



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 11, 2024 – 5:00-6:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:14PM 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: Norman Kuhr, Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell, Erik Herman; Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes; Partners: Mira Dick, NRCS

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

No additions

III. Approval of Minutes

A. **Approval of August 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 – CSDA magazines, Chowchilla Management Zone Flyer, Higbee & Associates letter, ESRCDC check, Madera County check

V. Public Comments – No public comment

VI. Reports

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff

- Upcoming workshop events to provide input on the draft plan for MLRP in Madera County:
 - Virtual workshop on Monday, September 9th from 4PM-6:30PM on Zoom
 - In-person workshop on Wednesday, September 11th from 12:30-2:30PM at the Madera County Government Center, lunch will be provided
 - In-person workshop #2 on Wednesday, September 11th from 6-7:30PM at the Fairmead Elementary School Cafeteria, food will start at 5:30PM

B. NRCS Report – Mira Dick

- Farm Bill remains in limbo
- 2008 Farm Bill extended through September 2024
- EQIP program has had an abundance of applications this year, the Madera field office has contracted three times the amount they typically do per year.
- Title 2 is extended through 2031 through IRA
- Madera Field office had the most applications preapproved through the State
- 27 obligations, all forestry and 2 rangeland projects
- Recharge will be coming back next year, right after October 1st reach out to NRCS if interested in moving forward with a project

- Dave and Blair will be assisting the Madera Field office with engineering while finding a replacement for Prospero
 - October 9th a new planner Niel will be starting with the Madera Field office
- C. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff
- Grape, Nut & Tree Fruit Expo: November 8, 2024 at the Big Fresno Fairgrounds (7 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
 - Tree & Vine Expo: November 12, 2024 at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds (7 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
 - Register to Attend California's Premier Agricultural Industry Events This November Featuring:
 - State of the Almond, Pecan, Pistachio, Raisin, Table Grape, Tree Fruit, Walnut & Wine Industry Presentations
 - California DPR, CCA & CDFA INMP (NEW) Continuing Education Credited Seminars
 - Tradeshow Featuring the Latest Agricultural Technologies, Innovations & Professional Services
 - FREE Breakfast & Tri-Tip Lunch
- Jack Fry, our beloved Chowchilla Red-Top RCD (former) board member, passed peacefully on August 22nd, surrounded by his loving family. A memorial service will be held on **October 19th at Cornerstone Church in Chowchilla**

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

- A. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Kevin Reyes
- 1 irrigation evaluation is scheduled, Kevin is finishing up final reports. So far Madera has 26 evaluations total. 12-14 reports have been completed and sent back to growers.
- B. CDFA Agricultural Planning Grant (I) – Kevin Reyes
- Kevin has been working with another biologist, Point Blue, on setting up site visits with growers. He's been training on how to complete site visits independently. He will contact Rex Dufour for additional assistance. We currently we have 3 evaluations in progress, 1 is complete, 6 signups.
 - Kevin has a site visit scheduled with Cate Mong/Point Blue at a cattle ranch on 9/12
 - Looking for rangeland site visits
- C. NRCS Equity Project (I) – Amy Siliznoff
- Amy met with Sara Tiffany, CAFF's 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.
- D. DOC MLRP (I) – Amy Siliznoff
- RCD team has been attending the statewide DOC MLRP meetings, monthly partner DOC meetings, and bi-monthly partner meetings for project planning. The team is working on reviewing Deborah's contract as well as the draft

MALRP for structuring the incentive payment for growers through this program. The La Vina incentive payment has been proposed to Deborah and she's signed the Landowner Access Agreement to move forward with the project. The next step will be for her to sign the MLRP contract. The RCD will be assisting with the implementation of the project.

- Three workshop events have been scheduled:
 - Virtual workshop on Monday, September 9th from 4PM-6:30PM on Zoom
 - In-person workshop on Wednesday, September 11th from 12:30-2:30PM at the Madera County Government Center, lunch will be provided
 - In-person workshop #2 on Wednesday, September 11th from 6-7:30PM at the Fairmead Elementary School Cafeteria, food will start at 5:30PM

E. WCB Pollinator Block Grant (I) – Kevin Reyes

- Kevin is working on the Hillside Elementary School project with Jon Cottington from Coarsegold RCD, we are partnered on this project
- Arranging another school site visit to get familiar with where the school would like to plant. Great Valley seed and Xerces gardening list. Mariposa native nursery.
- Amy to reach out to Tesoro Viejo to see if they'd want to incorporate a pollinator garden in the urban area of their property
- Going over pollinator curriculum for the kids at the elementary school. Planting is during the fall. The school has big garden beds located at the front of the school. This is where the project will be implemented.

F. SBIR II – Amy Siliznoff

- Software IMO will Collin, how to calibrate model with Collin, use in data collection process
- Kevin finished nuclear gauge safety and HAZMAT certification to transfer neutron probe
- Kevin will be meeting with Collin September 12th to discuss more about the next steps
- He purchased new telemetry equipment.
- Amy to reach out to Collin if extension will be made to the contract, supposed to end September 30th

G. Board Compliance (I) – Amy Siliznoff

- Reminder that Form 700 and Ethics/Harassment Training is due
- Amy needs to complete Harassment & Ethics
- Matt Angell needs to completed Harassment & Ethics
- Amy to resend the link to everyone and work with finding an in-person training for Matt to attend.

H. Upcoming Workshops (I) – Amy Siliznoff

- The RCD will be hosting a biochar workshop in the spring with AFT, along with a healthy soils/water conservation workshop in the spring with CAFF.
- The RCD will be presenting on the RCDs pollinator program at the Organic Transition workshop that UC Organic Agricultural Institute (UCOAI) will be co-planning with CAFF to be held November 7th from 8:30AM-1PM at the Kearny Ag Center in Parlier. The workshop will focus on the why, how, what of organic transition and have a "resource fair" where TA providers local to the San Joaquin Valley can chat with growers about the resources that they provide.
- Amy will present on our current La Vina pollinator project/hedgerow case

study, potentially with Xerces Society Biologist on plant selection and the farmer who implemented the project

- I. Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Amy Siliznoff
 - No current contracts/agreements
- J. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy is collaborating with the ESRCDC on the CDFA Specialty Crop Block Grant Proposal for assisting with outreach events.

VIII. Financial Report

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

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:09PM.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2024, 5:00PM