

**MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (MCRCD)**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**MINUTES**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 @ 2:00 PM

**Location:** Mariposa County Resource Conservation District Office, 5039 Fairgrounds Road, Mariposa, CA 95338

**Directors present:** David Mecchi, Lyle Turpin, John Schroeder and John Carrier

**Directors absent:** None

**Associate directors present:** None.

**Associate directors absent:** None.

**Staff present:** Melinda Barrett, Vicky Cole.

**Guests:** NRCS: Austin Welke. Point Blue: Elaina Cromer. Darlene Ruschhaupt – NRCS customer.

**Call to order:** 1:52 PM by MCRCD Board President David Mecchi.

**Public communication:** None.

**Minutes:**

(M) John Carrier to approve March regular meeting minutes with a corrections on RCPP discussion. (S) Lyle Turpin. No discussion followed. Ayes: John Schroeder, Lyle Turpin, John Carrier, David Mecchi. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Correspondence:** 1) Received by mail: Letter from CAL FIRE. We have been selected for funding for the CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant Program. 2). Received by mail. An invitation for the Mariposa Senior Health Fair and Expo this May 10, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Registration not later than April 29, 2019. 3). Received by mail: An invitation for the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Annual Health Wellness Fair, this April 13, 2019 from 10 AM to 2 PM at Mariposa Creek Parkway at Stroming Rd. 4). Received by email: Ferol Conklin invited us to the Master Gardeners Plant Sale, this April 27, 2019. 5).Received by email: Lise B Olson applied for FBA job. 6). Received by mail: From Smith & Newell, Audit's books and invoice for services.

**Information Items and/or Special Guests:** None.

**Staff reports:**

**IRWMP:** Verbal report submitted by Melinda.

**NRCS:** Verbal report submitted by Austin.

**Point Blue:** Verbal report submitted by Elaina.

**MCRCD:** Verbal report submitted by Vicky.

**Directors Reports:**

**John Carrier:** He participated on interviews for the open positions, they went well and last Saturday David and him met with Lexi Ballinger, one of the candidates and had a good talk. Also he spent around two hours with Melinda and Vicky going over through the finances, trying to get a better understanding of the accounts. He will attend the IRWMP meetings, tomorrow and on the April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Lyle:** He talked about the Detwiler Fire scars, there are not many brown spots; we have a spectacular spring so far. He ride across the country and he didn't realize that the Lupine is poison oak for the livestock, David shared that he lost cows for that reason several years ago, one kind of Lupine is very short, looks like carpet and the cows were eating it.

John Schroeder: He talked about the Community Wildfire Prevention Video grant. He has 10 videos on YouTube, two of them, he's been waiting for CAL FIRE approve them so he can public them. Also he spent some time with Melinda last Monday, taking a look about what we have done and trying to figure out what we should do to improve. He provided handouts, some best practices and potential videos. Also he announced that this Friday, it's the adviser committee meeting to discuss what we're going to do next. He ended asking if we have any ideas, please share with him.

David: Basically he's been keeping the office running, signing papers as needed it. He participated on the interviews and we got a few good prospective employees and we keep advertising the jobs; we got two more applications since the last interviews, Vicky will provide copies of them to Lyle and John Carrier. Lyle asked him about the Sierra Regional meeting this 26. He didn't hear nothing yet, he will contact Harold and share the information; Melinda wants to attend the meeting also.

**Future Agenda Items:** None.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

Personnel: We're working on get fill the open positions. Last Saturday David and John Carrier had a meeting with Lexi, they had a very good talk with her; she's very knowledgeable, she comes from another RCD, she has experience on writing grants but Friday Foothill Conservancy advertise an opening and she's going to apply over there also.

Finance: John Carrier said that we updated the column of percentage on the files, some were not updated. Going through the end of the year, it's going to be tight; on May John and Melinda going to do a presentation to the Board of Supervisors, hopefully they going to give us the continuing contribution, if we get that contribution we will be in a good shape, but it's going to be really tight between now and the end of June. Vicky mentioned that they are going to be really careful about in which account Melinda and her charge the salaries to avoid red numbers. Another subject was the EPIC file was updated to our regular format, some lines were wrong, and we will update the workers comp charges on regular basis instead of wait at the end of the year. Another thing that is going to be update, is on the in-kind matches on the files, Vicky will update the balance on them.

