



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 – 5:00-6:00PM**

**I. Call to Order: 5:05PM by Norman Kuhr**

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was in person at the FSA office located at 425 N Gateway Dr, Ste K, Madera, CA. Directors: Mike DeLaGuerra, Andrew Carroll, Matt Angell, Tim Coehlo, Norman Kuhr, Shannon Iest; Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes; Partners: Mira Dick, NRCS

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

Changes to Financial Report

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A. **Approval of January Meeting Minutes** – Motion was made by Matt Angell to approve the Meeting Minutes, there was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

**IV. Correspondence & Mail** – Check from Madera County, Check from AFT, CMZ flyer, Letter from AFT regarding easement, Tax Documents from Auditors-Controllers Office, EDD letter, CSDA flyers and magazines.

**V. Public Comments** – No public comments

**VI. Reports**

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff

- No current updates

B. NRCS Report – Mira Dick

- Notified yesterday that application deadline is being moved back to March 1<sup>st</sup>, already putting in over 240 applications. Madera web soil survey books are available to the RCD. Formal announcements for cooperative agreements inviting applications for \$25-\$75K. Dannamarie is moving to Fresno office. Another opportunity for contribution agreements will be coming out shortly.

C. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff

- Ag Plastic Recycling Event at the Farm Bureau is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Area 9 Regional RCD meeting will be hosted by the Tulare RCD on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 9-12 at the Whitney Wild Oak Ranch in Exeter, a no host lunch, followed by a field trip to a citrus packing house.
- Governor Newsom released his proposed budget on January 10, 2024. The budget proposes a funding swap from the state's General Fund to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) for SWEEP funding. CDFA is thrilled to see this proposed

swap instead of a reduction or loss of funding and hopeful that this budget will pass the legislature in June 2024. The proposed budget would allow CDFA to begin spending GGRF SWEEP funding in the next budget year, starting in July 2024.

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- The fund swap does change the logistics of the SWEEP solicitation that was paused in December 2023. Whereas General Fund monies are flexible, GGRF funding requires demonstrable greenhouse gas reduction benefits in addition to water savings. The California Air Resources Board (CARB), which stewards the GGRF, must approve the quantification methodology for those benefits.
- CDFA has established a clear and approved methodology for carbon dioxide emission reductions through electrification and efficiency of irrigation equipment. However, their new calculator tool, released last fall, includes GHG benefits from nitrous oxide emission reductions which does not yet have CARB approval. CDFA created the nitrous oxide tool to expand the breadth of projects that meet SWEEP's dual goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving water. For applicants to use the nitrous oxide tool to be eligible for GGRF SWEEP funding, they must work with our colleagues at CARB on vetting the methodology. CDFA cannot guarantee the timeline and outcome of this process or whether it will be complete prior to the next solicitation but will work diligently to move the project forward.
- East Side Madera Coalition meeting is Feb 7<sup>th</sup>

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

### **A. RCPP with American Farmland Trust**

- Applications for round 2 deadline is April 5<sup>th</sup>. Ranking deadline for round one is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Currently, 4 water conservation applications are being reviewed. Soil applications aren't getting funded, water conservation projects are the primary selections. Past two years, Chris has spent 720 hours between 2 offices (Oct 21-Sept 22). Last year (Oct 22- Sept 23) 561.25 hours, Chris is limited to hours this year. 696.75 hours remaining for Chris between ESRCD and MCRCD, there's two years remaining on the grant.
- Total applications for the past two years: 2023, ranked 25 for Madera, 2 got funded for Madera (water related projects)

### **B. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Kevin Reyes**

- We are planning the Madera Nutrient & Irrigation Workshop on March 26<sup>th</sup> from 9-11AM. CCA and INMP credits will be available. This will be hosted at the Farm Bureau. Evaluations will be kicking off in March. Kevin has contacted Cal Poly, for pump testing training cost is \$600 (Feb 28-March 1<sup>st</sup>). Fresno State is currently offering free training (50 pumps within 2-3 weeks). Fee for service, he can go with our tester. Amy to check with NRCS if this is a service we can provide.

