 2.5 million under the recharge pilot program. RCPP-AFT had 3 contracts for \$63,000. NRCS decided to have an application deadline on November 3rd. Appropriations are extended until November 27th.

- C. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff
 - CARCD 78th Annual Conference is December 12th-15th in Sacramento. The RCD has received an outstanding partnership award from NRCS for work pioneering groundwater recharge on agricultural lands. The award will be presented at the CARCD Conference Awards Banquet on December 14th. Amy is planning to attend the 13th-14th. The Almond Board Conference is December 5th-7th in Sacramento. The San Joaquin Valley RCDs will have a table there and MCRCD will plan on sending Kevin to represent the RCD.

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

- A. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Kevin Reyes
 - Currently working on reporting as harvest started and no evaluations scheduled. Kevin’s outreached to Farm Bureau, Almond Board, and Mosquito Abatement.
- B. NRCS Groundwater Project (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Kevin finished and delivered the final groundwater reports to growers. They were sent to growers at the end of September. Amy closed out the invoicing for the grant and submitted the final report.
- C. NRCS Equity Project (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - The RCD will be hosting a Grower Recharge workshop with Sustainable Conservation, NRCS, Almond Board, and other partners on October 18th from 10-1 at the Farm Bureau. Lunch will be provided. Registration is linked to our website.
- D. DOC MLRP (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Two workshops will be held on Wednesday, November 15th from 6-7:30PM, and Thursday, November 16th from 7-8:30AM.
 - The pilot project being planned with the MLRP group is a La Vina buffer project. The desires of La Vina residents are any increment of air quality improvement, and a buffer zone would be well received. Their focus is advocacy for policies that would prevent pesticide use on lands surrounding residential communities.
- E. SBIR 2 Grant with IFF (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy reviewed the subcontract for the SBIRII Grant with IFF. Motion was made by Shannon lest to approve the subcontract, there was a second by Tim Coehlo. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- F. Local Workgroup Meeting (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Planned for October 27th from 9-10:30AM. The meeting will be held on Zoom. Amy

will send out the final agenda with zoom link one week prior to the meeting.

- G. Board Compliance (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Reminder that Form 700 and Ethics Training is due
- H. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Amy Siliznoff
 - None at this time
- I. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - RCPP was submitted by CARCD for work on Climate Smart Ag that will include subcontracts to RCDs in the San Joaquin Valley for Almonds specifically.
 - Flood & Drought Relief for Small Farms grant opportunity will provide relief to small agricultural businesses that experienced a decline in annual gross receipts or gross profits due to drought or storm flood conditions.
 - The State Water Resources Control Board is accepting proposals for projects that improve water quality by reducing fertilizers, sediment, pesticides, and other pollutants in water. Proposals can be for sustainable farming, grazing, timber harvest, wildfire recovery, habitat restoration, and more. Amy is looking into this grant opportunity to see if it will be a good fit for the RCD.

VIII. Financial Report with Updated Budget

- Erik Herman made a motion to approve the updated budget as amended. There was a second by Andrew Carroll. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Erik Herman made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report. There was a second by Shannon Iest. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Erik Herman made a motion to approve the expense report. There was a second by Erik Herman. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:07PM.

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