Grants: Melinda talked first about the new CAL FIRE grant, original submitted the grant for 3.9 million, and she included money for Melinda and Vicky's time and some director's match time. We are the administrator, we're not doing any projects, we are over seen others partners. As administrator we have indirect charges and we won't have to do it by hour, it's just a percentage of the total bill, the maximum is 12%. We did get the grant but they are reducing our budget by 40%, we are waiting for CAL FIRE to tell us, in the past they let us to bring a new budget but now they will tell us what is the budget. Melinda is hoping that we get the 40 % for each partner. We have three partners, Mariposa County, Yosemite National Park and the University of Washington. Mariposa County is going to use his portion of the grant on remove hazard trees on the County roads; Yosemite National Park is going to do Hazard Tree and Downed removal along Hwy 41 and reforestation projects and the University of Washington is going to do live radar flight, detecting and ranging, is like radar; also they going to do a calculation the amount of carbon on the trees and prioritize the projects. We have two more new grants, one is the Wood Innovation Grant star at the beginning of May and the other one is RCPP grant; David and Smiley signed the contract and Melinda want a quick off meeting with Robyn, David, Smiley, Peter and probably Austin just to go over what's the difference on the RCPP reporting than the reports he used to do, she wants to make sure it's clear what he's going to do because the paper work is very important. On the CCWPP she had a meeting last week, they have a new Director and she said the won't get funding until September or October, they don't know if they got the grant but even if they do, they won't get funding until later on the year. The CAL

Recycle grant that we have we just waiting for the weather to clear up, it's just one place at jersey dale. Tomorrow she has a meeting for the Downed Tree Removal grant with Fire Safe council and Arbor Works to star scheduling the work, there are 21 properties, if we have any money at the end we can use it for more downed tree removal. We've been working on the Video grant with John and on the EPIC grant; they have the same problem with PG & E bankruptcy. She will apply for the IRWMP grant, for the fire water storage; probably on June.

Forestry & Fuels Management: None.

Plant Sale: Lyle asked how we do to reach people for the plant sale. Melinda suggested to email or mail people that applied for rebates ahead the time asking what kind of plant they would prefer. David said email them, not mail because it's more expensive. Lyle commented that the best avenue to reach people is advertising the plant sale on Foothill Express newspaper.

Policy: None.

**Financial Reports:** Above on Finance

**Action Items:** None.

**Discussion:** Janitorial Service: Vicky talked about hire somebody to clean the office; the staff doesn't want to clean it anymore. The ad has been posted on the MCRCD website, on the Facebook page and Sierra Star newspaper but no estimates for now. David suggested that if somebody doesn't do the cleaning we should charge 5 dollars and save the funds, also he's going to ask his son's girlfriend, if she can clean the office, she's good but so busy.

Drinking Water: Also we are requesting drinking water. Vicky suggested to set up again the last company, Sparkletts and limit the amount to 3 bottles for month should be 30.dls / month. David said that we can ask for 5 dollars contribution and buy the water and buy the drinking water. Vicky will get more estimates. CARCD ideas for the next Annual Conference: John Schroeder said he read about what Karen Buhr (CARCD) sent and one of the items they listed for Abstracts is "Foresting Collaboration and multi-stakeholder engagement" and his old neighborhood popped on his head, it was a nature reaction. He tried to do something with it started 20 years ago and absolutely nothing is done. Melinda impression is that they are looking for a case that is a successful project. John said that case is an example of unsuccessful project. Melinda thinks that project could be a really good subject for a presentation to show how difficult or challenging is. At the end John changed his mind and said don't do this idea, then Melinda said probably for next year when the Video grant on YouTube be successful could be a great study case for a presentation, we can tell how we did it and show how to join us but for this year we don't have nothing to talk about it.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:41 PM (M) John Schroeder, (S) Lyle Turpin. Ayes: Lyle, David Mecchi, John Carrier, John Schroeder. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Submitted by: Vicky Cole

Date Approved: 05/01/2019

Recorded minutes of this meeting are available in the RCD office. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication or assistance should contact our office at above number, at least 5 days prior to the event. An equal opportunity provider and employer.

#### MCRCD Mission Statement

The mission of the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District is to encourage and facilitate cooperative solutions to local resources conservation issues and projects. By providing leadership, the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District works with all stakeholders to find solutions that conserve the basic natural resources of Mariposa County. To further this aim, the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District provides technical assistance to landowners, carries out informational activities, seeks and implements grants and other funding sources, and develops cooperative alliances with other agencies and community organizations.