



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 26, 2024 – 5:00-6:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:15PM by Matt Angell

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was in person at the FSA office located at 425 N Gateway Dr, Ste K, Madera, CA. Directors: Tim Coehlo, Andrew Carrol, Erik Herman, Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell; Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes, Mark Hutson; Partners: Mira Dick, NRCS

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Amy needs approval for Joanna to book a hotel for attending the Region 9 meeting for April 12th. Total cost is around \$125. Motion was made by Mike DeLaGuerra to approve the change, there was a second by Erik Herman. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

III. Approval of Minutes

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

IV. Correspondence & Mail – Tim’s Form 700, CSDA flyers and magazines.

V. **Public Comments** – Mark Hutson discussed the Reclamation Maps from the Bureau of Reclamation that showed subsidence levels in the Red Top Area. It showed subsidence has significantly improved.

VI. Reports

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff

- Madera Subbasin has approved GSPs.
- Chowchilla and Delta Mendota GSPs are being revised and both subbasins are under state board jurisdiction.

B. NRCS Report – Mira Dick

- There is still opportunity to apply for CSP, RCPP, MID WaterSMART (irrigation/water conservation projects). The Mader Field Office has 96 pre-approved applications and they’ve been very busy. Sheryl Feit will be working part-time for the Madera Field Office.

C. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff

- Ag Plastic Recycling Event at the Farm Bureau is scheduled for April 15th
- Area 9 Regional RCD meeting will be hosted by the Tulare RCD on March 15th 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.

- Tim Coelho brought up the Avian Flu is hitting cattle

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

A. RCPP with American Farmland Trust

- Applications for round 2 deadline is April 5th. The ranking deadline for round one is March 15th. Currently, Chris processed 1 application for Madera. Soil applications aren't getting funded, water conservation projects are the primary selections. 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

- The RCD hosted a Nutrient & Irrigation Workshop on March 26th from 9-11AM. We had roughly 20 growers in attendance. Evaluations have kicked off and Kevin is scheduling for the 2024 season. If anyone is interested in scheduling an evaluation, reach out to Kevin to get on the schedule.

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 hosted a pollinator outreach event to garner interest under the MLRP program, it was hosted on March 20 from 9-11AM. We had 20 attendees at the event. 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. The County hosted a GSA Resource fair, and the RCD had a booth at the event. We had 8 irrigation sign-ups and 2 pollinator project signups, and there were over 50 people that attended the event.

F. WCB Pollinator Block Grant (I)

- Hillside Elementary has signed the landowner agreement and is ready to move forward on their pollinator garden project. The school has a few planter boxes outside the office they would like to be planted with native habitat. We've been outreaching to local growers in Madera County to garner interest in pollinator hedgerow projects.

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 will submit Ethics certificate to Amy.
 - Need remaining Form 700's to be submitted
- I. Upcoming Workshops – (I)
- East Merced RCD will be hosting their Irrigation & Nutrient Management Workshop March 27th from 9-11AM.
 - The RCD will be hosting a workshop with CAFF in Spring/Early Summer.
 - The RCD will be co-hosting a workshop event with Ofi and Nitricity on April 19th.
- J. Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Amy Siliznoff
- The RCD received the Almond Board contract for \$20K to complete 20 almond irrigation evaluations in Madera County.
- K. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
- The NRCS Cooperative Agreement is due next week, Amy is planning to submit for funding.

VIII. Financial Report

- Tim Coehlo made a motion to approve the March Financial Report. There was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

Erik Herman made a motion to approve the March Expense Report. There was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:46PM.

Next Meeting: April 23, 2024, 5:00PM