



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 9, 2024 – 5:00-6:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:09PM 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: Mike DeLaGuerra, Matt Angell, Tim Coehlo, Andrew Carroll, Shannon Iest; Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes; Partners: Mira Dick, NRCS

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

No additions

III. Approval of Minutes

A. **Approval of September Meeting Minutes** – Motion was made by Andrew Carroll 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, CARCD check, IFF check, Merced County check, Annual Information Request

V. Public Comments – No public comment

VI. Reports

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff

- County is working on the periodic evaluation in the Madera Subbasin.
- Other GSPs in Chowchilla and Delta Mendota are being read by the State Board.

B. NRCS Report – Mira Dick

- This is the highest year obligated in Madera County, \$14 million total in contracts.
- Madera is the only office in the State that has over 100 contracts
- IRA gives them opportunities for forestry projects that haven't been previously funded by EQIP
- Dennis obligated 78 contracts in forestry
- Two new staff member introductions at next meeting, Mae Yang and Shawn Niel
- Priscilla has decided to be a stay-at-home mom, and her last week will be end of October
- Taylor will be returning, and Prospero has decided to take a position at the State office.
- Kevin has an assignment of 20 contracts to assist NRCS
- Dave and Blair will be covering Prospero until they find an engineer replacement

C. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff

- ***SJV Natural Resources Hub Fall Gathering*** on Monday, November 18th at the McKenzie Table Mountain Preserve in Prather.
The gentlemen that operate the Rancher-to-Rancher network will be guiding attendees through a day of peer-to-peer learning, soil health education and facilitation techniques. This event will be open to SJV RCDs, including Directors, staff and Board Members, along with valuable partners.
- **Cultivating a Sustainable Future: Water & Recharge Strategies**
October 24 (Tulare CA)
Join American Pistachio Growers and Sustainable Conservation for an essential Recharge Day, where industry leaders, researchers, and experts will come together to discuss the future of water and sustainability in agriculture. This free event will dive deep into critical topics such as SGMA compliance, recharge preparation, and how sustainable practices directly influence groundwater recharge
- **Annual Grape, Nut and Tree Fruit Expo**
November 8 (Fresno CA)
- **The Almond Conference 2024**
December 10 - 12 (Sacramento CA)
- **CARCD Conference 2024**
December 10 - 12 (Sacramento CA)

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. 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. Deborah has signed the La Vina MLRP contract, and the next step will be the Board of Supervisors approving her contract. The RCD will be assisting with the implementation of the project.
- Four workshop events have been scheduled:
 - Pre-App in-person workshop on Wednesday, November 6th, from 8AM-10AM at the Madera County Farm Bureau
 - Virtual Pre-App workshop is Friday, November 8th from 12-1:30PM.
 - Agave 101 Workshop is on Tuesday, November 19th from 9-11AM at Madera Community College Auditorium
 - Agave Field Demonstration is Tuesday, November 19th from 12-1:30PM at

the Specialty Crop Company Agave Farm, lunch will be provided

- D. 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.
 - 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.
- E. 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
 - Grant will be ending but Collin will be reaching back out in the Spring for an extension
- F. NRCS Cooperative Agreement (I) – Kevin Reyes
 - Kevin will be working on 30 applications/20 contracts under the Cooperative Agreement.
- G. AFT – NRCS IRA TA (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Kevin has been assisting NRCS with TA on their EQIP contracts, assisting with site visits and processing applications.
- H. AFT - RCPP (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - The RCD will be taking on the new budget amendment from AFT directly, instead of the amendment going to East Stanislaus RCD. The amendment is for \$41,520 for remaining uncovered conservation planning steps under RCPP.
- I. Regional Water Management Group (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy and Jon Cottington with Coarsegold RCD are having discussions on being the next co-coordinators of the Regional Water Management Group. The RWMG is looking for a Board member from either RCD to step into the Chair position. If interested, please reach out to Amy directly.
- J. Board Compliance (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Matt Angell and Amy need to work on both Harassment and Ethics training. Tim Coehlo needs to complete Ethics training. Other certificates are expiring and Amy will give those Board members a notice when their training are up for renewal.
- K. 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. An Irrigation & Nutrient Management Workshop is planned for January 17th from 9-11AM, and an Agave Field Day Event on November 19th from 12-1:30PM. Amy will also be presenting at CAFF/UCOAI Organic Transition Learning Day on November 7th.
- L. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Amy Siliznoff
 - AFT RCPP amendment contract will be coming through within the next month.
- M. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - No upcoming grant applications

VIII. Financial Report

- Mike DeLaGuerra made a motion to approve the August 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 6:24PM.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2024, 5:00PM