### **C. CDFA Agricultural Planning Grant**

- Kevin and Joanna are completing site visits and outreach to growers to complete 12 total plans.
- We are waiting for the final template from ESRCD
- D. NRCS Equity Project (I) – Amy Siliznoff
  - Amy is waiting to hear back from CAFF, she's in contact with Rasheed and has left a few follow up messages regarding planning a collaborative workshop event this Spring.
- E. DOC MLRP (I) – Amy Siliznoff
  - The RCD will be hosting a pollinator outreach event to garner interest under the MLRP program, it is scheduled for March 20 from 9-11AM, it will be a hybrid meeting. Amy is confirming presenters and will plan on applying for CCA credits. The RCD team has also been attending the statewide DOC MLRP meetings, monthly partner DOC meetings, and bi-weekly partner meetings for project planning. The RCD is assisting with planning for the La Vina pollinator pilot project. We will be having a community meeting in La Vina residents along with Leadership Counsel on Feb 15<sup>th</sup> from 5-7:30PM to discuss the potential pollinator project with the residents to get their approval. The objective of a La Vina community meeting is to present the plan and process we are undertaking to develop the buffer zone project as an MLRP pilot. I understand the community is eager to learn more and it would be a valuable opportunity for relationship building. This would also be a precursor to a community conversation that includes Deborah and dialogue around mutual care for the project site.
- F. WCB Pollinator Block Grant (I)
  - The RCD had a site visit with Coarsegold RCD at Hillside Elementary on Wed, Jan 31<sup>st</sup> with representatives from Hillside Elementary. The school has a few planter boxes outside the office they would like to be planted with native habitat. On the larger scale, the school needs to get permission from the McCaffrey Homes to do any other projects. There was a spot off campus that's 5,000 SF of usable land. The principal will be reaching out to the McCaffrey group to see if they will allow us to install habitat in this area. Other potential projects sites include the Sierra Senior Center and the Oakhurst Community Center in Oakhurst. We're also planning to utilize WCB funds for the LaVina pilot project for supplies/plant materials.
- G. SBIR II – Amy Siliznoff
  - Collin has five new locations to complete field evaluations. They range from 17 to 240 acres. He's looking to have evaluations completed in late February, early March. He thinks it will be about 2-3 days work with everything included. Collin is planning to be there to help.
- H. Board Compliance (I) – Amy Siliznoff
  - Reminder that Form 700 and Ethics/Harassment Training is due
  - Norm needs to complete Ethics and Harassment Training
  - Tim needs to complete Ethics Training
  - Amy needs to complete Harassment & Ethics
  - Matt Angell needs to completed Harassment & Ethics

- Mike D is due for trainings on 4/13
- Erik is due for trainings on 3/23
- Need Form 700's to be submitted, Amy's received Mike and Eriks.
- Financial Transactions Report has been completed by Lis and submitted in January.
- I. Upcoming Workshops – (I)
  - Workshop event with CAFF for NRCS Equity as well as Nutrient and Irrigation Management workshop in early Spring.
- J. Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Amy Siliznoff
  - None at this time
- K. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
  - Amy met with Tom Devol with the Almond Board on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss another round of funding for the RCDs Mobile Irrigation Lab. Tom said they have funding but since their funding runs Aug-July, he will be getting back with me to confirm how much remaining they have for this year, but for sure they will have funding for their next fiscal year. Amy will plan on following up, and also plan to follow up every June/July to see if there's funding available.

#### **VIII. Financial Report**

- Tim Coehlo made a motion to approve the February Financial and Treasurers Report. There was a second by Matt Angell. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

#### **IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:27PM.**

Next Meeting: March 26, 2024, 5:00PM