



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



**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 10, 2025 – 5:00-6:00PM**

I. Call to Order: 5:05PM 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, Shannon Iest, Andrew Carroll; Staff: Amy Siliznoff, Kevin Reyes

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

A part-time conservation planner position was added to the agenda.

III. Approval of Minutes

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

IV. Correspondence & Mail – Golden State Risk Management Authority Christmas card, CSDA mailers, CAL FIRE forest stewardship program, Pacific Nut Producer Magazine.

V. Public Comments – No public comment

VI. Reports

A. Madera County SGMA Update/GSAs – Amy Siliznoff

- No update

B. NRCS Report – Amy Siliznoff

- NRCS is getting another planner, Shawn and Mar will plan to come to the next Board meeting for introductions.
- For Programs, the application deadline for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is April 15th.
- For staffing, effective January 13th Johnnie Siliznoff has accepted a position as the State Air Quality Specialist. He started in Air Quality when he came to the agency and will be a great asset for managing these important goals and relationships. Please welcome Brandon Bates who will be the acting Assistant State Conservationist ASTC for Area 3 effective January 13th. Brandon has been the ASTC for Programs for several years and has spent a great deal of time working in the Central Valley as a Planner and a District Conservationist. He brings a great deal of experience with the agriculture and demands of this area.

C. News/Other Meeting Reports – Amy Siliznoff

- There is a Burroughs Field Day two-day event on January 21st and January 22nd.

VII. RCD Report: Board Action Items and Discussion Topics

- A. CDFA Mobile Irrigation Lab (I) – Kevin Reyes
 - Kevin is currently finishing reports to wrap up this season’s evaluations.
 - We’re going to be picking back up irrigation evaluations starting March 1st, and ending June of this year. We'll continue providing irrigation evaluations through Almond Board funding. We have an irrigation and nutrient management workshop this January 17th from 9am to 11am.
- 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
 - The RCD is managing the agave and pollinator projects and helping growers who applied from pre-application to submitting their full plans. There's a process they need to follow, which Amy has sent specific instructions through email to all the growers. The deadline for submission is February 28th. Kevin will be scheduling calls with the growers to assist them through the process.
- D. WCB Pollinator Block Grant (I) – Kevin Reyes
 - We're moving forward on the La Vina project. We put the deposit down for plant materials to Mariposa Nursery. We’re going to be planning a collaborative plant day in March at the La Vina site with the La Vina community. The La Vina community is interested in planting along the fence line that abuts Deborah's project.
 - Kevin will be confirming signage for the Hillside school project.
 - We have three interested growers in applying for funding under WCB, Amy has sent them the landowner agreements to sign to move forward on their projects.
- E. NRCS Cooperative Agreement (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Kevin will be working on 30 applications/20 contracts under the Cooperative Agreement.
- 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. RCD Part-Time Conservation Planner Position (I) (A) – Amy Siliznoff
 - Amy would like to run an ad for a part-time conservation planner position. Motion was made by Matt Angell to approve running the position, there was a second by Andrew Carroll. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- 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. An Irrigation & Nutrient Management Workshop is planned for January 17th from 9-11AM. There is a Burroughs Field Day two-day event on January 21st and January 22nd. John Kempf will be speaking at the event. Farm Bureau has upcoming events to keep an eye out for.
- I. Upcoming Contracts/Agreements (I) (A)– Amy Siliznoff
 - None
- J. Upcoming Grant Applications (I) – Amy Siliznoff
 - There is an upcoming opportunity to apply for No Regrets Initiative funding.

Amy will be applying for this funding opportunity.

VIII. Financial Report

- Mike DeLaGuerra made a motion to approve the January Financial Report. There was a second by Shannon Iest. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.
- Shannon Iest made a motion to approve the January Expense Report. There was a second by Matt Angell. Motion passed unanimously by all present directors.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:02PM.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2025, 5:00PM at the FSA office in Madera, CA