



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 10, 2024 – 5:00-6:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:08PM 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: Norman Kuhr, Andrew Carrol, Shannon Iest, Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell; Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes, Eduardo Perez; Partners: Mira Dick, NRCS

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

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

- RCD to purchase compost/fertilizer/amendment spreader

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

III. Approval of Minutes

A. **Approval of May 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 magazines, SAM.gov renewal

V. Public Comments – No public comment

VI. Reports

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff

- The county is working on revisions to the Chowchilla and Delta Mendota GSPs to get them hopefully out of the line of fire for a probation hearing with the State Board
- For Madera, they are doing GSP updates due January 2025
- There is some craziness with their lawsuit on fees. There is a hearing to dismiss the lawsuit on Tuesday.

B. NRCS Report – Mira Dick

- NRCS is obligating contracts. They're sending more to obligate and they're putting applications into contracts

C. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff

- The RCD will be hosting a Local Workgroup Meeting on July 17th from 12PM-2PM
- The RCD will set up a strategic planning meeting after the 4th of July
- APG has a healthy soils grant, there can be an opportunity for the RCD to assist with monitoring

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

- A. RCPP with American Farmland Trust (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Chris Yohannan processed 1 water conveyance structure application for Madera.
- B. AFT Biochar Field Day (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - The RCD hosted a Field Day with AFT on May 30th from 9AM-12PM. There was over 50 people at the event and it was a great success.
- C. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Kevin Reyes
 - The RCD has hired a new Irrigation Intern, Eduardo Perez. His official start date is May 28th.
 - We have 11 evaluations scheduled for the next 3 weeks, 5 are currently in process.
 - Kevin is looking at getting training on pump testing
- D. CDFA Agricultural Planning Grant (I) – Kevin Reyes
 - The RCD currently has 3 pollinator plans in progress, 1 is complete. We have 5 growers that are interested in pollinator plans. We're waiting on the partner biologist Deedee to get back to us on the pollinator plan. We will look into reaching out to Rex Dufour to assist with pollinator plans.
- E. NRCS Equity Project (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy met with Sara Tiffany, CAFFs Director of Ecological Farming and her colleague Hanna on May 22nd. We're planning on a collaborative cover crop/water and irrigation field day event. Amy requested an additional 6-month extension to this grant, for an end date of March 2025.
- F. DOC MLRP (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - RCD team has 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.
- G. WCB Pollinator Block Grant (I) – Kevin Reyes
 - We've been moving forward on the Hillside Elementary School pollinator project. 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.
- H. 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.
- I. LWG Meeting (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - The Local Workgroup meeting will be held on July 17th from 12PM-2PM. Amy would like the Board to put this on their calendars to attend.
- J. 24-25 Budget (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy reviewed the 24-25 budget with the Board.
 - Motion was made by Shannon Iest to approve the 24-25 budget, there was a

second by Mike DeLaGuerra. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

K. 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
- Amy to resend the link to everyone.

L. Upcoming Workshops (I) – Amy Siliznoff

- The RCD will be hosting a biochar workshop in the fall with AFT, along with a healthy soils/water conservation workshop in the spring with CAFF.

M. Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Amy Siliznoff

- Amy needs approval for the CARCD Wildlife Conservation Board Implementation Agreement.
- Matt Angell made a motion to approve the Subaward. There was a second by Andrew Carroll. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

N. 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.

O. RCD to purchase compost/fertilizer/amendment spreader (I) – Amy Siliznoff

- 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. Amy will look into funding to cover the cost of purchasing the equipment.

VIII. Financial Report

- Andrew Carroll made a motion to approve the June Financial Report and Expense Report. There was a second by Shannon Iest. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:36PM.

Next Meeting: July 10, 2024, 5:00PM