



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 – 5:00-6:00PM**

**I. Call to Order: 5:12PM by Norman Kuhr**

A. Director Roll Call

Attendance was in person at Mario's Restaurant in Chowchilla, CA. Directors: Norman Kuhr, Mike DeLaGuerra, Tim Coehlo, Shannon Iest, Andrew Carroll; Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes; Partners: Mira Dick, NRCS

**II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

No changes/additions

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A. **Approval of November Meeting Minutes** – Motion was made by Tim Coehlo to approve the Meeting Minutes, there was a second by Andrew Carroll. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

**IV. Correspondence & Mail** – Madera County check, CSDA Magazines, PNP magazine, CMZ flyer

**V. Public Comments** – No public comment

**VI. Reports**

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff

- Madera Joint GSP amendment comments close on Friday
- Public hearing on 1/28 for County GSA

B. NRCS Report – Mira Dick

- NRCS is getting another planner, Shawn and Mar will plan to come to the next Board meeting for introductions.
- Training for CD cart is in January
- Act now program is still open for applications until January 31<sup>st</sup>, projects have to be shovel ready
- There is still time to apply for CSP
- Madera did 153 EQIP applications and \$14 million in obligations
- Farm Bill has been extended another 18 months
- IRA funding ends September 2031

C. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff

- Matt Angell and Amy met with No Regrets Initiative on December 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss potential funding opportunity for a fertilizer spreader as well as support for the RCDs Mobile Irrigation Lab. Amy will follow up with a budget for the Mobile

Irrigation Lab as well as provider the No Regrets Team with pricing for two fertilizer spreaders.

## **VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics**

- A. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Kevin Reyes
  - We are completing Irrigation evaluation from April through November. 8 are currently in progress. Kevin is currently finishing reports to wrap up this season's evaluations.
  - We are hosting a workshop this year on January 17th, 2024, located at the Madera County Farm bureau from 8:45-11AM, We're currently wrapping up the last final reports for the season. We have a list of new requests for next year's season. We evaluated 30 sites in Madera County for the year 2024.
- B. CDFA Agricultural Planning Grant (I) – Kevin Reyes
  - Kevin is currently wrapping up the final reports. We have 5 in progress, 1 under review, 4 need signings, 2 fully signed. We will have 12 completed pollinator plans before the end of year 2024.
- 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. Board of Supervisors approved Deborah's La Vina project in their December meeting. The RCD will be assisting with the implementation of the project and will look at planning a field day planting event with the La Vina community. The RCD will be taking the lead on Technical Assistance for the pollinator projects that were submitted for MLRP funding. There were over 70 applications total that came through for MLRP funding. The RCD will be taking the lead on assistance for 18 projects.
- D. WCB Pollinator Block Grant (I) – Kevin Reyes
  - Kevin will be scheduling a site visit in the spring to do monitoring, then continue with banner for the garden project, the school is getting ready for Christmas break.
  - There are three growers interested in moving forward with WCB funding for their pollinator hedgerow projects. Amy will be sending them Landowner Agreements to move forward on their projects.
- E. NRCS Cooperative Agreement (I) – Kevin Reyes
  - Kevin will be working on 30 applications/20 contracts under the Cooperative Agreement. He's been assisting the Madera Field office with their influx of applications, and they've been thankful for his assistance.
- F. 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.
- G. CARCD 79th Annual Conference (I)
  - Kevin attended the CARCD 79<sup>th</sup> annual conference and said it was an informative event, and he learned a lot. There was a lot of networking, and he learned a lot about what other RCDs are doing in the region. He learned about upcoming grants as well.
- H. RCD Credit Card (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
  - Amy contacted Community Bank West and the process will be completing a credit application for the RCD, Norman will need to complete this.
  - He will be under the controlled account, 1 controlled account that is the

umbrella, and then there would be subaccounts (1 payment), in order to add more cards just have to send request in writing.

- Motion was made by Tim Coehlo to approve moving forward with filling out the credit app and setting up credit cards for Kevin and Amy, there was a second by Andrew Carroll. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

I. 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 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-11AM. There is a Burroughs Field Day two-day event on January 21<sup>st</sup> and January 22<sup>nd</sup>. John Kempf will be speaking at the event. Farm Bureau has upcoming events to keep an eye out for.

J. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Amy Siliznoff

- None

K. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff

- There will be an upcoming NRCS Cooperative Agreement grant that Amy will look into submitting a grant application for. This can potentially fund 3 new positions for the RCD.

**VIII. Financial Report**

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

**IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:45PM.**

Next Meeting: January 15, 2025, 5:00PM at the FSA office in Madera, CA