



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 – 5:00-6:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:12PM 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: Andrew Carrol, Shannon Iest, Erik Herman, Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell; Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes, Mark Hutson; Partners: Mira Dick, NRCS

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Amy requested to add the following line items under the RCD Report Section:

- Quickbooks Desktop Purchase
- RWMG
- LWG Meeting
- RCD to purchase compost/fertilizer/amendment spreader

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

IV. Correspondence & Mail – CSDA Flyers, CMZ flyers, almond board check, CARCD general membership special meeting, central valley community bank name change flyer, CalTRUST flyer, Measure T special meeting flyer, SAM.gov renewal, GSRMA annual report

V. Public Comments – No public comment

VI. Reports

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff

- There was a public hearing to put Tulare Lake on probation. It was long and brutal.
- Chowchilla and Delta-Mendota Subbasins are on the list to head to probation, so both subbasins are revising GSPs.

B. NRCS Report – Mira Dick

- 105 applications are pre-approved, NRCS is supporting partners with events, they are looking to hire a summer intern.

C. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff

- Punjabi American Growers Group Workshop will be hosted on May 18th
- Sustainable Conservation is hosting a Soil Health Webinar on May 15th
- MCRCD is hosting a Biochar Field Day in Collaboration with AFT and UC Merced on May 30th

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

- A. RCPP with American Farmland Trust
 - Chris Yohannan processed 1 water conveyance structure application for Madera.
- B. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Kevin Reyes
 - Amy will be running a position for a summer irrigation intern position for June-August. 5 irrigation evaluations are in process, 3 evaluations are scheduled in the next few weeks.
- C. CDFA Agricultural Planning Grant
 - Currently have 3 pollinator plans in progress, 1 is complete, list of growers that are interested in pollinator plans, waiting on partner biologist to get pollinator plans
- D. NRCS Equity Project (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy has a meeting scheduled with Sara Tiffany, CAFF's Director of Ecological Farming and her colleague Hanna to discuss the possibility of collaborating on a workshop event in Madera, and just learn more about each other's work on May 22nd
- E. DOC MLRP (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - RCD team has also been attending the statewide DOC MLRP meetings, monthly partner DOC meetings, and bi-weekly partner meetings for project planning. The team is working on structuring the incentive payment for growers through this program. We're currently setting up a planning discussion to go over the La Vina incentive payment. The RCD is assisting with planning for the La Vina pollinator pilot project.
- F. WCB Pollinator Block Grant (I)
 - We've been moving forward on the Hillside Elementary School pollinator project. Kevin applied for a Xerces pollinator kit. This project will include pollinator curriculum for the students at the elementary school. Planting will take place during the fall.
 - We will be moving forward to submit for plants for Deborah's project in La Vina. We're waiting for Deborah to sign and approve the WCB landowner agreement before proceeding with ordering the plant materials.
- G. SBIR II – Amy Siliznoff
 - Kevin has completed 6 irrigation evaluations under this project. He'll go through training on how to set up a neutron probe. Collin is also training Kevin how to check pressures. Colling will be working on the final report then will show Kevin how it's formatted.
- 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

- Need remaining Form 700's to be submitted. Amy is missing Shannon and Andrews Form 700.
- Amy to resend the link to everyone.
- I. Upcoming Workshops – (I)
 - Sustainable Conservation is hosting a Soil Health Webinar on May 15th
 - MCRCRD is hosting a Biochar Field Day in Collaboration with AFT and UC Merced on May 30th
- J. Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Amy Siliznoff
 - AFT Subaward 60K for 3 years (20k each year) This grant includes outreach, education, technical assistance, and application support to assist 25+ NRCS funding applications, including actively servicing applications in higher level support, technical assistance, and processing tasks with NRCS staff able to provide more effectively and efficiently administer NRCS-specific technical and contracting processes in higher-workload offices.
 - Mike DeLaGuerra made a motion to approve the AFT Subaward. There was a second by Erik Herman. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- K. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy submitted for the NRCS Cooperative Agreement for 60K for 2-year agreement. She will find out this month if the RCD was awarded.
- L. Quickbooks Desktop Purchase
 - Amy needs approval for Quickbooks Desktop Purchase
 - Shannon Iest made a motion to approve purchasing Quickbooks Desktop. There was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- M. RWMG
 - Amy was approached by the County to assist with coordinating the Regional Water Management Group in Madera. Amy and Jon Cottington with Coarsegold RCD would split the position and work together on coordination tasks. Amy wanted to discuss this with the Board and bring this to their attention.
- N. LWG Meeting
 - Amy will be meeting with Mira to set a date for a Local Workgroup meeting. Board members to put this on their radar to attend.
- O. RCD to purchase compost/fertilizer/amendment spreader
 - It was brought to the attention of the Board that it would be beneficial for the RCD to purchase a compost/fertilizer/amendment spreader. We would have the opportunity to rent this to others (Fee for Service for RCD). Kevin can take it from site to site. This would be approximately \$60k to purchase.

VIII. Financial Report

- Andrew Carroll made a motion to approve the April/May Financial Report. There was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors. Andrew Carroll made a motion to approve the April/May Expense Report. There was a second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:31PM.

Next Meeting: June 12, 2024, 5:00PM